

Generation U

SPRING 2011

Construction & Specialized Workers' Union, Local 1611 represents the largest number of retired members, 1100 LIUNA



A PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE
LABORERS INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
(LIUNA)

**CSWU LOCAL 1611
RETIREE COUNCIL
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Don (Stretch) Strank
ADVISOR

Tom Petras
LIUNA NATIONAL
RETIREE COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE FOR
WESTERN CANADA

Words from R.L.

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

Well another year has passed and I truly hope that you enjoyed the holidays as much as I did. My wife Pat and I flew to Nashville for the Christmas holidays. The people were very hospitable, the music was great and the River Boat cruise was a class act. Two weeks was enough though, as we were glad to get home.

Right now we have a terrific fight going on, to chose the leader of our two major political parties in BC. A few shots in the head may knock some common sense into all of the potential candidates. **We must hope for the N.D.P. to come out on top as I'm tired of those lying Liberals.**

The Retiree Council is invited down to the International Convention in Las Vegas. We want our opinion known, about our retiree policies and dues remittance. I hope you will all consent to this, as it is important to be there to stand-up for our beliefs.



R.L. (Robert) McDonald
President Retiree Council

I thought our Christmas luncheons and dinners went well and I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. In Vancouver December 10th is the date for this year, so plan on being there, mark your calendar.

The Council has trips planned for the Kootenay's this summer, and a dinner at Prince George on October 1, 2011.

Vancouver Island and the Okanagan will be booked soon.

There will be an election meeting to select the delegates who will go to Las Vegas for the International Convention in September. Every paid-up retiree has a right to vote for the delegates, so be sure to cast your ballot by mail.

On behalf of the Retiree Council, we would like to thank CSWU Local 1611 Executive Board, for all their assistance and generosity.

Take care, and stay healthy, and I hope to see you soon.



From left Mark Olsen, Manuel Alvernaz, Bruce Ferguson, Marvin Cardinal receiving his 50 year member gold watch, and R.L. McDonald.



Right, long time member of 62 years Al Herd with son, Dave. In fact Al is the longest serving member in our Union. Congratulations.

VANCOUVER - LOWER MAINLAND RETIREE MEETINGS 2011

May 29 and September 25, 2011 starting at 1:30pm
Location: Craft Centre – next to the Union office,
donuts and coffee to be served

SEE BACK COVER FOR
2011 EVENTS



2011 – MEMBER VOICES WILL BE HEARD

This is an extraordinary year in B.C. The public, including our retired members, will have critical votes this year, on matters that will shape the province's future.

The first vote is for the leadership of the NDP. For those retirees, who are card carrying members of the NDP, you will have an opportunity to elect a new leader on April 17. We are impressed by all the candidates, but the clear front runners are Adrian Dix, John Horgan and Mike Farnsworth. We look forward to the new leader establishing member and Union friendly policies, and of course beating the BC Liberals in the next provincial election.

The second vote regards the HST. This grossly unfair tax, which shifts \$2 billion dollars per year of taxes from companies to the consumers in BC, was brought in by the BC Liberals with no prior notice, and no public input. The Union recommends voting to kill the HST.

The third vote is to elect delegates to the 2011 Convention of our International Union (LIUNA – Laborers International Union of North America). Regardless of who you chose to vote for, please ensure that you vote.

The final important voting opportunity in 2011 include municipal elections in the fall, and probably provincial and federal elections as well.

We support left leaning municipal parties and candidates, as well as the NDP both provincially and federally.

In closing, 2011 is truly a year of voting opportunity for the B.C. public, including our Local 1611 retirees.

It is your Union, your town, your city, and your province, please vote to shape its future.

Please take care, and above all stay safe and healthy. See you at area meetings, and retiree events this year.



Pictured from left to right Mark Olsen Business Manager, Bruce Ferguson President and Rick Clarkson Secretary Treasurer.

50 YEAR GOLD WATCH RECIPIENTS



Manuel Luis, 50 year gold watch recipient sitting with his wife, Ester.



Marco Lago with his wife Maria, receives his 50 year gold watch from Bruce Ferguson.



R.L. McDonald with Joao Bulhoes receiving his 50 year member gold watch.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY: STRETCHED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

by Donald (Stretch) Strank and Gordon Davidson, former Vice-President of Local 1611 and former Business Manager of Local 1093

From 1966 to 1993 Don, “Stretch” Strank was the unmistakable face of the Labourers Union on Vancouver Island. He was born in 1932 and grew up in the town of Cumberland which is famous for bestowing nicknames on its residents. Since, he was 6’7” and a well-known local basketball star, the term “Stretch” seemed very appropriate and has stayed with him till today.

