

leaflet

Public and Private Workers of Canada



Happy Holidays



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Port Alberni Log Export Rally

National



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In June of this year, two people with long histories of contribution to the PPWC retired. We know that all Members of the Public and Private Workers of Canada wish Frank Robertson, our past National 1st Vice President, and Louise Soukeroff, our National Office Administrator of 26 years, a long, healthy & happy retirement!



PPWC National Office Staff

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Letter from the Editor

Well, it has been nearly one year since the last Leaflet was printed; I'd like to apologize for the lengthy delay in getting it out to the Membership; retirements, elections and office staff changes all played a part in the interruption. We are viewing this as an excellent opportunity to modify the appearance of the Leaflet and make it better than ever!

We truly hope that you all love the Leaflet's new look! If there is something that you would like to see improved or added, please feel free to send an e-mail to: richardsonron6@gmail.com.

All the best to you and yours this holiday season!

In Solidarity,
Ron Richardson, Leaflet Editor

Letters

Dear Public and Private Workers of Canada;

You are truly amazing! Again and again, you demonstrate your compassion and devotion to helping homeless, at risk youth.

It is all about taking that first step with youth and the impact a seemingly small action can have on someone who has been through so much.

We thank you for your ongoing support. Please let me know if you have any questions at all.

With Gratitude,
Ms. Jessica Thompson
Covenant House
Vancouver



briarpatch
magazine

To our friends and comrades at Public and Private Workers of Canada,

Our sincere thanks to your National Executive Board for your generous support of Briarpatch. This goes such a long way for us and we're heartened by the support of friends in the labour movement.

All the best to you all and your important work!

In Solidarity,
Rhiannon & all of us at Briarpatch



Dear Public and Private Workers of Canada,

Thank you for your Thanksgiving gift!

Your donation helps the Greater Vancouver Food Bank to provide access to healthy and wholesome food for families, and individuals who find themselves struggling to make ends meet. The ability to prepare a meal with fresh and nutritious foods makes a big difference! When you've had good, healthy food to eat you feel better, and you begin to have hope and energy again.

At this time of year when we reflect on the abundance in our lives, I thank you for your gift to the Food Bank.

With Gratitude,
Aart Schuurman Hess, CEO

A few words from Gary Fiege...

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported me, pushed me and questioned my moves, or even downright opposed me.

Without that support or guidance I would not be sitting here. It is truly an honour to follow in the footsteps of those before me and to represent current and past rank and file members of the PPWC in my role as an Officer of this great union.

For those of you who do not know me I will take a few minutes to introduce myself. My name is Gary Fiege; my home and family are located in the Cowichan Valley and I am a proud member of Local 2 out of Crofton.

I became a full time PPWC member in August of 1986 and followed in the footsteps of my father, who (retired now) started in 1966. In fact, all of my immediate family has worked at the Crofton mill at some point or another.

Early on, I was a Crew Safety Representative, only giving up my position once I received my Millwright apprenticeship in **the early 1990's**. Around 2000 I again was involved in a Safety Representative position and as a Shop Steward.

A couple of years later I was elected as Master Shop Steward, moving to

First Vice President around 2008. After the 2012 CCAA (creditor protection) that Catalyst paper successfully emerged from, I found myself sitting as the President of our Local. During this time I was elected as a Trustee for our Health and Welfare Trust (the plan).

In 2014 I was acclaimed as the Second Vice President of the National and learned a ton from some very knowledgeable mentors (whom I shall not name for fear of missing some, but they know who they are—Thank you!)

This past spring I was again acclaimed, this time as the First Vice President, something I never envisioned for myself but now that I am here; am more than eager to take on.

With challenge comes opportunity, and in this case there will be lots of challenges. Organizing, liberating, negotiating, training, building solidarity and rebuilding our procedures are just a few outstanding issues that we will be addressing.

I say 'we' as opposed to me, as that is how I operate, whether at the Local level or here at the National, 'we' is always better than 'me.' Some might say it is better to share the blame if things go wrong. However, I find that when you engage a group of individuals and have them freely give input, more often than not you come to the right decision or conclusion.

