

# In Solidarity

Fall 2009 Volume Seven Issue Two • 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 health care, security, recycling, parking lot, cemeteries, crematoriums, funeral homes and janitorial sectors

## ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

So far in 2009 our Organizing Department has successfully organized, certified and/or signed Collective Agreement's with these 9 companies;

- Metro Parking
- Pat McCallum Contracting (utility)
- Triumph Holding Inc. (flagging)
- Stone Canyon Security Services
- Germain Favel Specialized Services (utility)
- M.Y. Traffic Control
- International Paper Industries (I.P.I)
- United Protection Services (UPS)
- Valleyview Contracting Ltd.

**We NEED your HELP. If you have any organizing targets for the Union please call Manuel Alvernaz, Chief Organizer at (604)437-6889 ext. 222. All inquires confidential.**

## MEMBER ALERT Boycotts / Do Not Patronize

- **Coast Hotels** – Over mistreatment of Unite Here Local 40 members. Go to [www.coasthotels-badforbc.info](http://www.coasthotels-badforbc.info).
- **Wal-Mart** – Over treatment of Unionized workers in Quebec
- **Price Smart (Food Stores)** – Requested by UFCW
- **Non-Union Postal Outlets** – Requested by CUPW
- **Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company** (Goodyear and Motomaster tires) as requested by CLC
- **Old Dutch Snack Foods** – 170 workers locked out (UFWC)
- ✓ **B.C. Ambulance paramedics need your help**  
Send a letter to your local area MLA and MP and ask them to get involved and support the workers.

## Membership has Its Obligations

We are all experiencing an unpredictable and unprecedented time in our history. We are in the midst of an unstable and rapidly re-shaping workplace. It is difficult to get a clear handle on the economy. On the one hand our companies have successfully picked up 115 new projects in B.C., yet the hours worked by our membership are down 20% so far this year. We are still convinced that the B.C. economy will be in full recovery mode by the end of next year.



Mark Olsen  
Business Manager

**The Union is doing all it can on many issues, however it is time for members to understand that while membership has its privileges, membership also has its obligations.**

We need members assistance more than ever, as we work together to maximize work opportunity.

### What can you do?

- **Get Involved.** Think about all the ways you can positively influence the various levels of government. Write and call your area MLAs, M.P's and city/town councillors, write or call media outlets. Attend Union meetings to better understand issues.
- **Upgrade Yourself.** No matter what your workplace, no matter what your chosen career, take all the training and upgrading you can to make yourself more valuable and more employable. Let the Union and your employer know your skills.
- **Talk-Up the Union** in a positive way in your workplace, community and with your friends. Don't let anyone say Unions used to have their day. Unions are needed more than ever.
- **Help Organize New Companies.** We are interested in organizing in every non-union and CLAC workplace. If you know of any targets, call Manuel our Chief Organizer. All information is received in confidence.

**This is your Union, and members have an obligation to assist.**

In closing, on behalf of the Executive Board, we thank all members who participated in this year's election. While these are difficult times, we do have a strategic plan, and we will continue to do all we can for the membership. Take care and above all, please be healthy and safe.



Business Rep. Don Brown with Union Brothers working at the Victoria Plant of Metro-Waste Paper Recovery. May 2009.



Business Manager Mark Olsen and Secretary Treasurer Rick Clarkson congratulate long service pin recipients employed in the parking industry. April 2009.

## Election Results June 2009 Local 1611 Executive Board

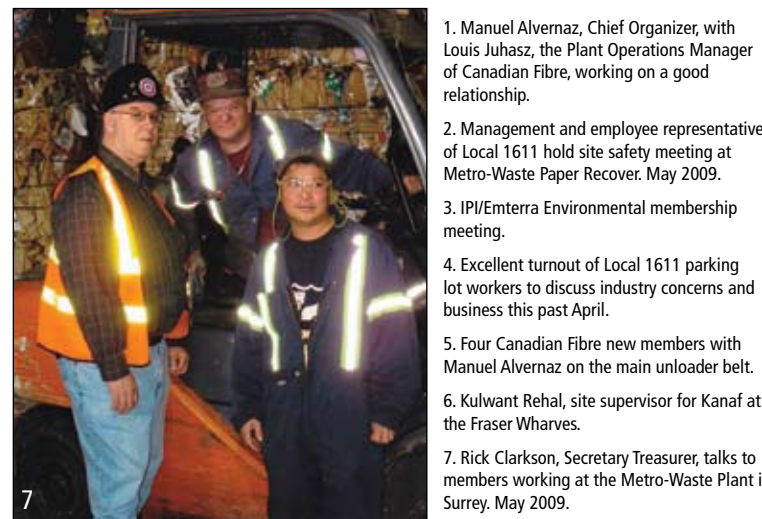
**President**  
BRUCE FERGUSON – 1380 votes *Elected*  
A. Zdunich – 157 votes

