

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LiUNA! LOCAL 1611

THE LABOURER

SPRING 2024



- IT'S SCHOLARSHIP SEASON
- CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR
- HOW THE BC NDP SUPPORTS WORKERS

LiUNA! Local 1611
BC & YUKON

The Labourer | Spring 2024 | Vol. 49, No. 1

LiUNA Local 1611 represents more than 10,000 members in B.C. and Yukon. Our construction sector represents construction, roadbuilding, pipeline, paving, utility, TCP, rail, mining, tunnel & rock work, diamond drilling, industrial plant, dock & shipyard sectors.

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LOCAL 1611 DONATION Hope Outreach Executive Director Lorraine Richmond (left) with volunteer Jessa Wickenheiser (middle) and Innovation and Development Manager Sheyan Still, with a donation cheque from Local 1611 toward their work providing night outreach for people in the streets in the Okanagan.

LABOURERS' UNION CHARITIES

It's scholarship time so get those applications in!

by Shelley Moore, Chair, Labourers' Union Charities

Local 1611 awards scholarships to members and their families to assist them with their education. Please let Labourers' Union Charities (LUC) know if you and or your dependents qualify for a scholarship for 2024. The deadline to apply is August 31, 2024, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of this amazing union benefit and send in an application.

Local 1611 can help with the cost of education.

We also encourage our members to apply for the Vernie Reed Scholarship through our Northwest Region. The deadline for this scholarship is May 1.

Learn more, including how to apply, at liuna1611.org/scholarships.

In addition, Local 1611 supports many charities that members bring forward to LUC. Local 1611 strongly believes that if a charity means a lot to you and your family, it means a lot to us, too. Please include us in your efforts to make your communities stronger and meaningful to your families.

Local 1611 is always on hand to support these and other valuable endeavours. The LUC committee meets monthly and reviews any donation requests that have been submitted.

Email luc@liuna1611.org if there is an organization or program you'd like LUC to support. ■

B&B gets an 'A+' for Contractor of the Year

B&B CONTRACTING is Local 1611's 2023 Contractor of the Year, for more reasons than just one. An industry leader for more than 70 years in underground utilities, roads, gravel, excavation and infrastructure projects, B&B has completed more than 1,000 projects in B.C. and employs more than 500 people, including many of our members.

"When I started in the field close to 20 years ago, B&B was one of the busiest and most productive civil contractors in our sector, and that's never changed," said Local 1611 Training Administrator Tom Miller, who nominated B&B for Contractor of the Year. "But they are also a progressive, solution-oriented employer that prioritizes safety, treats its workers well and contributes to the community."

Local 1611 has a close partnership with B&B. In 2020, the company partnered with Training PLUS (Professional Labourers' Union School) to replace an aging playground at Peace Arch Elementary. The local Rotary Club that raised money for the playground didn't have funds for the civil work involved. B&B supplied trucking, a driver, as well as a dump site to haul away multiple demolished concrete curbs.

Training PLUS also partnered with B&B on a successful pilot project last year to provide a Construction Craft Worker apprenticeship to 12 Surrey Schools graduates. Training PLUS delivered the training and B&B employed every student. Also on the training front, B&B stays connected with Training PLUS to ensure courses and programs are the best they can be for workers in the civil construction industry. And finally, B&B donates hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to local charities, including BC Children's Hospital, SOURCES Community Resource Centre and food banks in Surrey and Langley.



B&B CONTRACTING IS OUR CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR! B&B's Scott Perdue (second from left) and Peter Mihalech (second from right) accept a cheque and certificate from Local 1611 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra (centre), Service Representative Mike Berg (left) and Training Plan Administrator Tom Miller.

"We are proud to have B&B as a signatory contractor," notes Miller. "They are a successful company, a progressive employer and a valued member of our community." As Contractor of the Year, B&B received a cheque for \$2,500 for their charity or program of choice. ■



ON THE COVER

LOCAL 1611 PARTNERED with the Vancouver Canucks to award the Art Holding Memorial Arena in the Village of Chase with \$100,000 as the winner of our Game Changer Reno contest! The arena is the heart of the community and so much more than just a sheet of ice. It's used by families for everything from hockey and ice skating to a venue for weddings, funerals and birthday parties. Pictured are (from left) Canucks Alumni Liaison Rod Brathwaite, Local 1611 Communications Director Corry

Anderson-Fennell, Chase & District Recreation Society President Steffi Timm, Canucks Alumni and former goaltender Kirk McLean, Local 1611 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra, Fin the Mascot, and Facilities Manager Owen Christon, who is also a former member of Local 1611.