To put it another way; I

am not the Union; 'we' collectively, are the Union. I welcome any thoughts, ideas or help offered so that I may do the best job possible representing the PPWC. Together we can **put the 'you' back in Union!**

One of the benefits of my new position has been getting out to the Locals to meet members from the floor. Over the last few months I have been able to go to most of our Locals. It was great to walk through the plants and the college, to attend executive meetings as well as a general membership meeting along the way.

It is through these visits that I find myself invigorated to carry on with the duties of this office. To get to the grass roots level of unionism reminds me of who I truly represent; **'you, the members.'**

As this edition of the Leaflet will have a Christmas theme, I would like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope all get a chance to share time with family and friends over this holiday period and that health and happiness fill the upcoming year.

It is also a time to be thankful for what we have. Many in this world do not have the things we take for granted.

In Solidarity,
PPWC
First Vice President
Gary Fiege

CCU Supports the CFS's National Day of Action

The Canadian Federation of Students has organized a National Day of Action to call for universal access to publicly funded education. Tuition fees across Canada have almost quadrupled since the 1990s.

During this time, the government's share of post-secondary education funding has decreased from 80% to below 50%. Students now owe an estimated \$28 billion in public and private student loans.

The wrongheaded policy of treating education as a privilege and a commodity instead of a basic human right and an investment in our nation's future has led to a Canada where many of the vulnerable in our society are excluded from post-secondary education.

Since the mid-1980s, Canada has consistently cut corporate taxes and passed the tax burden of those cuts onto working Canadians through cuts to services and increased user fees such as tuition hikes on university students. Enough is enough. The Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) fully supports the students of our country and their demands for zero tuition fees. Education must be a public service and not a corporatized commodity.

The CCU pledges solidarity with the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action.



The CCU Calls On Turkish Government to Respect Freedom of the Press

Turkey now has more journalists in jail than any other country in the world. Since the failed coup in July of this year, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has used his extended powers to stifle opposition and free speech.

Part of this purge of the government's opponents has been the arrest, detention and harassment of journalists. One hundred and thirty journalists are being detained as a result of the Erdogan government's systematic dismantling of human rights, freedoms, and democracy in Turkish society in order to establish authoritarian rule.

On October 31, thirteen employees of the Cumuryet, Turkey's largest secular newspaper, were detained. Fifteen pro-Kurdish news sources have been shut down by the government in the last three months.

Freedom of the press and freedom of speech are the cornerstones of a democratic society. Without these, the exercise of basic human rights is impossible. The Confederation of Canadian Unions calls on the Turkish Government to respect human rights, democracy, and the rule of law and release all 130 journalists detained in the country without delay. Journalism is not a crime.

Port Alberni Rallies Against Raw Log Exports

In late July I had the opportunity to attend a PPWC rally in Port Alberni, organized by our own Cam Shiell! I was pleasantly surprised at the turn out; the weather was overcast and threatening to rain, not surprising being that Port Alberni is surrounded by rainforest.

The march along Johnston Road was quite a sight, with representation from PPWC, Unifor and other various forest supporters, each carrying flags and signs. The march ended at Victoria Quay, which overlooks the Somass River and the Catalyst Paper Mill.

There were inspiring speakers, from varied backgrounds. When Arnold Bercov, President of the Public and Private Workers of Canada, took the stand, he welcomed the enthusiastic supporters and introduced many of the digni-

taries who showed up to ensure that our word reaches the public. Arnie spoke about the impact that raw log exportation has had on the people of Vancouver Island; mill closures, high fiber costs and bad environmental practices were a few key points. He spoke about doing things differently in the future, a future that involves the participation and partnership with First Nations.

Scott Fraser, the Alberni-Pacific Rim NDP MLA gave a short talk in which he really pushed how the Provincial Government has failed to protect public interest by selling off the forests to other countries and as well as failed to ensure that the existing mills have logs to be able to keep their doors open.

Bradley Young, Executive Director of the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, spoke about the effects that logging and log exports have on Vancouver Island's First

Nations. Not only was Mr. Young speaking about Vancouver Island, he was speaking about the similar effects that are impacting First Nations across Canada. He expressed concern about the lack of representation from the younger generation – and as I glanced around, I saw that his words were true! We need to get the younger generation involved; their future's will be affected!

