

In Solidarity

Spring 2008 Volume Six 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, janitorial, and retail sectors

continued from page three

PARKING REPORT: We send our best wishes to all the members employed by **Advance Parking Systems** and **Impark**. The Union is still committed to bringing in Metro Parking. Any information you may have will be greatly appreciated.

SECURITY: Best wishes to all those employed in the Security Sector. Recently we have been advised that the Attorney Generals office is proposing changes to licensing and we will be meeting with **Garda** to discuss any changes that may have an impact on the current Collective Agreements. We will report directly to all security sector members once we analyze the changes. Thank you for your support.

RECYCLING: One final message to our members in the **recycling sector**, the Union will be scheduling proposal meetings in the near future as the Collective Agreement expires in June 2008. Dennis and I look forward to meeting you at that time.

To all our service sector members, as you can see, it has been a busy year. We are always just a phone call away if you need our help or support.

To all our members, if you drive by Ocean View, Forest Lawn Cemeteries and Lakeview Memorial in Kelowna, remember to show your support. Fellow union brothers and sisters might be walking the picket line.

Exercise Your Rights

- As a worker in B.C., you have the legal right to:*
- Training in safe work procedures and how to recognize on-the-job hazards.
 - Supervision to make sure you work without unnecessary risk.
 - Employer-provided safety equipment required for your job (though you're responsible for safety footwear and headgear).
 - Refusal of work you think is unsafe – without being fired or disciplined for refusing.



Richard Saunders
Workers' Advocate

- IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE**
- Explain to your immediate supervisor why you're not comfortable.
 - If your immediate supervisor is unavailable or doesn't give you a good answer, go to his or her supervisor.
 - If you're still not satisfied, talk to your safety representative, a member of the safety committee, or your job steward.

BROWSE THE WEB

OUR LOCAL 1611 WEBSITE IS NEW AND IMPROVED. TAKE A LOOK AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

- See interesting news and other links.
- Scholarship information and forms are available.
- Automatic dues deduction forms are also available.
- You can also print Medical Plan forms.

www.cswu1611.org

UNION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

- CSWU Local 1611 has the following Scholarships available;
- **Vernie Reed Memorial Scholarship**
All applications must be in by the last working day of March.
 - **Rolly B. Gordon**
All applications must be in by the last working day of October.
 - **Cal Callahan Pipeline Scholarship**
All applications, from pipeline members, must be received by the Pipeline Contractors Association by September 30.

Please call Donna in our Local 1611 Office at **604-432-9300** for scholarship information.

ALERT: JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are in a period of severe supply shortage in the Lower Mainland and Southern Vancouver Island. We need skilled and experienced members and new recruits in the following classifications.

- GENERAL CONSTRUCTION**
 - Hi-Rise Labourers • Carpenter Helpers • Concrete Labourers/Vibrator • Riggers • First Aid Attendants
- UNDERGROUND WORK**
 - Construction Miners • Underground Labourers
- ROAD BUILDING/UTILITY WORK**
 - Rakerpersons • Graderpersons • Pipelayers • Surveyors • Drillers and Blasters • High Scalers • Flag Persons (high volume traffic)
- INDUSTRIAL CONCRETE PLANTS**
 - Carpenters • Concrete Finishers • Concrete Labourers • Steel Tiers

If you have any of these skills, or if you know someone who has any of these skills, call our Vancouver Dispatch Office at 1-800-663-6588 or our Victoria Office at 1-250-382-1511.

Members must ensure that the Union Dispatch Office has correct unblocked telephone numbers and work experience information, and keep your dues current.

Liana Biasutti: Dispatcher



Mark Olsen
Business Manager

We have just entered the first year of our Union's 5 Year Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012. Within that plan, we have accomplished several goals already, including the establishment of an Organizing Department; a system to measure our efforts; Training Plan Study; and improvements to our Medical/Dental benefits for covered members.

We have also hired additional employees, and shuffled work portfolio's. We ask that members be patient and supportive, as the new representatives gain experience.

- **New organizers** – Oscar Sanchez, Nav Malhotra, and Chris White.
- **Lower Mainland construction and roadbuilding Business Representatives** – Dean Homewood, Mat McGreish, and Danny Klein.
- **New Healthcare Business Representative** – Shelley Moore (our Recording Secretary on our Executive Board).

We know that our new employees, and current employees with new job duties, will do the best they can on your behalf.