LOCAL 1611 IS A PREMIER PARTNER OF THE 2024 GREY CUP! We are sponsoring the provincewide Grey Cup Tour (powered by LiUNA Local 1611), with dates and towns to be announced soon. Pictured are (from left) BC Lions President Duane Vienneau, Local 1611 President Mark Olsen, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra and BC Lions Owner Amar Doman.

Support the candidates that support you

by Nav Malhotra | Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



THOUSANDS OF BRITISH COLUMBIANS will head to the polls this fall to elect a new provincial government, and I hope you will be among them.

And I also hope that you will vote for the candidates who have done the most for working people and for the communities where we live, work, learn and thrive.

For me, that is the BC New Democrats.

I am always open to the feedback from our members that inevitably comes when our union is politically active. For example, I can count on receiving emails or the odd letter from a disgruntled member when we publicly support the BC NDP in some way – whether it is on our social media channels, in our newsletters, through the messages we deliver at regular membership meetings or just during the conversations that we have with members.

And my response tends to be the same each time: we support the BC NDP because the BC NDP supports our members.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of our members have been working at family-supporting jobs for the past few years because of the more than \$1 billion that the NDP has put into major infrastructure projects like roads, hospitals and public transit.

Our union will continue to support a government that supports workers and that governs with reason, compassion and accountability.

Our members have been prioritized for these infrastructure jobs because the government not only invested in the project itself, but in the way the project was executed; that is, with a Community Benefits Agreement or Project Labour Agreement that prioritized Local 1611 and other unions in the BC Building Trades because we are leaders in training, skill, safety and workforce development.

Our members working on projects that involve asbestos removal have the protection of new regulations that require mandatory safety training for the workers involved, and licensing for the contractors that employ them. The BC NDP is also investing in enforcement, as we have seen in the case of a Surrey company facing a fine of nearly \$64,000 last year for what regulators characterized as “high-risk safety violations.”

Our members whose benefits did not include paid sick days



REPRESENTATIVES FROM LOCAL 1611, including Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra, Training Plan Administrator Tom Miller and Political Liaison Corry Anderson-Fennell met with Dan Coulter, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Transit.

now have a minimum of five paid sick days per year.

Our members receiving compensation from WorkSafeBC now see interest when their payments are delayed.

Our members’ families save \$1,200 a year and our Medical Plan saves over \$1 million a year thanks to the NDP removing MSP premiums. The savings to the medical plan have allowed us to improve benefits in other areas.

Soon, our members working on construction sites of 25 workers or more will have actual flush toilets on their job site instead of porta potties. This is an everyday dignity that non-construction workers take for granted.

Aside from these direct benefits to our members, the BC NDP has brought in:

- The Anti-Racism Data Act to help identify and dismantle system racism;
- Minimum wage increases indexed to the consumer price index;
- Paid days leave for workers experiencing domestic and sexual violence;
- Single-step certification for union organizing, reducing opportunities for employers to intimidate workers during a certification drive; and
- A new statutory holiday for Truth and Reconciliation Day.

There is much more to do. Affordable housing, health care, the environment, inflation – these are all important issues for our members and their families. Our union will continue to support a government that supports workers and that governs with reason, compassion and accountability. For me, that government is the BC New Democrats. ■



Labourers are rising across BC!

Will you join our volunteer army?

by Mark Olsen | President



OUR BUSINESS MANAGER/ SECRETARY-TREASURER

Nav Malhotra and his entire team have fully embraced LIUNA's newest initiative, Labourers Rising.

Our goal in Local 1611 is to amass an army of 350 to 500 member volunteers across B.C. We already know that many members actively volunteer now in their local

communities, from working in food banks and elder care homes to cleaning up neighbourhood refuse, assisting the homeless and coaching kids.

What is the Labourers Rising program?

The essence of Labourers Rising is to gather the information of these current volunteer efforts; encourage all members to volunteer; track and report these efforts; and create an army of volunteers to help communities and lobby for needed government policies.

To kick off the program, Local 1611 has approved a strategic plan that includes increased member communication and education, and social media exposure.

Volunteer and win

Nav has also announced an incentive program, which includes a \$25 gift card for each member who signs up and volunteers for the first time; a Volunteer of the Year Award; and a grand prize contest that rewards member volunteers each time they volunteer by entering their name into a draw for an all-expenses paid trip (transportation, hotel, meals and tickets) for two to attend the 2024 Grey Cup game in Vancouver on November 17. The more you volunteer, the more chances you have to win.

How do I get started?

Please scan the QR code on this page or visit liuna1611.org/labourers-rising.

We will also be asking members to sign up as volunteers during membership and area meetings, at our branch offices and during our Training Plan courses.

We always greatly appreciate the support, dedication and professional work of our membership. Now we are asking members to volunteer in their Local community and sign up as volunteers so we can call on you to assist the Union.