Ken Wu, from the Ancient Forest Alliance, opened his talk with a mention of Cathedral Grove, the old growth rainforest that we all drove through to reach Port Alberni. The unprotected ridge behind Cathedral Grove is currently in danger of being logged which will not only affect the beauty of the area, it also affects the water shed. He also stated that Port Alberni is 'ground zero' of the forestry industry but also for forest conservation. Ken has been busy working with the PPWC

Continued on next page



and other Unions to spread the word on the current issues that Vancouver Island is facing.

The final speaker of the day was Torrance Coste; he shared some compelling figures that demonstrate exactly the reason we as activists show our support at these rallies. Torrance made it easy for the ones of us who didn't do so well in math.

The breakdown is this: the province is exporting six mil-

lion cubic meters of raw logs (this is the equivalent of six million telephone poles!). If we were to load these logs onto logging trucks and line them up end-to-end, they would stretch from Vancouver, British Columbia to Thunder Bay, Ontario!

If that comparison were not awe-inspiring enough, Torrance explained that this amount of logs would produce enough lumber to build homes for the entire population of Abbotsford, British

Columbia!

I would again like to congratulate Cam Shiell and all of the other organizers of this rally.

It was truly an eye opener for me, and I think I can safely say that everyone who attended the rally had their eyes opened to the realities we face in forest utilization and conservation.

Ron Richardson
Leaflet Editor
Member Local 9



The Walbran, Carmanah Provincial Park

The sounds of cars rushing on the highway are replaced by the soothing current of the river. People arguing with one another are forgotten by the songs of the birds high above in the trees. The losses of interaction from the human race are found within

the silence of the forest. This is the beginning of the experience that lays ahead when first arriving at the Walbran.

I've gone to the discussion groups and I've preached as to why we must save the Walbran. With the forest being over 1000 years old, the tree tops have their own ecological system that scientists are still exploring and the biggest Red Cedar in

Canada is on the cutting block. Until I visited the site on April 10th I did not fully grasp why, now more than ever, we must unite and fight for something that cannot fight for itself. All of the massive environmental change that British Columbia is facing with Site C, LNG, fracking and transforming every town into a city, we as

Continued on Page 8

Forestry



a species are losing the most valuable thing we have... humanity.

We've built a society of big houses, fast cars and the more toys, the better, while leaving behind what our souls truly crave; peace and serenity. The Walbran offers us a chance to reconnect with ourselves, to offload the crushing weight of stress we've created with our race to the top of the "empire."

My companions that day were my gracious tour guides, Rick and Lisa Bronson, Local 2 President, Steve Landygo, Local 2 First Vice President, Dave Benjamin, Jen, and my oldest son Tavares. By the end of the day, hunched over shoulders were pushed back with confidence, clouded eyes

had brightened and the attitude each of us possessed was replaced with an energy that I struggle to explain in words.

With the positive effect the Walbran had on each individual there was one person that day that I noticed the most; my son Tavares. Tavares is an autistic child who at times can become very overwhelmed in the urban environment that society has created. However, at the Walbran I experienced something much bigger than the trees that stood before me. I was fortunate to spend an entire day where there wasn't a moment I saw pain or suffering in my son's eyes from the struggles he faces on a daily basis - with what the

world throws at children; rules, expectations and guidelines. At the Walbran I witnessed my son for the first time just being himself; a five year old boy. That is a gift no amount of money could ever have provided me with.

From that moment, the fight to protect the magnificent forest became personal. The want and need were equal that day. The need; for my son to have a therapeutic place and the want, to have the opportunity to walk my grandchildren through the very same area where my son and I found a piece of ourselves that was missing.

My message is not just to sign a petition or form an argument as to why logging the Walbran would be devastating but to pack a lunch, strap on your best hiking shoes and physically go out to experience what my words cannot capture. The Walbran is much more than a place, it is a spiritual awakening.