**Secretary Treasurer**  
RICK CLARKSON – 1297 votes *Elected*  
J. Blaser – 191 votes

### All other Executive Board members elected by Acclamation:

MARK OLSEN Business Manager	RICHARD SAUNDERS Sergeant-at-arms
DON BROWN Vice President	LIANA BIASUTTI Auditor
SHELLEY MOORE Recording Secretary	KEITH HALVERSON Auditor
CHUCK CHATTEN Executive Board member	LEROY VOLLANS Auditor
DENNIS MORGAN Executive Board member	

*Thank-you to all members who participated in this Election.  
We will do the best we can on your behalf.*



1. Manuel Alvernaz, Chief Organizer, with Louis Juhasz, the Plant Operations Manager of Canadian Fibre, working on a good relationship.
2. Management and employee representatives of Local 1611 hold site safety meeting at Metro-Waste Paper Recover. May 2009.
3. IPI/Emterra Environmental membership meeting.
4. Excellent turnout of Local 1611 parking lot workers to discuss industry concerns and business this past April.
5. Four Canadian Fibre new members with Manuel Alvernaz on the main unloader belt.
6. Kulwant Rehal, site supervisor for Kanaf at the Fraser Wharves.
7. Rick Clarkson, Secretary Treasurer, talks to members working at the Metro-Waste Plant in Surrey. May 2009.

## LOCAL 1611 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

- Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;
- United Way
  - 51st Anniversary of the Collapse of the Ironworkers Bridge
  - Mustard Seed Program
  - Dad's Day Fighting Diabetes

# B.C. Liberals Lie

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who took the time to participate in the Local Union Election of Officers. You can find the elections results posted in this newsletter.

Contractor remittance reports to your Union's Medical Plan show a 20% reduction in hours being reported the same 6 month time frame (end of June) in comparison to the same period of 2008. We are not immune to the recession causing so much pain to the U.S. economy.

On a more positive note there are some indicators that the U.S. economy is showing some signs of a recovery, so much of Canada's economy is closely tied to what is happening south of the border.

On May 10 the people of B.C. elected the Campbell government. The B.C. Liberals had stated that the "HST would extend the PST tax base to a broader range of goods and services... This is a major concern... The B.C. Liberals have no plans to formally engage the federal government in discussions about potential harmonization". Now with the election behind them, Finance Minister Colin Hansen, Vancouver Sun, July 29, 2009 quote "this [HST] in my view, is absolutely the right public policy for British Columbia". The Campbell government is about to raise your taxes an estimated \$4 billion over their term, without the mandate to do so, and without even a semblance of consultation with business and ordinary taxpayers. That's right, a \$4 billion tax increase over 3 years, beginning in 2010. **The largest tax grab in B.C. history. Who pays? You do.**

The so called harmonization will have a greater impact on middle and lower income families. Because these families spend a greater portion of their income on necessary purchases like, food, housing and transportation, their costs will go up the most. **The Liberals were silent on the harmonized sales tax during the election**, instead they focused on an N.D.P. proposal that Liberals called a job killer, increasing the minimum wage 25% from \$8.00 to \$10.00. The minimum wage has been frozen since 2001. No wonder the B.C. public is furious. Next year you will cough up HST on school supplies, dry cleaning, newspapers, telephone and cable bills, vitamins, home renovations, smoke detectors, real estate commissions, gym memberships etc. etc. Get the picture yet? **The Liberals also did not mention looming health care cuts** soon to be coming. Many of the Health Regions have been underfunded and are running big deficits, so prepare yourself for more cut backs in services.

**The B.C. Rail scandal** has been inching forward for several years now, and as the Court case reaches a critical point guess what now? The provincial government now claims that **important documents relevant to the case have mysteriously disappeared and have been deleted from government files.** Are you surprised?

The public has been conned for so long the Liberals quite rightly think we are stupid. There is an old political adage that goes something like this, "Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice shame on me." Let us not get fooled again.



President Bruce Ferguson greets Terry Jackson working at Victoria's Sandringham Facility. May 2009.



Bruce Ferguson  
President

# Important Info

I would like to open my remarks by first saying a big thank you to all the members who voted for me in this past election. I will continue to do my best for all our members!

We are all suffering as a result of the worldwide financial crisis that had its start in 2007 and crashed late in 2008. In my opinion corporate greed and US voodoo economics has cost us all!

The **health care sector** is an industry with huge growth potential. Many of our parents and the ageing baby boomer generation will find themselves having to make use of this sector. This will lead to the building of more facilities to care for people and more work opportunity for our members! This will come about with government raising our taxes and cutting services.

The **recycling sector** will also start to see significant growth as government starts to introduce more and more green legislation. The television, radio talk shows are all talking about keeping our planet livable. I think it will be driven even harder by the children who are now in the schools and hearing about the problem. You are starting to see more green products showing up in the housing industry (more spin off jobs).

The **security and parking sector** should also see additional work opportunity as we get ever closer to the Olympics. I expect many of you will be given the opportunity to work overtime as there will be a temporary manpower shortage. Your industries also appear to be in a consolidation of services cycle, with smaller companies being bought out. The parking sector membership is under great pressure and job loss as more and more building owners put in metered parking. Prepare yourselves for change, take some training for a new career and higher wages.