You will hear much more about the Labourers Rising program over the course of this year, but the time is now to get started. ■



THE BC NATURAL RESOURCES FORUM

was held in Prince George January 16. Pictured are Local 1611 President Mark Olsen (right), NDP Premier David Eby (centre) and Kevin O'Donnell, Director of the Pipeline Contractors Association of Canada.

Discussions were held on how to balance support for the resource sector with the achievement of environmental goals, both of which are needed to have healthy communities.

LIUNA and Local 1611 were major sponsors of the forum.

LOWER MAINLAND

Our members are building BC and supporting their communities

by Mike Berg | Service Representative



HAPPY SPRING, EVERYONE! A

few updates for you:

“Elsie,” the tunnel-boring machine, broke through the future **South Granville Station** on February 9 around 2:45 pm, just less than a year from her first breakthrough at the future Mount Pleasant station. Elsie is the twin TBM to Phyllis, which is already moving toward the Arbutus station.

The Langley Rugby Club U-19 boys team would like to thank the members of Local 1611 for supporting their spring break tour.

Our members donated to the Seamus Gee Legacy Project. Mike Gee volunteers tirelessly toward the Seamus Gee Memorial Trades Bursary, which helps get young people into trades apprenticeship programs. The project has also contributed thousands of dollars in Seamus’s name for the Langley Foundry, which opened in 2022 and assists youth with free and confidential mental health and substance use support services. Thank you, Mike, for all you do in the community, and we are happy to support a great project.

We also want to thank our members for making it possible to donate to the Inclusion Langley Society. Inclusion Langley



supports in excess of 1,400 children with developmental or support needs, youth and adults with intellectual disabilities and Autism spectrum disorder and their families. Thank you, Inclusion Langley, for bringing smiles to these faces and being a great partner in our community.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for their hard work on building a better British Columbia. We encourage our members to give back and volunteer your time to organizations in your community. Wear your LiUNA colours proudly! I look forward to our next visit on the job site. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

“Be your partner’s keeper”

by Jesse Saunders | Service Representative



A BIG THANK-YOU to all our members who wear their Local 1611 gear proudly. Working hard and being proud of our union is what inspires others to join us. LiUNA is always on the frontlines of bargaining agreements for family-supporting pay, good benefits, and better lives for all.

We anticipate another busy year for the construction and service sectors within the union. Last year went fast with new projects in the works and megaprojects pushing to the finish line.

As a union, we are working to secure contracts with new companies and generate work for our membership into the

future. If you find yourself between jobs, renew your certifications and refresh your skills. That way, when specific requests come in from contractors and new projects, our union can fill those spots quickly and easily.

And remember, always make safety your top priority. Our job is to analyze the safest and most efficient way to complete specific tasks. This goes for everyone around you. A good quote

“Be your partner’s keeper” means that safety does not stop with just you. It takes a collective effort from everyone working on a job site.

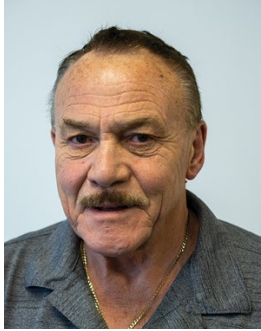
that I heard coming up in the industry was “be your partner’s keeper.” This means that safety does not stop with just you. It takes a collective effort from everyone working on a job site. Accidents happen when work is rushed. I know we are told

consistently that the job is behind, or the contractor is losing money, and we need to hurry up. But just remember that our families expect us to come home at the end of the day. Just like a seatbelt before driving, safety first on a jobsite. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

A great forecast for precast at Con-Force

by Manuel Alvernaz | *Special Representative*



SOME GREAT NEWS for one of our contractors to start the season: **Con-Force Structures** successfully secured the contract for most of the precast units for the Pattullo Bridge deck and approaches. There are at least 960 precast slabs units, plus some girders and caps. Con-Force will be casting six units per day, which means seven months-plus work for our members.

Con-Force also secured a dock in North Vancouver, including the piles, several box girders and pile caps. Some structures are very large and very heavy, weighing over 400,000 pounds or 200 tonnes. In fact, they are so heavy that they will be cast outside the plant in the works yard. Con-Force also has a couple of smaller contracts.

It's worth noting that 2023 was a good year in precast for our members and for Con-Force, and 2024 is looking busy, too.



Members at Con-Force prepare to cast a pile cap.

Meanwhile, the contract for 5,000-plus precast guideway units for the **Surrey/Langley SkyTrain** is still being finalized. **Parkland Refinery** has a smaller shutdown this year than last year, but it will still employ on average throughout the year between 60 and 65 of our members working for **CIMS, GDM and Matcon Industrial**. **Hyland Excavating** is keeping one crew busy building EV charging stations for Chevron throughout the Lower Mainland and waiting on another watermain contract. **Canadian Dewatering** forecasts a few projects coming up that will likely keep them busier than last year, which is good for them and good for our members.