Tiffany Hooper
Local 2

Vancouver Island's Rainforest and Communities Need Urgent Action

Vancouver Island's rainforests are among the rarest ecosystems on the planet — temperate rainforests have never occupied more than 0.5 per cent of the earth's land surface. They are also among its richest — they have been home to First Nations for time immemorial, and they contribute to a diverse economy including forestry, tourism and wild

salmon in indigenous and non-indigenous communities.

Unfortunately, today, the vast majority of productive old-growth rainforest on Vancouver Island and B.C.'s south coast has been logged and replaced by young forest. Only about 10 per cent of the biggest trees are still standing, and some types of forest such as old-growth Douglas fir on south-eastern Vancouver Island have less than one per cent of its original range left. At-risk species, like the Marbled Murrelet, that depend on ancient trees are in decline together with the ancient forests. The original record-high amount of carbon stored in ancient trees has been dramatically reduced as a result of logging and has contributed to climate change.

With so little left it is now only a matter of time before the logging industry runs out of old-growth trees to harvest and fully transitions to logging second-growth. But despite shrinking revenue, declining job numbers from logging, and the increasing value of the remaining intact forests for species, clean water and air, carbon, and as a basis for a diverse economy, more than 9,000 hectares of old-growth rainforest are still being cut every year on Vancouver Island.

That's why more and more voices are speaking up for protection of endangered rainforest. A year ago, the Ahousaht First Nation in Clayoquot Sound declared a moratorium on industrial logging in their territory. This spring, the B.C. Chamber of Commerce voted to protect old-growth trees where they have greater economic value for communities if left standing. In September, the ma-

jority of delegates at this year's Union of B.C. Municipalities convention voted to protect all of Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth forest on public land.

The finalization of the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii Agreements by First Nations governments and the B.C. government, with the support of a number of environmental organizations and forestry companies, shows that solutions are possible. As a result of these agreements the majority of the old-growth rainforests in the Great Bear Rainforest and on Haida Gwaii are now protected. First Nations' shared decision-making with the province over land use in their traditional territories has been solidified and there is certainty about the limited amount of old-growth available for logging subject to stringent standards.

South of the Great Bear region, a century of logging has produced an ecological emergency in coastal rainforests. Climate impacts like droughts and storms exert additional pressure and result in severe consequences for watersheds and salmon. With a few exceptions, land-use plans are not meaningfully addressing First Nations rights and interests and are not based on modern conservation science. Meanwhile, raw-log exports are at a record high and jobs per cubic metre at a record low compared to other parts of the world, leaving neither healthy forests nor healthy communities behind.

Unless the provincial government changes course to protect and restore what remains of our endangered old-growth, much of Vancouver Island could turn into an

ecological wasteland this century. That's why we are urging the B.C. government to take immediate action for the well-being of indigenous and non-indigenous communities, for biodiversity, clean air and water, long-term forestry jobs and to save one of the world's most efficient carbon sinks.

We must start with protecting remaining intact rainforest areas imminently threatened by logging — such as the Central Walbran and East Creek — and using a science-based phased approach for protecting and restoring the remaining old-growth forest, starting with the most endangered ecosystems.

A comprehensive conservation and forest management plan for Vancouver Island and B.C.'s south coast must respect First Nations rights and interests, enable a transition to sustainable second-growth forestry, support diverse economic activities such as tourism, and reduce carbon emissions.

Saving our best ally in the fight against global warming means improving forest management to reduce carbon emissions from forests and ending wasteful practices such as slash burning. We are certainly the last generation that will have an opportunity to make a difference for the fate for Vancouver Island's remaining old-growth forests.

Vancouver Sun, 10/17/2016

Arnold Bercov, Maquinna
(Lewis George), Dan Hager,
Andy Mackinnon, and
Jens Wieting

Message from the PPWC Environmental Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself; my name is Dean MacKinnon and I am the PPWC Environmental Officer. I work out of Local 1 at Celgar Pulp Company, in Castlegar, British Columbia.

When getting involved with our National Union, my goal was to find areas of concern throughout all of our Locals. My mission is to provide assistance in rectifying mill environmental problems, all the

while creating solutions to ensure that we are keeping our jobs while still looking after our earth; all species and living matter striving alongside of us.