In closing, I want to remind the members that **scholarships** are available for family members who will be attending college or university. If you would like an application call our office and ask that one be mailed out to you. Make sure that everything being asked for is in place or you cannot be considered.



Secretary Treasurer Rick Clarkson greeting members working at Metro-Waste Recycling Plant in Surrey. May 2009.



Rick Clarkson  
Secretary Treasurer

**It's a ZALM SHAME**

*"Gordon Campbell knew all along he was going to bring in this (HST) tax. Just like he knew he would sell B.C. Rail, carve up B.C. Hydro, and cut health care services instead of fix health care."*

~ Quote from former Socred Premier of B.C., Bill Vander Zalm on the HST.

**We agree.** Members should contact their Local MLA's, write or call media outlets, join in signing petitions, and participate in fighting this BC Liberal government. For more information go to [www.fighthst.com](http://www.fighthst.com)

# HealthCare & Wellness

**On April 15th 1872**, the first Canadian demonstration was held to protest laws that decreed Unions' illegal in Canada. Working men and women spent the next twenty two years struggling to improve working wages and conditions. On September 4th 1894, the Canadian government legislated the first Monday of every September to be a national holiday called Labour Day and workers began officially celebrating their labour achievements.

**115 years later**, challenges have changed for the labour movement, but it remains important for all workers to value their own and others' contributions to their work environments. Working Canadian people deserve good living wages to enable them to lead healthy and fulfilling lives for themselves and their families.

### HEALTH CARE ISSUES:

The FBA and HEABC established a jointly administered **\$2-million fund** to re-train individuals who were laid off due to contracting out between January 28, 2002 and January 25, 2008. This fund was established as part of last year's Bill 29 agreement.

For FBA members, the deadline for the Joint Bill 29 Re-training Fund application quickly approaches. **Applications must be received by September 30, 2009.** For more information, please call 250-382-1511. To receive a payment from the fund, you must:

- Have been a member of a Union in the Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA);
- Have been laid off due to contracting out between January 28 2002 and January 25, 2008; **and**
- Have either completed re-training, be in the process of re-training, or plan to re-train.

Please call your local union office for information.

### BILL 29 AND EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS:

The FBA, of which CSWU Local 1611 is included, is representing our claimants through a Representative Group Appeal. **The deadline to appeal is October 2, 2009.** If you require forms or additional information, please call the Union office at 250-382-1511.

As flu season approaches, please be aware of the following steps to protect yourself and others:

- Prevent H1N1 flu virus with frequent hand washing.
- Cover your cough and sneeze.
- Stay at home if you're sick, unless directed to seek medical care and avoid crowds.
- Keep common surfaces clean and disinfected.

Take care, be healthy and safe. Healthcare rep. Shelley Moore with Elsa Lee of Nigel House.



Shelley Moore  
Health Care and Wellness



# Lots & Plots, Guards & Shards

**PARKING INDUSTRY** – although we have more automation's than ever before **Impark** continues to bid new work and has had some successes, ie. In the interior (Kamloops, Kelowna) has approximately 35 new employees. The company and the Union are trying very hard to address seniority issues as they arise and this far there has been no disputes that have not been resolved. We continue to monitor this whenever automation arises or the loss of a contract.

**CEMETERY INDUSTRY (SCIC)** – after months of fruitless negotiations and a five week strike the Union applied for mediation with the company agreeing subject to the employees returning to work. However, the company's position has not changed (sighting the recession) 0% in the first year and a wage reopener in the second. Although the employees accepted the companies offer it was only because of the financial strain of a 5 week strike. Everyone understands there is no guarantee in the second year (very disappointed is the only emotion I am sure everyone feels). We wish to send to a special thank you to the Solidarity Notes for their inspirational support on the SCIC picket line.

**RECYCLING INDUSTRY** – the Union organized **IPI** approximately a year ago, the Labour Relations Board took a year to count the ballots and on June 29, the Certification was granted to 1611 for the drivers and swamper. The Union held their first proposal meeting Sunday August 23 after 5 weeks of trying to get an updated employee list. Welcome and stay tuned this set of negotiations is set to start September 21 and we expect this to be extremely interesting. If the company spends half the money on the employees they did on fighting the Union, this will be a good Agreement.

**Canadian Fibre** has concluded negotiations and has their first Collective Agreement. Congratulations.

**Metro Recycling** has been served with notice to bargain, and we expect to sit down in September after the summer when everyone is back to work.

**SECURITY INDUSTRY** – the Union was successful in their arguments that **UPS** should be part of the Union as **Kanaf** members were far greater than UPS. This is good news for all the employees both Kanaf and UPS if ever any industry needed unions it is the security sector.

Both **Garda** and **UPS** have been served with notice to commence bargaining and Dennis and I expect to start this process very shortly although no dates are pending we expect in the coming weeks we will commence not months (weeks).

As you can see it has been a busy summer for Dennis and I however the fall looks to be even busier with all the negotiations we have scheduled.

On behalf of Dennis and I we wish to thank all for the support we receive with the negotiations, strikes, or ongoing disputes with their employers. It is an honour to know and represent the members in the service sector.



Local 1611 members on the SCIC picket line this past June.