Our members with **Fred Thompson Contractors** enjoyed a successful 2023, working extensive hours throughout the year and earning higher wages and better benefits, and 2024 looks even busier.

Have a great spring season and stay safe and healthy. ■



Manuel Alvernaz presents Joaquim (Jack) Eusebio with a watch, gold membership card and certificate for his 50 years of membership in LiUNA. Joaquim is a member at Fred Thompson Contractors.

LOWER MAINLAND

Training available to help you Be More Than a Bystander

by Lisa Flesher | *Service Representative*



SPRING IS HERE and summer is quickly approaching. It was a bit of a slow start to the year with the completion of the **Trans Mountain Expansion Project** but work will be picking up.

I recently completed the Be More Than a Bystander Train-the-Trainer program. It's a 90-minute to two-hour course that gives you the tools you

need to effectively intervene when you see harassment on a job site.

Our workforce is becoming increasingly diverse, particularly with women moving into more non-traditional roles. Bystander training helps you identify bullying and harassment, and more importantly gives you the tools on how to address it in the workplace. Historically, women have had to work harder, tolerate uncomfortable situations, and endure isolation in traditionally male-dominated industries. Your union wants everyone to feel valued and safe at work.

Members who are interested in learning more about BMTAB or taking the course can contact me at 604-833-1668 or email lflesher@liuna1611.org.

Lastly, I would like to thank our members and Job Stewards for all their hard work. Please remember to send me a text with your locations so I can come by with swag and coffee. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

You're changing lives just by being members of Local 1611

by Greg Letkeman | Recruitment Officer/Service Representative



NOW THAT SPRING has officially sprung, we look forward to new and exciting things for 2024. First though, I'd like to share a little bit about some of the charitable donations your union made over the holidays. LiUNA Local 1611 was able to donate tens of thousands of dollars to various amazing charities through nominations by LiUNA staff and members. It was

quite humbling to deliver donation cheques to a few of these organizations in person.

- The Cyrus Centre, based in Abbotsford and Chilliwack, provides services for youth aged 12 to 24 who are without a safe and stable place to live. Their services include a wide variety of supports including shelter, meals, advocacy, shower, laundry services and much more.
- The Meadow Rose Society provides essentials for children three and under living in Chilliwack and Hope whose families are in financial crisis.



- Mission Possible transforms lives through meaningful work. They empower people typically excluded from the traditional workforce — like those facing homelessness and housing insecurity, poverty, and other barriers to employment — by paving a pathway to long-term jobs and lasting change.
- MY House (Mission Youth House) is a safe place for youth to go (in Mission, B.C.) and connect with services, receive hot meals, shower, and laundry services.

If it weren't for the hard work of all Local 1611 members, the union would not be in a position to give back to the community in such fashion. Please, members of 1611, be proud, hold your head high, and know that you are making a real difference in the world, more importantly, right here close to home.

I am so proud to belong to an organization that supports and gives back to the community the way it does. You should be, too. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

Job Steward work greatly rewarding

by Nathan Ferguson | Service Representative



I AM EXCITED TO REPORT that the delivery of both the online self-directed and in-class Job Steward courses will continue in 2024, as we pursue our goal of delivering these courses to every Job Steward in the union. To date, all our instructor-led Job Steward courses have been a blast to teach. Thank you to all the stewards who committed their Sundays to attend these classes — your

dedication to the members of your union is truly commendable.

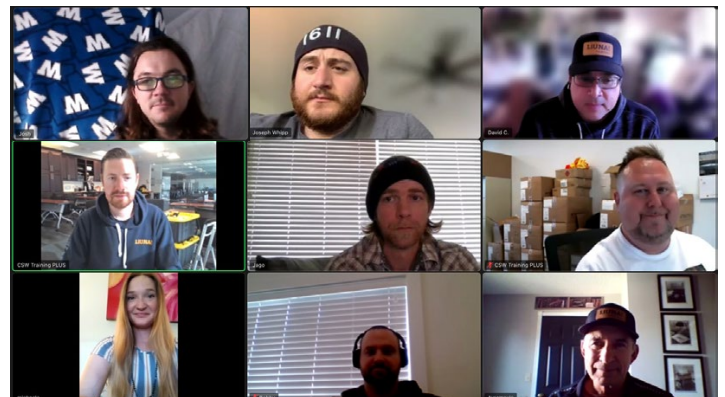
The role of a Job Steward can be challenging, but it is undoubtedly a gratifying position that brings a distinct sense of purpose.