I am proud to be a PPWC member after noticing how well organized, thoughtful, and understanding we are as a "Class A" Union. We are diverse in areas from health and welfare, safety, forestry, environmental and beyond. Simply put, we are ordinary people casting light on topics that need common, ordinary sense.

Our annual Environmental/Forestry Conference is upcoming February 7 to 10,

2017. There will be speakers informing us of environmental & forestry topics and events that life creates for us daily. I hope that all Locals will provide their Environmental and Forestry Chairs the opportunity to attend this conference. After all, it's good people that make good sense.

If ever anyone has an environmental question please never hesitate to contact me.

We will make the difference!

Dean MacKinnon

PPWC

Environmental Officer

PPWC Awards 2 Bursaries!

The Public and Private Workers of Canada offers two annual bursaries of one thousand dollars each to its members, spouses/partners and to children of its members at the end of each November. Two well-deserving recipients for the Angus McPhee and Orville Braaten Memorial Bursaries.

The successful applicant of the Angus McPhee Memorial Bursary, Mikayla Mosher, is the daughter of Local 9's Terry Mosher. Mikayla is in her first year of the Animal Health Technician program.

Ariel Gilbert is the recipient of the Orville Braaten Memorial Bursary. She is the daughter of Paul Gilbert of Local 9 and is currently working to obtain her Bachelor of Science with a major in Biology.

Congratulations to both of you on all of your hard work and achievements!

From Everyone at the Public and Private Workers of Canada



The Vancouver PPWC National office has all new signage!

We are pleased to announce that new signage at the PPWC National office in Vancouver, BC was installed in September! The building's interior and exterior have been updated with new signage that exhibits the change in name from Pulp Paper and Woodworkers of Canada to the Public and Private Workers of Canada.

Annual PPWC Local 8 Hockey Tournament

The annual PPWC Hockey Tournament was held in Nanaimo, April 22 and 23, sponsored by Local 8. Great fun was had by all, with an indoor beer garden on both days, {overlooking the ice} along with a hamburger/hotdog/salmon, BBQ Saturday afternoon.

The hockey was second to none. All the games were extremely entertaining, the teams were very talented. Unfortunately we only had four teams, three of which were from Harmac. The one comment we kept hearing all weekend was that it would really nice if we could get back to six teams in the future for this tournament. In the end, it was a very hard



fought, close tournament, with Harmac 3 beating out Crofton {Local 2} in the B final, and Harmac 2 beating out Harmac 1 in the A Final.

On a final note, Local 8 would like to thank the four teams for their participation, and sportsmanship. But the local would also like to thank and acknowledge all of the vol-

unteers, retirees, and people working behind the scenes. Without all of their efforts, this weekend would not be possible.

All of us are already looking forward to next years PPWC Hockey Tournament.

Doug Narver

Local 8



PPWC Executive Members proudly display their new Public and Private Workers of Canada Charters.

Pictured left to right: Nathan Blackler (Local 18), Neil Bermel (Local 1), Les Hillier (Local 8), Chuck LeBlanc (Local 9), Ryan Grier (Local 15), Niki Menard (Local 26), Arnold Bercov (President, PPWC), Cam Shiell (Forestry Officer), Steve Landygo (Local 2), Wayne Martin (Local 5).

What's New?

Locals

LOCAL 1 **Castlegar, BC**

Currently, at Zellstoff Celgar Pulp, we have 275 unionized employees working on the floor, as well as 17 casuals.

Local 1 had an outstanding Labour Day picnic, with well over 100 adults and 40 kids in attendance. Many of our retiree's attended, as well!

We recently invited John Rogers from Victory Square Law Office to Castlegar to put on a training course for our contracting out committee. John, armed with a stack of arbitrations, went over the finer points of our Collective Agreement.

Neil Bermel
NEB Member

LOCAL 26 **Castlegar, BC**

Fall semester started up the week of September 6th; all indications point towards matching or exceeding last year's enrollments, but we have been unable to get specific numbers as of yet.