He joined Local 1093 in 1966 as a labourer and quickly rose through the ranks becoming a Business Agent in 1969. In 1974 he replaced John Gallow as Business Manager until his retirement in 1993.

His term as Business Manager coincided with some of the most progressive years of the Labourers’ history in B.C. During this time, he played a vital role in the creation of the B.C. Labourers Pension Plan, the Labourers Medical Plan and the B.C. Labourers Training Plan. At one time he was chairman of the Training Plan & Pension Plan Board of Trustees.

Stretch was also a long term delegate to the Vancouver Island Building Trades Council and served as its president for a number of years, and was a 17 year delegate and chairman of Victoria Building Co-operate Union. He was also well known as a Sergeant-at-arms at the Building Trades, B.C. Fed and at the L.I.U.N.A. Conventions.

In his family life there are three children, Trudy, Kendal and his son Brent, including five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Brent is also a 30-year member of the Labourers Union.



In life outside the trade union movement, he has been very active in community causes, primarily with and for the veterans and their families in the Royal Canadian Legion 31 & 292. Serving as an officer for 24 years, six of those as President, and having been awarded Life Membership, Meritorious Medal of Honour and Palm Leaf which is the highest degree awarded in the Legion.

In his retirement he has remained very active in community causes, primarily as an officer and member of the Royal Canadian Legion, where he has served as president and has been honoured many times

for his invaluable service to veterans and their families throughout the Victoria region.

He continues to be a proud, retired member of Local 1611, and is often seen at union events where he is easily recognized by one and all, and now in the 18th year of retirement is looking forward to many more. Stretch is ‘Proud to be a LABOURER’, and we are proud to call him our brother.



LIUNA honoured guests in attendance at our Vancouver Retiree luncheon. Left is Mano Frey Vice President and North West Regional Manager, with Mark Olsen and Greg Harris Western Canada Sub-regional Manager.

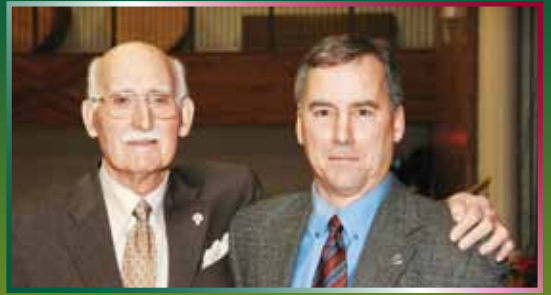


2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY – VANCOUVER

550 members and spouses attended



from left Mark Olsen, R.L. McDonald, Jenny Kwan NDP MLA Vancouver-Mt.Pleasant, Bruce Ferguson and Manuel Alvernaz.



Proud father and son retirees. John and Bob Hart, both retired former LIUNA Western Canada Sub-regional Managers.







Castlegar Retiree Dinner 2010 (above)

Victoria Lunch



OTHER RETIREE EVENTS AROUND THE PROVINCE IN 2010

Kelowna Dinner



Prince George Dinner



Revelstoke Lunch



Penticton Lunch



Kamloops Dinner



Nanaimo Lunch



75 STORIES IN 75 YEARS

Labourers' Union Local 1611 will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2012 and will be writing our history book this year.

- 🍁 Do you have any stories?
- 🍁 Do you have any pictures of job sites or crews you worked with?

Please let us know. Call the Retiree Council at **604.432.9300** or **1.800.663.6588** attention Merrick Walsh.

Local 1611 Supporting Communities

Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;

- 🍁 BC Children's Hospital Foundation
- 🍁 Victoria Mustard Seed Food Bank
- 🍁 Food Bank Campaign
- 🍁 Community Fair in Kitimat



International News for Retirees

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the National Retiree Council I would like to extend greetings to all our Retirees and their families.

The news I would like to discuss at this time is provincial, rather than international and the topic is something that can have a profound effect on us as retirees, on our general membership and building trades members, and on all working people in British Columbia.

The "Liberals" (they're anything but liberal) decided it was time to get rid of their "glorious leader" Gordon Campbell. The majority of Liberal members voted to have Ms. Clark as the next Premier because they feel she presents their best chance of defeating the NDP in the next election. This was based on polls which apparently showed that the general population trusts her more than the other Liberal candidates.

No one should be lulled into a false sense of security based on her victory speech in which she said she wants to place "Families First". She is the only new Liberal MLA and we are still left with the same bunch of pro-big business MLAs that have been running this province (into the ground).

They say they've lowered our provincial income tax, but they continue to take even more out of our pockets than we've saved, because of new increased user fees, higher MSP payments and the HST, among many other increased costs. At the end of the day, we're much worse off than when they came into power.

They've said that they have to raise our electricity (hydro) bills by **50%** over the next **5 years**. What they **haven't** said is that they have virtually given our waterways to private "Run of River" projects. This will be paid out of the 50% increase which, incidentally, will be paid only by **residential users**; while big business will continue to enjoy reduced rates.