The union will be contacting active Stewards who have not yet taken the course and encouraging them to register. Everyone who

completes the course will receive a certificate of completion and a \$150 gift card. Registration for each class will close as seats fill up, so be sure to secure your spot as soon as possible. The next in-class Steward courses are set for the following dates.

- Sunday, April 21
- Sunday, May 26
- Sunday, June 9
- Sunday, June 23
- Sunday, July 21
- Sunday, September 22
- Sunday, October 20
- Sunday, November 3
- Sunday, November 17

I look forward to seeing the rest of our Stewards in class as we strengthen the union together and empower one another! ■



The politics of a positive work picture – and flush toilets

by Brady Carter | *Service Representative*



THE UNION HAS GROWN and work has been intense for all of us.

Vancouver Island used to have a quiet season and now work seems to march right through the winter with no pause. Part of the reason for this positive work picture is due to politics. We have had continuous positive change with the NDP in power.

Through this busy work season, we have had workers get injured on the job and for the first time in my career WorkSafe has been accepting initial compensation claims. In the past a large majority of our injured members were initially denied compensation and forced to win through appeal with our Workers' Advocate Tony Parkinson. WorkSafe's attitude seems to have shifted and we have a voice at the table through our Minister of Labour Harry Bains.

This year we also had a shocking win when the government announced that flush toilets will be coming to construction sites of 25 workers or more. I was skeptical of success when the idea was presented and yet here we are. This step forward away from freezing or scorching hot porta potties is one I hope is never retracted. It's a human right and an issue of dignity. This core construction issue wasn't seriously considered much less addressed until the NDP got into power. This is a milestone in labour history and I'll humbly ask that all of you remember it when it comes time to vote in the future.

We traded a cold shoulder from Liberal/BC United and Conservative parties for the NDP's infrastructure projects, WorkSafe reform, and a true voice to speak on behalf of all our members in political arenas. Politics matter, and so does your vote.

P.S. On a personal note, in November I welcomed a healthy baby daughter named Cambria into the family. I only feel able to raise a family due to this union job and career, which wouldn't exist without you, the membership. Thank you! ■

VANCOUVER ISLAND

TCPs keep traffic moving, safely

by Shelley Moore | *Service Representative*



THE MEMBERS IN LIUNA LOCAL 1611'S traffic industry are out in your communities keeping roadside workers, drivers and pedestrians safe, often putting themselves in harm's way as part of their job. They work in all seasons, and the work can be physically hard. Please follow their directions and support them by being respectful and attentive to their safety as you move through highway and road work areas. I am always amazed at the skill and professionalism our TCPs show on the job and to the public.

Updates

- Bargaining went well for **Western** and **KMF** with solid wage increases and new RRSP programs for the members. Thank you for the input you provided to ensure your new benefits have value for you and your families.
- Western reports that our members are being trained for AFAD (Automated Flagger Assistance Devices). This technology provides an important layer of safety for our membership and the public as they work and drive on our highways.
- KMF members have been busy working for **Island Asphalt** and their associated LIUNA Local 1611 companies. They have signed a contract as well with the Comox First Nation.



Member Sean S. uses an Automated Flagger Assistance Device on the road in Victoria.

Stay safe out on the roads, everyone, and don't hesitate to reach out if I can be of service. Contact information for all Local 1611 Service Representatives can be found on our website at liuna1611.org/contact. ■

Want to know more about the union? Let's talk

by Chris Mansel | *Service Representative*



COMMUNICATION between you and your fellow members in the Union plays a key role in a successful workplace.

With all the megaprojects we've seen over the past few years, including **Site C**, there has been an influx of new members who don't know what a union is, or does. As a Service Representative and member of Local 1611, I do the best I can to get names and phone

numbers of all our new members so that I can welcome them into our union, but some people do get missed.

That's where you come in!

"When you are part of a union, you never have to face a challenge alone."

If you see someone new on site, offer a friendly welcome and then, if you're comfortable doing so, ask them if they are familiar with what our Union does and whether they have any questions. This

interaction alone is so powerful that it can unlock a plethora of different questions that you might not even know. I've seen this happen with workers at companies like **Voith Hydro** and **Mitchell Installations**.

What do you do now? Contact your Service Representative and let's get these questions answered!

If you're reading this and you are the new worker on site, talk to the people you're working with. Ask them to tell you about your Union.

Communicating about what we do as a union and how we can help everyone get home safely and headache-free is essential. This includes all our members, including those in our service sector working at **Garda** and **AXIS** (security) and **AXIS** (care aides).

When you are part of a union, you never have to face a challenge alone. In some cases, one member's issue on site could be an issue shared by everyone. But luckily, you can rely on the Union to represent you and work to resolve that issue – in some cases with just a quick phone call.