September 16-18: the 50th Homecoming Weekend. The college began the 1966-1967 school year with 458 charter students based in Castlegar and has grown ever since. Today, Selkirk College offers more than 60 nationally recognized programs to 2,200 full-time students and more than 9,000 community learners in nine campuses and learning centres throughout the West Kootenay and Boundary regions.

Niki Menard
NEB Member

LOCAL 8 **Nanaimo, BC**

Hello to all of our Brothers and Sisters out there! At Harmac, we have 278 members at this time; the Company has hired an electrician as well, they are still hiring to the Labour Pool. We are at the point that we have 50 percent old employees and 50 percent new. We were at the Forestry Rally in Port Alberni, BC on July 22nd. There was a good turnout, the speakers were great, Cam Shiell did a great job! There was good media coverage – we have to keep the pressure on with the election coming.

Currently, we have 72 members at Ladysmith Sawmill Division. Repairs have been made on the peco lift and we are running at full capacity. WFP has hired 2 new millwrights as PPWC tradesmen as well as hired a millwright apprentice and they have promised to put one of our guys through an apprenticeship.

At Western Forest Products, Chemainus Value Added Division, our current membership sits at 82 unionized employees. We started negotiations for a new Collective Agreement in September. The membership is really looking forward to a new contract and the possibility of wage increases after eight years without one. (they had a bonus system over the last eight years)

At Long Hoh, we are currently up to 54 members. Our summer maintenance shut down just wrapped up. We had contractors

rebuild the chip and sawdust bins; there were some unexpected mobile equipment repairs and also a few other minor adjustments to the mill. Guys signed up for work that was available at our stickline where rough cut lumber is pulled from the seven kilns and clean up positions as well.

At Canexus, we currently have 14 members. The Certification Unit is chugging along under uncertain skies as the Business Plan of our Company unfolds after the unsuccessful merger with ERGO Worldwide.

The members are maintaining a good morale and the place is producing for our main customer.

Les Hillier
NEB Member

LOCAL 18 **Mackenzie, BC**

Brothers and Sisters; Greetings from Local 18 in Mackenzie. I was asked by our delightful Leaflet Editor, Brother Ron Richardson to give a small report detailing the goodness that is happening up north.

As we approach the winter season, we are dealing with an unfortunately warm fall, which is causing some issues for our timber, as the road conditions in the bush are extremely wet and unpredictable, as well as cut blocks are struggling due to the same conditions.

Locals

As I write this, it is above freezing, and the forecast is predicting more of the same. We'll keep our fingers crossed for the lower evening temperatures to allow for safer situations for all involved.

The Local is awaiting its November General Meeting, on November 20, where it will deal with closing nominations, and after the opening nominations, it is already evident that there will be some changes at our table next year. Change means new ideas, and room to grow, so I am excited to see the direction Local 18 goes in the new year.

We are also very busy up here preparing for the 2017 55th PPWC Annual Convention, and I have to say, it is going to be a great event; we are stoked to be able to show all of our Delegates and guests some 18 hospitality.

I want to send a HUGE thank you to Ronnie, and all of the office staff that is helping make this Leaflet pop again! I have personally missed it, and I am looking forward to seeing it in our office again. Communication is key.

PPWC has some of the most beautiful ideals and values that there are, and The Leaflet is the way to share those values with all of our family.

So, I thank everyone involved for bringing this back to life. Fists in the air!

Nathan Blackler
NEB Member

LOCAL 9 **Prince George, BC**

We held our annual Labour Day picnic; this year we switched it up by inviting the membership of Unifor Locals, 1133 and 603. Approximately 250 people filed through, enjoying hamburgers, hot dogs, pop and ice cream! The two Locals gave away four bikes to the kids in attendance. A great job was done by our Recreation Committee!

Chuck LeBlanc
NEB Member

LOCAL 5 **New Westminster, BC**

2016 has been a busy year for Local 5...from the AC/DC tribute band we brought in for the 54th Annual PPWC Convention, to the Local 5 2nd Annual BBQ in September! The BBQ was a hit, with food, fun and games for everyone from the tall to the small.

We gained over sixty new members from the Richmond Olympic Oval and we are excited about the future!

