

Your Union News

Spring 2011 Volume Nine Issue One • Construction and Specialized Workers' Union Local 1611 represents 6000 members in BC and the Yukon

This Newsletter has been mailed to all members in the construction, road building, pipeline, paving, utility, mining, diamond drilling, industrial plant, and dock & shipyard sectors.

CSWU LOCAL 1611
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS
IN 2012

Kootenay Report

Greetings from the Kootenay region where winter is still hanging on. I recently attended the pre-job for **Mica Creek Dam's** long awaited Unit #5 and Unit #6 expansion project which will be underway in mid-May. Some formwork will be started off-site a few weeks sooner. The **Waneta Expansion Project** has been underway since late October 2010 and currently has about 50 members on site with **Aecon** placing concrete; **Emil Anderson** drilling, blasting and removing rock; and **Redpath** just collaring the portal to advance underground.

I am involved in negotiations for continuing the CHC-AHC agreement. We feel handicapped and are having huge difficulties because the BC Liberal government passed legislation saying there are increases of 0% in year one and 0% in year two. **SOME NEGOTIATIONS!** Hopefully this will be a real eye opener when you think about the lack of respect shown to you by this government regarding keeping pace with the cost of living.

We have been struggling to maintain a decent standard of living for the past 30 years. If the trend to bring in temporary foreign workers and make concessions to employers continue we will be able to look back in 30 years and say we **'SHOULD HAVE'**. We **'should have'** never elected folks who promise nothing but tax cuts. We **'should have'** elected folks who required manufacturers to use our raw materials here instead of sending the raw materials away with the jobs. We **'should have'** stood strong and stopped pseudo-unions like CLAC by supporting the real unions. It is up to you. A special thanks to the good members who took the time to show up at BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan fiasco.



Chuck Chatten
Business Representative



(l to r) Mike Stephens, Don Fitzpatrick, Peter Postnikoff foreman and Gord Zeboroff working for Aecon at the Waneta Dam.

2010 Roland B. Gordon Scholarship Awards

Winner's Name	Member's Name
Kristina Malekow \$500.00	Steve Malekow – Kootenays
Evan Rogers \$500.00	Brad Rogers – Chilliwack
Jesse Akers \$700.00	Donnelly Akers – Kamloops

CONGRATULATIONS

Northern Report

This report is being written just as the work at the Rio Tinto Alcan Aluminum site is about to start once again for 2011. Rio Tinto has released \$300 million to be spent on the modernization for 2011. This money will be used for the cleaning and demolition of pot lines 7/8, this job will employ 100 labourers or more at its peak. Construction of an underground utility loop around the perimeter of the new plant, two bridges and relocating underground utilities around the plant, 450 man construction camp.

The work at Endako Mines continues we presently have six members working for **Lockerbie & Hole** on site. We will only have a small work force on this site but that being said they are actively bidding on other work in the north.

WIC has on going work in the Prince George area at the Canfor Green Transformation Project, the bypass south of town near the airport. This job should have 25 of our members working for the better part of the year.

Northpointe Construction has just finish the expansion of Peace River Coal and is still actively bidding in the Tumbler Ridge area.

From what I see at this point in the year, we should have a very active construction season in the north and hope to see as many members as I can on the job sites around the north this summer.

In closing, stay healthy and have a safe work season.



Mat McGreish
Business Representative

Okanagan & Interior Report

Spring Greetings. With the disappearing snow, members and contractors are anxious to get back to work.

The Highway improvement project at Sorrento with **Brentwood Enterprise** should be completed this year. **Dawson Construction** continues with their work near McIure and they have picked up work in Kamloops and Clinton. **Emil Anderson** has their ongoing project at Golden and are still actively involved with rock stabilization for CP Rail.

A shutdown is scheduled for **Domtar Kamloops** late April. **Thompson Valley Erectors** was working there this past winter. **Canadian Stebbins** and **Clayburn Refractories** will have some of our members there. **Huron** will be scrubbing the Plume again.

EAC lost the \$40 million dollar Highway 97 job (Winfield to Oyama) by less than 3,000! A non-union company Windley Contracting got the job. We are encouraging our members to apply to work there so we can organize them, and we have written to the BC Ministry of Transportation asking that the tender be re-grand. It should go to EAC.

Several job-fairs, hosted by area First Nations were attended by Dean Homewood and myself this past winter. A great opportunity to showcase what the Labourers' do and to involve ourselves and the First Nations jointly, in worthwhile projects.

Several courses were recently offered to area members. This is a good opportunity to upgrade your employment skills. Seize it.

The area work picture is traditionally slow this time of the year. It will improve as the season progresses.

See you on the sites.



Leroy Vollans
Business Representative

Diversity=Strength

Did you know that your Union, Local 1611, is the most diversified private sector Union in BC? We should all be very proud of this fact.

We represent workers in dock & shipyard, healthcare, security, janitorial, landscaping, parking lots, cemeteries, crematories, funeral homes, industrial and recycling plants, as well as construction, roadbuilding, pipeline, paving, utility, traffic control and mining.

