



CSWU LOCAL 1611  
TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS  
IN 2012

# 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 health care, security, recycling, parking lot, cemetery, crematorium, funeral home and janitorial sectors

## Workers' Advocate Report

### Members Compensation Claims Denied

The Provincial Liberals made extensive changes to the Workers Compensation Act in June of 2002. These changes have made it much more difficult to have your compensable claims accepted. Therefore, in this hostile climate, members should be aware of a number of issues before filing a Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) claim.



Richard Saunders  
Workers' Advocate

### Report All Injuries Immediately

Report your workplace injury to the First Aid attendant immediately. Explain the incident in detail to the First Aid and make sure everything is written down. If you do not report that first incident of injury then the WCB will state that it couldn't have happened at work because there is no record of you reporting the injury. If you did report, then you have evidence to support your claim.

If you are unable to continue working still report the injury no matter how small it is. In the future it may cause you problems and without a report of injury you will not be compensated when it gets worse.

If you are unable to continue working, see a doctor as soon as possible or go to your local clinic or, an emergency ward if your clinic is closed.

### If Your Claim Has Been Denied

If you file a claim and the claim is denied, make sure you call us as soon as you get the decision letter. Our department will also assist members with problems involving the Employment Insurance Commission (EI) and in obtaining Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Disability benefits.

Our phone numbers are 604.437.6889 or toll free 1.888.788.2888, and you can fax us at 604.437.5684. If you are unable to reach me, please do not hesitate to contact my assistant Patrizia and remember, **be careful and watch out for each other.**

Shelley Moore with her son, Cameron this March at the 'Walk for Community Social Services' rally, to raise awareness about the vital role these services play in our communities. Participants included social services clients, self-advocates, family members, workers, multi unions, service providers and politicians.



## 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.

Right Heather Galbraith  
Care Aide and Job  
Steward at Sandringham.



Left Sandringham Care Centre is a beautiful, warm and welcoming 'home' that offers long term care services in Victoria. The CSWU staff approach their duties with a very high level of respect, dignity and caring.  
(l to r) Debra Kean Executive Director, Heather Galbraith Care Aide and Maria Bradley LPN.



(l to r) Maria Bradley LPN and Margaret Danylchuk Activation Aide.



Heather Galbraith and Michelle Goodman, Care Aides.

## 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.



Mark Olsen  
Business Manager

We represent workers in dock & shipyard, health-care, 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.

## Local 1611 Supporting Communities

Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;

- BC Children's Hospital Foundation
- Food Bank Campaign
- Victoria Mustard Seed Food Bank
- Community Fair in Kitimat
- Red Cross in support of Haiti and Japan.

## 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.



Garda members taking traffic control person training for the Ports.



Ed Smith, Justin Durocher, Jaswant Hari, Hoai Dinh Nguyen, Jeremy Raquero inside the Cascades Recovery Inc. Plant in Surrey.

# 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!

## DOING OUR PART FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



Your Union and its benefit plan offices have received a 2010 Certificate of Diversion. It recognizes that the Union's operation diverted over 100 cubic yards of paper waste, saving 35,000 litres of water, 85 trees, and over 20,000 k.w. of electricity.

Your Union is doing its part for the environment. We also represent "green" workers including in the Cascade Recycling Plants, in landscaping, and in the construction of hydro electric facilities in BC. As part of the Coalition of BC Building Trade Unions we are also supporting Covanta's Waste-to-Energy Plant in Gold River.



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



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



Eric Kuhne, UPS Field Manager.



Raj Agarwal at Impark downtown Vancouver.

## Healthcare Sector Update

Spring greetings to the health care members of Local 1611. The following article illustrates a section of CSWU's diversity. Our health care sector members are employed in a wide range of positions, a few examples; **care aides, LPN's, cooks, activity workers, cleaners, residential care workers** and the list goes on.

You will see us working with your aging Mum or Dad, a family member that needs lifelong support in the community, a mentally disabled son or daughter or a physically disabled family member.

Local 1611 health sector members bring care and intelligence to their work. We have **Union activists** that are building community relationships and working together to promote a progressive social agenda in BC. The social services in all of our communities have suffered from government cutbacks and inadequate funding. Please let your MLA know how important Community Social Services are to you.

### Community Involvement

Your Union was involved in the Community Social Services Matter campaign held in March. This was a province-wide effort to raise awareness of the vital and diverse social services provided in all of our communities. The month long campaign works to inform and strengthen public support for these services.

Our brothers and sisters who work in this sector, are employees of the organization HOMES, Healthy Opportunities for Meaningful Experience Society. Our members work in a variety of community group homes and provide 24 hour support to people with developmental disabilities who live in the community.

**Bargaining talks** for this sector broke down on March 31st following a final attempt to reach a fair settlement. The Community Social Services Employers' Association refused to offer employment security to members facing more job losses, funding inadequacies and program closures. A strike vote will be held in the next month and members will be informed of the date and time.

For other Local 1611 members working in the health sector, bargaining is set to begin in April for two CSWU certifications, **James Bay Care Centre** and **Sandringham Care Centre** in Victoria. A member from each facility will join me on the bargaining committee. An information meeting will be scheduled for members as we move through the bargaining process.



Shelley Moore  
Business Representative

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Here are few suggestions and facts to help shed the winter doldrums and recharge for the new season.....

**GARDENING** burns 250 – 350 calories in one hour. Garden 3 times a week for great exercise.

**BE AN EARLY BIRD RISER:** studies have shown that people who wake up earlier are healthier than night owls who sleep in. Morning light gives you healthy doses of Vitamin D and helps improve possible symptoms of depression.

**GET DIRTY!** Kids with dirty feet are exposed to common bacteria which are good for you. When they routinely inhabit our bodies, they can produce vitamins and proteins that help make our immune and gastrointestinal systems work.

**EAT AND BUY LOCAL:** fresh is always best.

**TAKE A WALK DURING YOUR LUNCH HOUR:** this provides the moderate exercise that doctors keep recommending. 10,000 steps per day.

Thank you to all Local 1611 stewards who through their hard work and thoughtfulness, revitalize their co-workers employment situation and the Union.

## Service Sector Update

**GREAT SUCCESS BECAUSE WE WORKED TOGETHER**

As the end of my first year as a Business Representative approaches brothers and sisters, 2011 has just started, and there are many things that look promising and for which we should be proud.

First, the Collective Agreement with **Imperial Parking** has been ratified, with increases to wages for our hard working and dedicated members in the parking industry. This occurred due to the members sticking firmly together throughout this unstable economic time, and showing the Employer they were serious with their demands by having an overwhelming strike mandate.

Second, the Collective Agreement with **Garda Security** has also been ratified. The members were unfaltering, while showing their patience and perseverance in this set of negotiations.

Third, the **Service Corporation International (Canada) Limited (SCIC)** Collective Agreement has been ratified, with our members putting their demands to the Employer and receiving increases to their wages and other items.

**SeaPoint Property Services** has been put forward to our members for ratification. In this Collective Agreement we were also able to achieve increases in wages and other benefits for our members.

It is early, but we have sat down with **Cascades Recovery Inc.**, formerly known as **Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc.** and put forward the proposal of our members to the Employer. I know we can achieve our goals if we stand united as a membership.

I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all the members on the bargaining committees that have assisted in these negotiations. It is difficult to advise everybody on everything that is happening minute by minute, but do not hesitate to call me with any questions.

In closing, as you can see, we can accomplish great things when we work and support each other in a collective way.



Nav Malhotra  
Business Representative

## 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**