We are in this together. ■

Do someone a favour and tell them about our union

by Roger Bennett | *Service Representative*



LOCAL 1611 ATTENDED the 21st annual BC Natural Resources Forum Jan. 16-18.

The forum was also attended by Premier David Eby, Indigenous leaders, various unions and resource companies. LiUNA met with Enbridge to discuss future involvement with their pipeline projects. The networking with many of these companies and

Indigenous leaders could potentially lead to securing future work for members.

This year, we will be working together with the Organizing team to target and organize more new contractors. With the major projects in the final year and the changes to the Labour Code, organizing opportunities couldn't be better. If you have any leads with non-union companies, let us know as these could be targets for our team.



2024 will be a year of short-term jobs and diverse work in the Prince George area. If you are waiting for work, take the opportunity to upgrade your tickets or get additional training; and keep your monthly dues current.

You can also keep up with Local 1611 on our website (liuna1611.org) and our social media channels (@liuna1611) for news, information and membership opportunities. ■

Sometimes our work is life-saving

by Jordan Heal | Service Representative



THE LNG CANADA project is having one more final push to completion.

This year, the construction work of the plant will be completed. Our members have been working on this massive project since March 2019. Once the construction has ended, **Waiward Industrial** has been awarded the industrial site services contract, which will secure work for members

of BC Building Trades unions for six years, with an emphasis on local hiring. Locals in the area will be given the opportunity to maintain the project they helped build. The contract also includes shutdowns, which could provide work across all trades for up to 1,200 people.

I would like to recognize member **Lawrence D.** with **Consultants SL&B**. On Dec. 10, 2023, Lawrence was instrumental in saving a worker's life at the Horizon North camp dinner hall. A worker (not with SL&B) was having his dinner



Local 1611's Lawrence D. (centre) saved a worker from choking to death at the LNG Canada project in December. He was honoured with an SL&B/Rio Tinto coin by SL&B project co-ordinator Albert L. and operation superintendent Patric T. for his quick action to save someone's life.

when he began to choke on the food he was eating. Lawrence saw the worker was in distress and performed the Heimlich manoeuvre on him without hesitation and stopped the choking. This was and is an amazing act of courage shown by Lawrence and he was presented with an SL&B/Rio Tinto coin for his act of bravery. Lawrence, Local 1611 is proud of you for saving a life. ■

OKANAGAN, INTERIOR AND KOOTENAYS

Know someone who needs a union? Tell them about 1611

by Steve Hecocks | Service Representative



WITH THE WINTER season behind us and new spring flowers coming into bloom, Local 1611 is also looking to grow by organizing new union contractors.

Our focus this year is to bring more companies and contractors into the Union, and I am eager to see more options for our members in the Okanagan and Kootenay regions.

Area service representatives will be working with the Local 1611 Organizing team to expand our footprint in all areas of the province. If anyone has any potential targets that we can organize, please contact me. I will need a contact name and number, the scope of the contractor or company's and where they are located. I, too, will be identifying potential organizing targets in these

regions, with an eye to those that would be a good fit for our wonderful Union. With your assistance, I believe we can organize some quality contractors, giving our members more local work options.

With some of these bigger projects winding down, we need to make sure we are keeping options open so that our members can continue to provide for their families and work with good, solid Union contractors.

If you have friends or family members who know of any contractors or companies that would be a good fit for Local 1611, please let me know so we can have a win-win situation for both the contractor/company and the Union.

I would like to thank all the members in my areas who assist me and make my job easier. Let's remember to try and help out those who are in need the best we can. Take care, be safe and thank you for all your trust. ■

The march to one million and how you can help

Keith Murdoch | *Lead Organizer*
Oscar Sanchez and Bryon Hill | *Organizers*



OUR FRIENDS, THE BC NDP, have restored fairness in B.C.'s labour laws. They brought back single-step certification, which streamlines workers' ability to unionize their workplaces by reducing employers' opportunities to intimidate their employees and block unionization.

Today, all it takes to unionize a workplace is for at least 55 per cent of the workers to sign confidential union cards. Local 1611's goal is to unionize 17 new companies a year, which will not only assist our international union reach its goal of having a million members across North America but also provide more work opportunities for our members. We currently have 500,000 members from coast to coast, 130,000 of whom are in Canada.

As a member, you can play a huge role in helping us reach our goal — a goal rooted in creating the best possible jobs for you and the rest of the membership. The larger our union, the more power we have to negotiate good wages and benefits for our members.

Members can help the most by speaking with their friends and family who are not unionized and introducing them to union organizers so we can have a confidential conversation with them. We have introduced a new Member Incentive Program (MIP) to help motivate members to take action to assist their union and help the people they care about gain the union advantages that they receive each and every day.