The Liberals have continued to cut taxes and WCB rates for business, saying that this is needed to attract new business to the province and to expand existing businesses. They say this will help provide employment but, instead, BC has the second highest rate of unemployment in Canada and the lowest rate of wage and/or benefit increases and the lowest minimum wage.

I believe that it's important at this time to consider the Liberal's track record because our next Premier – Christy – has said she wants to have a provincial election this year, instead of waiting until 2013. Therefore, we may have a provincial election before the next issue of Generation U.

I suspect that if the Liberals are re-elected we will have more surprises, like the way the Liberals foisted the HST on us after the last election.

These are only a few of the reasons that it is **extremely important** that we, as retirees, vote for the **NDP** in the next election. We should also encourage our families and friends to do the same. People around the world are fighting and dying for their democratic rights, including the right to fair elections. Surely the least we British Columbians can do is get out and vote.

They say that people get the government they deserve – I believe we deserve far better than another Liberal government.

In closing, I hope that 2011 is a good year for all retirees and their families and friends.



Tom Petras
LIUNA National
Retiree Council Rep. for
Western Canada

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

CSWU Local 1611 has the following Scholarships available;

- 🔥 **Cal Callahan Pipeline Scholarship**
All applications, from pipeline members, must be received by the Pipeline Contractors Association by the end of September 2011.
- 🔥 **Rolly B. Gordon**
All applications must be in by the end of October 2011.
- 🔥 **Vernie Reed Memorial Scholarship**
All applications must be in by the end of March 2012.

Please call Donna in our Local 1611 Office at **604.432.9300** for scholarship information.

2010 ROLAND B. GORDON SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

WINNER'S NAME	MEMBER'S NAME	AMOUNT	LOCATION
Kristina Malekow	Steve Malekow	\$500.00	Kootenays
Evan Rogers	Brad Rogers	\$500.00	Chilliwack
Jesse Akers	Donnelly Akers	\$700.00	Kamloops



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2011

You will receive notification in the mail before the event with further details.

Luncheons and/or dinners in:

September

KAMLOOPS, REVELSTOKE,
CASTLEGAR, PENTICTON,
KELOWNA

October

PRINCE GEORGE

November

VICTORIA, NANAIMO

December

VANCOUVER



*Retiree meeting with Brother Antonio Pollio
with his his wife, Elide.*

NEED FREE ASSISTANCE WITH FILING INCOME TAX?

If you need financial assistance in filing your income tax visit the following government website to assist you in your area and if you are eligible.

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/clncs/bc-eng.html

DO YOU HAVE A CLAIM?

For decades, the inhalation of **asbestos fibers** has been associated with **mesothelioma and several other diseases**, many fatal and debilitating. Unsuspecting workers and family members may have been exposed to asbestos day in and day out as they went to work in factories, mills and other industrial occupations. Construction projects often utilized asbestos containing materials including various insulations, cements, drywall and gypsum products and floor tile.

Many members of the Labourers' Union were likely occupationally exposed to asbestos in the **1950s, 1960s, and 1970s** both through hands-on work with asbestos-containing products and by working around other trades using asbestos-containing products. Asbestos disease has a long latency period, thus exposures 30, 40, or 50 years ago can be responsible for disease today. Unfortunately, Labourer Union members have not been spared in contracting these diseases.

As the Labourers' Union gets ready to celebrate its 75 year anniversary in 2012 it may be a good time to document the types and brands of products used at jobsites so it can be preserved. Motley Rice LLC is a U.S. law firm that works with Vancouver law firm Camp

Fiorante Matthews in representing the legal interests of Work Safe BC by filing claims with U.S. trusts for workers with asbestos-related diseases and exposed to U.S. manufactured products. They are collecting information and documenting the brands of products used at various jobsites so that they can facilitate claims filings with these trusts.

Because asbestos exposure does not limit itself to any particular trade, a tradesman, such as a laborer, working at a particular jobsite, such as a hydro plant, may not know what asbestos-containing products other trades used. Thus, we are collecting similar information from other trades in addition to the Labourers.

Motley Rice is interested in speaking with Members of 1611 who worked prior to 1982 and remember working with or around asbestos-containing products. If you would like to share your knowledge of products that you recall using prior to 1982, please contact Motley Rice LLC at 1.800.768.4026 extension 9282, ask for David Hoyle. You may also email BCasbestosproducts@motleyrice.com to obtain more information and schedule an interview.

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RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADIAN MAIL TO: 3542 KINGSWAY VANCOUVER B.C. V5R 5X7 TEL: 604-432-9300 FAX: 604-439-2043 email: info@cswu1611.org web: www.cswu1611.org

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