



CSWU LOCAL 1611
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS
IN 2012

In Solidarity

Spring 2010 Volume Eight 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 health care, security, recycling, parking lot, cemeteries, crematoriums, funeral homes and janitorial sectors

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

There are 3 different scholarships that our members or their dependents can apply for:

- **W. Vernie Reed Memorial Fund** - offered through the Labourers' International Union. All information requested must be in by April 1st.
- **Cal Callahan Memorial Bursary** - offered through the Pipeline Industry for the sons, daughters or legal wards of members who derive their principal income from the Pipeline Industry. All information requested must be in by the 30th of September.
- **Roland B. Gordon Memorial** - offered through CSWU Local 1611. All information requested must be in by the last day of October.

Contact the CSWU Local 1611 office for the applications.



Shop Steward Vince Mastandrea for the outside workers at Forest Lawn (SCIC).



Shop Steward Michael Kwasnica for the outside workers at Ocean View (SCIC).



Shop Steward Lynda Duncan for the inside workers - administration staff for Forest Lawn (SCIC).

Local 1611 members at work

2010/2011: A Period of Transition

We are in a period of transition. While we are making numerous changes, most of them are positive, and our mandate will not change, to do the best we can on your behalf.



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

What are the main changes?

- **Dock & Shipyard Workers' Union Local 1204 is merging into our Union** (see information herein). We are very honoured and excited to represent these new members. We also appreciate that their Business Manager Rick Spencer has agreed to stay working for these new Local 1611 members, in the capacity as a business representative.
- **We have made a series of changes to the work portfolio's** of our Union representatives (see information herein). This enables us to weather the difficult economic times, and to position ourselves to take advantage of the upswing, which will come. It also allows us to invest more in organizing efforts.
- I want to express our deepest thanks to **Dal Chernask, Richard Labonne and Bob March** for their commitment, dedication and excellent work on behalf of the members of this Union.
- **We will have to enable some projects** and sectors in order to ensure that our signatory contractors remain busy, so more Local 1611 members will gain work. While no one, including the Union, likes enablements, we need to take creative steps to keep the industry vibrant.

One final Olympic note. For those members who do not know, our Union companies and Union members were heavily involved in the Olympics, including hundreds of security guards and traffic control members who worked during the Olympics, as well as hundreds of construction and roadbuilding members who worked on Olympic related work including the Whistler Sliding Centre, RAV (Canada) Line, Phase I & II of the Sea-to-Sky Highway, to name a few. **A gold medal effort by all.**

Take care. Above all please stay healthy and safe.

Welcome To The Members of the Dock & Shipyard Workers' Union, Local 1204

Our International Union (LIUNA) has now confirmed the merger of Local 1204 into Local 1611. We welcome the almost two hundred (200) members, as members of ours.

LIUNA's approval followed successful votes at two general membership meetings of both Local 1204 and Local 1611.

These skilled new Local 1611 members work at both Victoria Shipyard and Nanaimo Shipyard in a variety of tasks.

We will prominently feature these members, and their work, in our Christmas 2010 newsmagazine.

Once again welcome. We will do our best on your behalf.

In Memoriam



Long time member of 25 years, Kurt Stohrer passed away on February 7, 2010. He worked as the Head Mechanic at Ocean View Cemetery (SCIC) and received his 25 year ring from Ocean View, which he was very proud of. He was a father to his three children, Patrick, Andrew, Sabrina and married to Trina, for 30 years. He will be sadly missed. Our thoughts go out to his family.

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of William (Al) Howard on January 12, 2010. Al was employed by Forest Lawn (SCIC) in the Crematorium for 20 years. Al was a very strong Union Member from September 1993 and a shop steward for 10 years. He was on the Union Negotiating Committee and knew the Industry well and had the respect of his fellow workers. The Union was a big part of Al's life, he will be missed by all. Our thoughts go out to his family.



Tony Parkinson, one of our Union Dispatchers, proudly displaying the Canadian Flag during the Olympic torch relay outside the Vancouver head office.