The diversity of our efforts further illustrates this fact.

So far in 2011, our Business Representatives have successfully re-negotiated and ratified Collective Agreements with Ansan and Dinamac traffic control, for utility work in the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island, Garda Security, for future mainline pipeline work in BC, as well for SCIC funeral homes.

Ongoing negotiations include for hydro construction work, recycling, Standard Construction Agreement, lower mainland paving and in health care.

Your Union is also championing diverse issues on behalf of our members, including defending the successful human rights award for the underground workers on the RAV Line; along with other Unions we have filed a Supreme Court of BC a petition that the Labour Relations Board is biased; we are making jurisdictional claims for our construction workers; and lobbying for additional shipyard and construction work; we are advocating for positive changes to workplace rules and WCB benefits, and for the banishment of asbestos; working together with aboriginal peoples to provide training and realized work opportunity; and finally to support the NDP both provincially and federally.

As you can see, diversity is a true strength of your Union.

Take care, and above all please stay healthy and work safe. We hope to see you at upcoming area and sector meetings.



Mark Olsen
Business Manager



Jose Lima with PNR changing rail ties in Surrey.



Munsey, BC PNR crew taking a photo break during their track construction.



CN Steel Gang - Jennifer Frost



Brian Pearson, cutting & coring division of Traxxon Rock Drill division of Pacific Blasting using the vertical drill under BC Place. Total of 5800 holes, 13/8" holes 16" deep.

NEW ORGANIZING FOCUS

In the last five years we have successfully organized 53 new companies.

In 2011/2012, our focus is **raiding CLAC**. Are you working for a CLAC company, or know of anyone who is?

We need to liberate these workers!

Please call Manuel Alvernaz, our Chief Organizer, at 604.437.6889 or 604.323.4442.

All inquiries confidential.

Provincial Liberals No Good For Workers

With changes to the provincial Liberal leadership, and soon to be new leadership to the New Democratic Party – NDP, it looks certain we will be heading to the polls this fall.

Now is an appropriate time to look back on the **ten year record of the BC Liberals**, and the hurt inflicted on our members and working people.

Listed below are but some of the damaging events that occurred over this 10 year period:

- Provincial Fair Wage Policy – **Cancelled**;
- Project Labour Agreements (ie. HCL) – **Terminated**;
- Adverse Changes to Labour Code – **Implemented**;
- Labour Standards Legislation – **Weakened**;
- Province of BC went 10 years before finally increasing the minimum wage;
- Worksafe (formerly Workers' Compensation Board) coverage pay for injured workers **reduced**;
- Worksafe compensation for injured workers **terminate** at reaching age 65;
- Worksafe levels of appeal for injured workers has been **reduced**;
- BC Liberal government has announced their intention to increase hydro rates by 50% over next 6 years.
- MSP premiums doubled, and a further 18% increase announced over the next 3 years forthcoming;
- Ferry rates have dramatically increased – more increases on the way;
- Liberal government illegally tore up collective agreements in the Health Care sector. Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of Health Care Unions including ours;
- Of course the hated HST;
- The sale of BC Rail;
- Upcoming 32% in BC Hydro rates over the next four years;
- Highest child poverty rates in Canada.

If you think the government has served you well than support them. However if you are like me, and realize this government has been hurtful to working people, than consider your vote carefully!



April 2 Peace Arch Rally in support of the Wisconsin workers.



Bruce Ferguson
President

Call To Action

So far so good for the general work picture in the Union in 2011. We had budgeted for a 5% increase in overall work hours, and the good news is that work hours are up 15% so far this year. If this holds, we will be very close to the pre-recession work hours.

We were all disheartened to witness the recent disasters in Haiti and Japan. To answer our members call to action, your Union has made significant financial donations to the Red Cross, and can advise that our International Union (LIUNA) has also done so.

You may have heard about the terrible Republican legislation in the State of Wisconsin that has taken bargaining rights away from public and private sector Unions. They claim they want to balance the State budget, yet it is at the expense of workers. SHAME ON THEM. Our Union joined a Labour rally on April 2, at the Peace Arch border crossing, to show our support for those workers.

What has happened in Wisconsin can happen here as well. We must always be vigilant.

If you are interested in this and other US labour news, go to <http://blog.aflcio.org/>. Take care, be healthy and please work safe.



Rick Clarkson
Secretary Treasurer

Organizing Report

The Organizing Department has worked very hard recently on the **Paragon Project** (\$500 million dollar casino and two hotel towers) located at 777 Pacific Boulevard in Vancouver. We are asking all our brothers and sisters to support this project as it will mean 1,500 jobs for our members and members of the BC Coalition of Building Trade Unions. We did not secure a Project Labour Agreement (PLA) as of yet, but we have provided the President of Paragon with a PLA letter for signing.