New organizer joins team

Local 1611 is thrilled to introduce a new member of our organizing team: Bryon Hill.

Bryon joined the LiUNA Local 1611 organizing team in January 2024. He comes to our union with a wealth of knowledge and experience developed during his 13 years as a service representative/organizer for a BC Building Trades affiliate union in Prince George.

Bryon relocated to the Lower Mainland in support of his wife's career. He has four children and loves barbequing and smoking meat.

Bryon will be focusing on unionizing companies in the road building, utilities and restoration sectors to help our union grow. ■

MEMBER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

EARN CASH

For Organizing

WHY IS UNION GROWTH IMPORTANT?

The more unionized companies we have, the stronger our union is, which helps members win superior wages & benefits.

WHAT IS A LEAD?

A lead is information that helps us unionize a workplace. We want to connect with workers, managers & owners interested in unionizing their company.

CASH FOR LEADS

- Receive \$100 for a lead that starts an organizing drive.
- Receive \$500 if your lead results in a unionized workplace.

WHERE DO I SEND LEADS?

Leads & questions can be sent to:

☎ 1-800-788-2888

✉ organizing@liuna1611.org



Updated tickets + resumes + communication = JOBS!

Eddie Foong, Kyle Barry, Callum Barker,
Donna Mansel | Dispatchers



SPRING IS HERE AND SUMMER will soon be upon us, and that means we're moving once again into the busy season with opportunities ahead.

If you have been on the out-of-work board, we appreciate your patience and your initiative to renew your safety certificates and register for courses with Training PLUS (Professional Labourers' Union School) during this downtime. It's always an advantage to

have **updated tickets** as contractors often require valid, current or specific tickets and certifications for their projects.

Please keep in mind that your **resume** is a great source of information for identifying your skills and experiences as a labourer, as some jobs required by our contractors are very specific. We will always communicate with you if we require clarification of something on your resume; **communication** between our office and our members is one of the keys to success.

These three things – updated tickets, a current resume and good communication – give you the best chance of being dispatched for work as soon as possible.

In other Dispatch news...

Early in the fall, Callum Barker joined our team part-time and he has been a great addition, assisting members with updating tickets into their skill file, email and phone check-ins, and serving members with email and phone inquiries, along with dispatch duties. ■

WorksafeBC assistance available to all members

by Tony Parkinson | Workers' Advocate



LABOURERS' MEMBERSHIP Services assists members with appealing decisions made by WCB (WorksafeBC). We are also here to answer any questions you might have about your injury or the WCB claim process.

Our services are available to all members of Local 1611, including members working in the health care, security, parking enforcement, recycling,

cemetery, crematorium, funeral home and warehousing sectors.

We recently assisted a member working as a security guard. He was injured while he was working, but some of his WCB benefits were denied. We represented the member on several appeals, and we were successful in getting him all the denied benefits. The member was able to return to work in a new job that better accommodated his permanent injury.

There can be a lot of confusion with knowing what to do and it can be difficult dealing with WCB. The most important

things to remember are:

- Report your injury to first aid or the employer right away, even if you think it isn't that bad or will go away.
- Open a claim file with WCB for any injury that lasts longer than the initial incident or requires you to seek health care or miss time from work.
- See your doctor regularly and keep them updated on the status of your injury.

If your claim is denied and you disagree, it is important that you contact our office as soon as you receive the decision letter. We will assist you through the appeal process, but there are strict time limits that are out of our control. Contact us at 604-538-6992, toll-free 1-888-788-2888, or email lms@liuna1611.org. ■



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2024

- APRIL 25
- MAY 23
- JUNE 27
- SEPT. 26
- OCT. 24
- NOV. 28
- DEC. 19

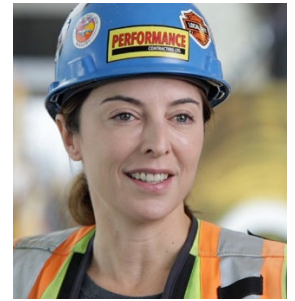
TIME
6:00 PM

HEAD OFFICE
19092-26TH AVE.
SURREY BC

****AREA MEETINGS WILL ALSO BE HELD THROUGHOUT B.C. DATES/TIMES TBA**

BC TRIP helps take the financial burden out of travel for training

Tom Miller | Training PLUS Administrator, Fred Webber, Fernando deMelo, Alan Hanschke, Andy Smith and Tara Hadd | Instructors



TRAINING NEEDS ARE ONLY GROWING as time elapses. Regulatory requirements and trade standards are becoming more stringent as industry attempts to build not only the safest workforce, but also the most qualified workforce.

Although it ultimately is a good thing that members across the province are striving to take more training, it can sometimes make things challenging for the Training PLUS operation.