Our Union, Your Union, is moving ahead, and we have much to accomplish together.

Please take the time to read this publication and call your Business Representative with any comments. We want to ensure it is relevant to you.

Take care and above all please work safe.

ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE – ORGANIZE

So far in 2008 Local 1611 has organized, certified, or signed Collective Agreements with these companies;

- Baulex Projects Inc.
- B-1 Traffic Control
- One Stop Safety Services
- Prism Contracting

Do you have any organizing targets for the Union? Call Manuel Alvernaz, Chief Organizer at (604)437-6889 ext. 222.



Good deal. Business Manager Mark Olsen signs Retainer Agreement with the law firm of Caroline and Gould in December 2007. Principal legal counsel Gary Caroline (at right). This Agreement maintains the exemplary legal work of departed Local 1611 in-house legal counsel Kevin Blakely, while at the same time capping the Unions' legal costs in 2008.

BOYCOTTS/DO NOT PATRONIZE

- 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
- SEARS: Requested by IBEW

Send a letter to your local area MLA and MP and ask them to get involved and support the workers.

Local 1611 Supporting Communities

- Local 1611 has recently supported these charities and benevolent efforts;
- Cloverdale Soap Box Derby • Golden Ears U15 Silver Soccer Team • Union Gospel Mission Thanksgiving Dinner • United Way Campaign • Food Bank Campaign • B.C. Children's Hospital Foundation • Variety Club • Van City Eagles Youth Basketball Team.

Leaving H.O.M.E.S.

I welcome this opportunity to report to you, and to also extend warm personal regards to all of our members working in the parking lots, recycling, mortuary, cemetery, and security sectors.

For the past few years I have had the honour to service our members working for H.O.M.E.S. in the health care sector. Recently our Local 1611 Union Business Manager Brother Mark Olsen has given me several new assignments in both the construction and precast industries.

Sister **Shelley Moore** who is the Recording Secretary of Local 1611 Executive Board and is serving her third elective term was recently hired as a field representative for the health care region. Sister Shelley comes to the job with twenty year background of experience in the health care industry, and I have every confidence that she will do a first rate job in her new assignment. She recently attended her first meeting with our H.O.M.E.S. membership and it was quickly evident that she has an excellent grasp of the Community Living Services Agreement.

BILL 29

"An audit has shown there is money remaining in the Early Incentive Bonus fund, negotiated by the Community Social Services Bargaining Association (CSSBA).

"This fund is a unique feature that applies only to the community social services sectoral agreements. The CSSBA has the authority to determine what to do with this surplus.

"The CSSBA has decided to provide a full or topped up bonus payment to certain employees who did not receive a bonus or who received a bonus of less than \$4200 but who might otherwise have been eligible for the full amount. These include:

- Employees who were on maternity or parental leave on March 31, 2006 and who either 1) returned to work with fewer than when they went on leave or 2) did not receive a bonus.

"One additional employee has been identified as entitled.

- Employees on the 'any occupation' period of a long-term disability leave at any time between April 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006.

"Four additional employees are entitled."

In closing, I would be totally remiss if I did not spotlight the many dedicated trade unionists that I have had the privilege of working with at H.O.M.E.S. Past and current Job Stewards **Matthew Scarrow, Greg Clemons, Nehal Azab, Karoline Campbell, Michael Lynch, Steven Middleton, and Mark Shepherd,** and Labour Management Committee member **Nancy Bickert** deserve recognition for serving their fellow H.O.M.E.S. employees.



Bruce Ferguson
President

UnionOnTheMoveUp

With another winter behind us, we head into what I hope will be a nice spring and great summer. Of general interest to all of you; in 2007 we had over 5.5 million hours of work by our members which was a 9% increase over 2006. **WE ARE MOVING FORWARD TO OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2012.**

All economic indicators suggest that British Columbia will have strong economy right through 2012-2013.

Some great news for your construction brothers and sisters. **Last year the federal government recognized the Labourers as a Red Seal trade across Canada.** It will take time to put all the logistical pieces in place, before a true apprentice program is up and running. We will keep you informed as this program moves forward.

All members in the province are part of the **Union 3 ships.**

Membership – You are the U in Union. Without you as a group there would be no Union to bargain or take grievances forward on your behalf.

Mentorship – Helping your brothers and sisters gain the skills (tricks of the trade) to do the tasks given to them by the Employer. Be a teacher of the craft.