Recently we have also had a couple of meetings with **Covanta's** Vice-President regarding the proposed **Gold River Waste to Energy Project**. They are ready to start construction as soon as the new Premier and Environment Minister, Terry Lake, make the decision which Covanta believes will be sometime in the next couple of months. This is a billion dollar job \$700 million in Gold River and \$300 million in New Westminster, for the barge and transfer station. This is a 2 ½ year project for our members and members of the Coalition.

In addition, I am asking our members for your support and help in **raiding CLAC**. If you have any friends or relatives, working for CLAC companies and they are willing to help from the inside, please give me a call.

Our Local Union together with our International Union (LIUNA), will be providing Organizing Courses, called "VOICE", sometime in May/June of this year. If you are interested in attending one of these courses, and are willing to help organize the unorganized, please call me now at 604.437.6889 or 604.323.4442 or Tony in dispatch at 604.432.7833.



Manuel Alvernaz
Chief Organizer

WE WILL NOT FORGET

Day of Mourning held April 27, remembering the 143 BC workers who lost their lives to workplace injury and disease in 2010.

Vancouver Island Report



Mathew Lust
Business Representative

On the shipyard side, I would first like to thank Rick Spencer for his support and help in bringing me up to speed with my transition into working with all of you at the newly rebranded Sea Span Victoria Shipyard. With totes boats, ships, barges, subs, ferries and frigates in the harbor, things are beginning to ramp up. This is great news for all hard working members down at the graving dock. With the Felex Program on the horizon it promises to be a bright and prosperous future for all. Keep up the good work and get ready for those Navy ships!

On the construction side of things; **Upland Excavating** continues to employ our members in Port Hardy and in Campbell River; **OK Industries** also continues to employ our members over the entire Island with concrete and paving hands; **Hub City** has two crews working on various jobs around the mid-island including Port Alberni and out to the West Coast; **Hazelwood Construction Services** has a 20 month project on Bowen Road and are working on Mt. Hayes, LNG Facility, as well as a run-of-the-river project in Tahsis and also finishing up a project in Ahousat on the West Coast; **D. Robinson Contracting** continues to employ our members in Chemanius and Nanaimo. In the Victoria area **Chew Excavating** is hard at it on the Uptown Project; **Farmer Construction** continues to bid and has work currently at the Oak Bay Beach Hotel, and the View Street parkade; and **Campbell Construction** has continuing work on the Four Mile Hill, downtown, and the graving dock. With our contractors continuing to bid and secure work for you, we all move forward together. We look forward to a strong and productive year.

Keeping You Up To Date



Dean Homewood
Aboriginal Liaison &
Contractor Relations

We have been busy talking, emailing and faxing Union contractors, companies and associations, trying to secure more work for our members. Some of these companies are signatory to LIUNA in other parts of Canada, but they often come to BC go straight to CLAC. We are moving forward in stopping this trend.

There is a lot of mining, industrial, dam upgrade work, and tunnel projects coming up in the next few years. It would be great if our contractors could get a portion of this work.

On the subject of renewable power, we have met with a large number of companies. These people are everything from small wind farm projects to large run-of-the river projects. Most of the proposed projects are on Traditional Aboriginal Territory. We have attended a lot of meetings with the Aboriginal Community, Chief and Council, Elders, trying to form a relationship and possible partnership on these projects, which has also produced other work opportunities. Some of the projected work on Traditional Territory includes:

- Hotel / casino developments,
- Residential (condo – townhouses) development,
- Warehouse – commercial development.

Hopefully the relationships we are forming will lead to our contractors constructing these projects in partnership with the industrial Aboriginal Community. Through the partnership, local community members would have the opportunity to be trained (if needed), join the Union and continue to gain valuable work experience on the road to getting their red-seal certification.

I look forward to future opportunities for our members.

Report

LOWER MAINLAND CONSTRUCTION & ROADBUILDING



Dan Klein
Business Representative



Gary Palmiere
Business Representative

The three unions have had several meetings with the **utility** companies and have reached a tentative agreement subject to ratification. By the time this article is published we will know the results. In talking to the utility companies, the winter was not as bad as expected so there is not a lot carry over work as most crews were able to work sporadically through the winter.

The **paving** companies and the unions have suspended negotiations until later in the year however the 3% increase that was waived last year is being applied as of March 1, 2011.

While some companies are busier than others there is a much more positive attitude this year. Most if not all of our contractors are aggressively bidding work and the expectation is they will be very busy in the coming months.

Michels Canada will finish the job on 4th and Pine in April, very good job done by Michels and the crew, and a good job to Lynn for keeping the crew safe and the public around a small area. They are also doing a very high profile job downtown on Pacific and Drake, the crews there are doing great, and special thanks should go to Chelle Casey and Lorraine Huygens for paying special attention to the residence and kids, in the area who were not happy that Michel's were in their backyard. Michel's will be starting on Laurel Street and completing the job by June or July.



Right Alex Sheloff and Irvine Whitehead working with Aecon loading material on truck deck.



Garry Peterson working as a carpenter helper at the Waneta Powerhouse.



Don Lapinski working for Emil Anderson at the Waneta Dam.