We not only have our main training operation in Surrey, but we deliver training remotely to serve our membership as well. In saying this, due to various reasons, we are not always able to get to every area of the province in a timeframe that members may need.

To help alleviate this, we launched BC TRIP on Jan. 1, 2024. The BC Travel Reimbursement Incentive Policy was enacted to provide financial assistance to help members residing outside the Lower Mainland access training in Surrey.

We know that the challenges are not always monetary as travelling in inclement weather, leaving home, etc. also bring their own tribulations as well, but we are doing what we can to try to eliminate a large amount of the financial burden with travelling for training.

For more information about the BC TRIP eligibility requirements, covered training courses, costs, etc. please visit liuna1611.org/bc-trip.

This is an exciting program and an opportunity to help members in keeping their skills and safety certifications upgraded appropriately. Please visit the website or contact Training PLUS for more details. ■



TAKE YOUR LEARNING TO TOWN!

Do you want to take courses at Training PLUS but live outside the catchment area? You may be eligible for the BC Travel Reimbursement Incentive Program (TRIP)! Members who reside in B.C. will have the opportunity to take courses in-person at our Training PLUS facility in Surrey and have the majority of their travel and accommodation costs covered!

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible members are those in good standing who reside in B.C. but who live outside our main Surrey catchment area.

COSTS

Training PLUS will reimburse members for the majority of costs, including mileage, accommodation and a per diem.



SCAN FOR DETAILS!

A little history lesson

by Bruce Ferguson | Retiree Club President



DO YOU KNOW THE HISTORY of how your Union acquired its numerical identification as Local 1611?

The history goes back to the late 1990s when four independent and well-run Local Unions decided to join together and form one larger Union. It was a positive thing to do.

The International, with the recommendation of our Northwest Regional Vice-President Chuck Barnes, agreed to support the move.

In fact, they agreed that the majority of a co-mingled ballot count would be acceptable.

The leadership of the four Locals insisted that each Local conduct its own Local Union vote. If any of the Locals voted against the proposal, the process would not happen.

Fortunately, the secret ballot vote passed the membership of all four Local Unions by more than 80 per cent and thus Local 1611 was formed.

To achieve the numerical designation of our newly created Local, we took the first number of each of the four Locals (1 from Tunnel and Rock Workers Local 168; 6 from Local 602; 1 from Local 1070; and finally 1 from Local 1093). Combined, they created Local 1611.

The end result has been a real success. No need to transfer anywhere else in B.C. and the Yukon Territory. One common Dispatch and one Union Administration.

Brother Carl Strand became our first Business Manager.

Brothers Mark Olsen and Manuel Alvernaz served our Local with distinction, and Brother Nav Malhotra, our current Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, continues this great work.

The past 25 years have proven Local 1611 to be a total success servicing our membership.

I extend my warmest personal regards to all Local 1611 members.

Stay safe, stay healthy and enjoy every precious moment of the retirement you have all earned. ■



Forests Minister and Surrey-Whalley MLA Bruce Ralston was a special guest at the Retiree Club's March meeting in Vancouver - and he's now the proud owner of a Local 1611 Retiree Club T-shirt! He's pictured with (from left) Local 1611 President Mark Olsen, Club Secretary-Treasurer Manuel Alvernaz, Club President Bruce Ferguson and Local 1611 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra.

We want to help you help your community!

We know how essential volunteers are to our communities. That's why LiUNA Local 1611 is launching **Labourers Rising**, a program to recognize & reward members who contribute in some way to the betterment of their community through volunteerism.



How it works

We encourage our members to volunteer for organizations, programs & services that make our communities thrive.

Volunteering is a great way to give back. Research shows that volunteering also has many health benefits & provides an increased sense of purpose. People volunteer to:

- Assist their community
- Build leadership skills
- Make connections and friendships

Members who volunteer will receive a \$25 gift card* & be entered to win a trip for 2 to attend the Grey Cup in Vancouver in November 2024.

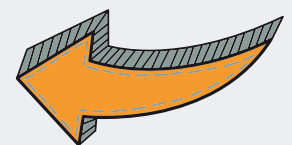
Scan the QR code to sign up, and remember to scan it again to check in every time you volunteer! You'll be credited with a Grey Cup contest entry each time you volunteer, as long as you scan the code and report your activity.

Questions?

Send an email to:
cfennell@liuna1611.org



Scan to join
Labourers
Rising



*The first time you sign up and volunteer, we will send you a \$25 gift card and enter you into a draw for an all-expenses-paid trip for 2 to Grey Cup in Vancouver in November 2024. You will receive a \$25 gift card only once, but you will be entered into the draw every time you scan the code and check in for a volunteer activity.