Leadership – Show by example, continue to upgrade your skills, volunteer your time for children, charity, sport clubs, seniors.

Take care and worksafe.

Carl Strand retired December 31, 2007

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES

Carl's service to Local 1611 and former Local 1070 is well documented;

- member for 42 years, on Executive Board continuously since 1973
- held numerous positions from Business Representative, Secretary Treasurer, and Business Manager over his 30 years of employment
- Trustee of the Pension Plan since 1980 and Chair since 1995
- Trustee of the Medical Plan since 1983
- Trustee of the Training Plan since 1982 and Chair since 1985
- also served on the Executive Board of Building Trades, Skillplan, Rehabilitation Plan and Delegate of the Vancouver New Westminster Building Trades Council and is an active member of his NDP constituency

On behalf of the Executive Board and the 6,000 members of Local 1611, we wish Carl the very best in his well earned retirement.

- Mark Olsen, Business Manager



Richard (Rick) Clarkson
Secretary-Treasurer



Carl Strand

HealthCareReport

HEALTH CARE REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I accept my new position of Business Representative for CSWU. Thank-you to Mark Olsen, Business Manager, for offering me this incredible opportunity. I have been a member for 20 years, currently serving on the Union's Executive Board. I join a very accomplished and dedicated team of COPE staff members, Business Representative, Executive Board members, and Job Stewards. Thank-you to the CSWU stewards Matthew Scarrow and his Abbotsford team, Heather Galbraith and Bonnie Sinclair from Sandringham Care Centre, Sandy Handy from James Bay Care Centre, and Ralph Lindberg and Rod Knauf from Nigel Care Facilities. You set examples to your co-workers and managers with your hard work and dedication. It takes a special person to volunteer your time and efforts to assist others.

BILL 29 UPDATE

Five years ago, a legal battle over sections of **Bill 29** began between the B.C. Liberal Government and Health Care Unions. The Union's position was that Bill 29 violated working people's right to engage in collective bargaining and the **Supreme Court of Canada agreed. Governments cannot rip up negotiated Collective Agreements and impose anti-labour laws.**

The Facilities Bargaining Association settlement will see 68 million going to union employees who were impacted by contracting out and 2 million for retraining. A Union – Employer committee chaired by Vince Ready, will determine the compensations paid to employees laid off due to contracting out. Unions, in the 2010 negotiations, can now bargain without the threat of anti-labour laws being imposed. Our bargaining committee can negotiate on future contracting out, offering alternatives and solutions to keep the work in-house. A further 5 million will be available for future impacted workers to access retraining.

The Community Bargaining Association will receive 4 million. 1.5 million going to affected employees, and 2.5 million for training. **CSWU Local 1611 has members from both Associations.** We are currently contacting our members who were impacted by Bill 29. **If you know of any workers from your facilities, who lost their jobs through contracting out, please ask them to call the Victoria office at 250-382-1511.**



Shelley Moore
Business Representative

Parking, Security & Recycling Sectors

S.C.I.C. REPORT: Greetings on behalf of Dennis and myself. This update comes after spending the **last two days** at the Labour Relations Board in mediation only to be served lockout notice for S.C.I.C.

This seems to be par for the course with this company. Regardless of the cost of living increases we all face, this company thinks nothing of reducing your standard of living in order to increase profits. It is bad enough that the company has not properly addressed wages. The proposed language would allow more temporary workers with no restrictions on who could do the work of the bargaining unit. No job protection or security.

I could go on about all the reductions they proposed, reduced sick time, vacation time, no increase to R.R.S.P. and on and on. By the time this newsletter is out the Union will have put this offer to the members to vote, and we expect it will be declined.



The Union wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the shop stewards who assist with negotiations. You the members employed by S.C.I.C., have the full support of



the Union. We have very much enjoyed meeting and representing all the members from the funeral and cemetery sectors. We appreciate your patience and support as we learn the complexity of the issues you face.

continued on back cover



Top: Meeting of Local 1611 members who work for S.C.I.C.
Middle: S.C.I.C. meeting (l to r) Lynda Duncan, Gary Palmiere, Dennis Morgan, Ari Rossi and Brent Miotto.
Bottom: Meeting of members of the Local 1611 S.C.I.C. Group.

Did You Purchase Your Ticket(s)?