LOCAL 1611 SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;

- Shriners Care Cruisers
- Canadian Diabetes Association
- Relief in Haiti

PUBLICATION AGREEMENT NUMBER 40850545

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

Published by: Construction and Specialized Workers' Union Local 1611 • Printed and produced by union labour



Nav Malhotra (centre) the new Local 1611 Service Sector Business Representative as of March 2010. He will be assisted by Dennis Morgan (right) who while retired will be working part-time, Gary Palmiere (left) has now resumed a construction territory

Are You Ready to be Gouged by the BC Liberals?

You will recall that in my last report to you I talked extensively about **how you were hoodwinked by the BC Liberals in the last election** by deliberately **not** telling you that the HST would extend the PST tax base to a much broader range of goods and services. This new tax regime scheduled to commence July 1, this year, will transfer billions of tax dollars from the wallets of ordinary working men and woman to corporations and big business. Opposition to this tax grab has been mounting, led surprisingly by former Social Credit Premier Bill Van der Zalm. **Even Bill can smell a rat in this scandal.** Petitions to oppose this unjust tax need to gather at least 10% support in each and every provincial electoral district in B.C. in order to achieve a province wide ballot to determine if you support this Liberal tax grab.

I of course **urge you to support this petition** and get involved when the issue comes to your area. Go to www.fightHST.com for more information.

In the Christmas issue of our Union newsletter I reported that as a result of fallout of the U.S. and world wide economic meltdown Local 1611 experienced about a 20% decrease in hours worked in 2009 than was the case in 2008. We forecast that 2010/2011 will see only a slight improvement, and we will have to wait until 2012 for a move to full recovery.

Your Local Union, as a result has had to make some tough and difficult decisions regarding enabling some jobs, and in Union staff personnel.

In closing please work safe and stay healthy. I look forward to seeing you at your next local area union meeting.



Bruce Ferguson
President



Metro Waste Paper Recovery (l to r) Reynaldo Taru, Nhan Nguyen and Than Duc Nguyen at a SkillPan course held by Ginny Chiu.



Local 1611 member Gleyon Procknow on duty for Impark in Kelowna.

Important Info

I would like to say hi, to all our members and hope this year will be good to them. Following is a short report, and by the time you read this, not only are the Olympics over but probably the Para Olympics. This event has given the big money developers and corporations a broader view of what Vancouver is and the potential to make profit.

I hope this will lead to lots of work opportunity for our members down the road. As you know the major economic problems that started in 2008 are still with us today. The work picture is slow and I don't see it picking up for awhile.

The Federal Government stimulus money is now hitting the ground, let's hope our contractors are able to be successful in the bidding for this work. It is extremely difficult right now with contractors from across Canada and the US bidding on our work because of so few jobs out there.

Due to changes in personnel, I have resumed the traffic control/flagging sector portfolio as a Business Representative. I look forward to getting to know the members and the issues once again.

Hopefully the Organizing Department's efforts will lead to additional work opportunity for our members. If you want to help by becoming a salt, please contact Manuel Alvernaz, I know he would be pleased to talk to you.



Rick Clarkson
Secretary Treasurer

We Can Make a Difference – FIGHT THE HST –

WHY IS THE HST BAD FOR BC?

- It transfers the entire sales tax burden from businesses to consumers.
- It will cost the average household in BC an extra \$2,100 per year.
- The BC Liberal's promised NOT to implement the HST in the last election.

HOW CAN WE STOP THE HST?

- Citizen's Initiative petition needs 10% of registered voters signatures in every one of BC's 85 Electoral Districts to be successful.

WHEN DOES THE PETITION START?

- The Fight HST petition will start on April 6, 2010.
- Signatures must be collected within 90 days, ending on July 5, 2010.

www.fightHST.com for more information.



Local 1611 Organizing Department (l to r) Oscar Sanchez Organizer, Bruce Ferguson President, Manuel Alvernaz Chief Organizer, Dean Homewood Contractor Relations & Aboriginal Liaison, and Liana Biasutti Organizer.

Healthcare Sector Update

The Canadian Institute for Health Information has dropped BC from second to **eighth place** in the Canadian provinces in terms of its per capita support for health care. The affected Health Authorities will be hard pressed to cope with the predicated challenges of inflation and population.

BARGAINING NEWS

The government's mandated freeze on public sector compensation, made it extremely difficult to engage in meaningful bargaining in CSWU's health sectors.

The FBA, (**Facility Bargaining Association**) worked diligently to protect wages and extended health benefits. The proposal is currently being ratified. **James Bay Care Centre and Sandringham Care Centre** employers have opted out of HEABC, (Health Employer Association of BC). CSWU will bargain a new collective agreement for these facilities. The 2006-2010 agreement stays in force, until a new agreement is bargained and ratified by members.

The Community Social Services Employers Association, (CSSEA), presented a proposal to BCGEU which has resulted in **several unfair labour practices** complaints proceeding to a Labour Umpire. The proposal failed to address issues that members had identified as high priority. CSSEA's failure to bargain directly with the multi-union bargaining association has caused delays to the process. The hearing to address these concerns will convene in March.

CSWU continues to encourage the members working for H.O.M.E.S. to enroll in the new Municipal Pension Plan. Please look on your bulletin boards at your work locations for information on upcoming meetings.

LPN RAID FAILED – GOOD NEWS

The Labour Relations Board released a report on February 17, confirming that BCNU did not produce enough valid signed cards to allow their application to proceed. The Federation of Labour has **highly criticized BCNU for this failed raid** of LPN's. It is very good news that the LRB did not support this illegal raid of our members.

I wish for you all, a safe and healthy spring!

ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

So far in 2010 (to March 1) Local 1611 has organized, certified and/or signed Collective Agreements with these companies;

- ABW Construction Inc. (from Seattle)
- Concrete Concepts Ltd.

Many thanks to members who have given us tips, and members who have worked as "salts" assisting us in organizing drives.

Do you know any organizing targets, or do you have friends and relatives who work non-union or Clac and can help us?

Please contact Manuel Alvernaz, our Chief Organizer at 604.437.6889 ext.222 or his cell 604.323.4442. ALL INQUIRES ARE CONFIDENTIAL.



Shelley Moore
Business Representative

New Developments

First and foremost I would like to introduce myself. My name is Navneeraj (Nav) Malhotra and for the past 2 years I have been an Organizer for Construction and Specialized Workers Union 1611. I would like to thank **Manuel Alvernaz** for the knowledge and guidance he has passed to me during this time. I would also like to take this time to thank **Dennis Morgan** and **Gary Palmiere** for the great job they have done in the service sector and for making my transition into a Business Representative as easy as possible.

My portfolio in the service sector will include the following industries and janitorial companies: **Garda Security, UPS (United Protection Service), Impark, Metro Parking, Advance Parking, SCIC (Service Corporation International (Canada) Limited), Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc, Emterra Environmental (I.P.I.), Seapoint Properties and Cowie Maintenance.** I am looking forward

to working with these companies within my portfolio, and I'm excited to assist our hardworking members. The Union is as strong as our membership, so I would like to take this time and ask you to help the local union to organize the unorganized companies that are out there. Lastly my door is always open and I am looking forward to working for you.

Paige Armstrong pictured in her RCMP officer's uniform at the Regina Depot Training Facility. Paige, as a member of COPE 378, was a valued staff member in our Vancouver head office from 2002-2009. We are certain Paige will have a great career in the RCMP. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.



Nav Malhotra
Business Representative

New Union Portfolios

EFFECTIVE MARCH 2010

Members need to be aware of these changes to personnel, and duties, March 2010. **What is new?**

Dean Homewood – Includes Contractor Development and First Nations Liaison.

Liana Biasutti – Organizer.

Rick Clarkson – Adds flagging and traffic control sector.

Gary Palmiere and Dan Klein – Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast – construction and roadbuilding sectors.

Nav Malhotra – Service Sector representative (assisted by Dennis Morgan).

Mathew Lust – Entire Vancouver Island – construction and roadbuilding sectors.

Mat McGrish – Entire Northern region. (assisted by Bruce Ferguson).

We appreciate the members support and understanding, as the Union reps adjust to their new or expanded duties.