Urban Impact; we negotiated a three year contract with a seven percent base rate increase and 2/2/2 percent increases. As well, a 500 dollar signing bonus and an increase for the Short Term Disability from 66 to 75% and 6 weeks' vacation after 20 years.

At Layfield Plastics Ltd., we negotiated a 4 year contract which boasts a new pay structure with increases between \$1.50 to

\$4.00 for some employees. There was also a \$1100.00 signing bonus and 0/1/2/2% increases on top of the new wage structure. Short Term Disability increased from 65 to 75 percent.

Squamish Savings and Insurance: we negotiated a 4 year term, with 5.4/2.2/2/2.25% increases

There was a signing bonus of \$250 for all employees included part time and casual employees.

We were in arbitration for four days against Unifor Local 111, with James Dorsey as arbitrator. We were successful on both grievances and our member was ordered to be made whole and reinstated to her full time position. That was a big win against a big Union!

We are a Local on the move; there are so many new faces and bright ideas, be prepared for much more from Local 5!

Todd Smith
NEB Member
John Folkers
Union Counselor

What's new in your Local?

Keep us all in the know!

Write to your Union!

Contact the Editor!
richardsonron6@gmail.com

Convention 2016



The 54th Annual PPWC Convention and the 1st Annual Convention of the Public and Private Workers of Canada, was held at the Chateau Granville in Vancouver, March 9th to 11th, 2016. It was an eventful 3 days of reports, plenty of debate and FUN!

The first day of Convention was opened by Brother Arnold Bercov with a moment of silence for all of the Brothers and Sisters who passed away this year. After the formalities of opening Convention, we heard the first speaker, Michael Bortolotto.

Michael is a professional, motivational speaker and author that lives in Nanaimo; he's lived with Cerebral Palsy for the

last twenty-two years. He was told that walking and using his hands would be challenging. Today, he's a husband, father, inspirational speaker and now, an author of 'The Truth about Apples & Pineapples; A Cure for Bullying.' Michael spoke about being a "Positive Rebel," meaning that a person should not tolerate negative thoughts or forces. It is highly recommended; if you have the opportunity to hear this gentleman speak, please do not miss out.



PPWC President Arnold Bercov gave a lengthy Presidents Report. Throughout the year, he attended Executive and President Council meetings in both Cranbrook and Crofton, British Columbia. Arnold also spent time with Local 8, negotiating a contract for the Ladysmith Sawmill, eventually coming up with a ratified contract. Arnold has been busy with the many councils he is involved in and has been busy visiting many of the Locals.

Frank Robertson gave his final report as the First Vice President of the PPWC. Frank talked about his ups and downs and the many friends that he has made through organizing drives. He went over the last year of his hectic schedule: Shop Stewards training, working with the CCU, Environmental and Forestry Seminars, and of course, attending many meetings! Frank will be missed by everyone; good luck in all your future endeavors, Frank!

Gary Fiege, Second Vice President took his turn at the podium. He expressed a heartfelt thank you to Frank for his hard work and commitment to our union. Gary has been very busy organizing for the PPWC; some ventures have been unsuccessful but he did report some successes, such as Canadian Linen (Local 5) with a dozen or so new members. At the time of Convention, Local 5 was in the process of liberating the employees at Richmond Olympic Oval. It was a success and there are 75 new PPWC Local 5 members! Gary has been busy fighting off raids, organizing, attending seminars, training and courses as well as assisting Arnold



Bercov with the First Nations Forestry Council.

There were engaging reports that covered Environmental, Occupational Health and Safety, Forest Resource and the Leaflet newsletter, as well!

Some of the other key speakers over the three days were:

John Hanrahan, President of Confederation of Canadian Unions, who gave a short speech on what he and the CCU have been doing in the last year. Keith Atkinson, Chief Director of First Nations Forestry Council spoke about the history and areas of each territory. John Horgan, leader of the British Columbia New Democratic Party came to talk about what the NDP platform will be; he also took questions from the floor.

On the final day of Convention, nominations for National Officers and elections of committees took place. Results are pictured to the right. The next convention is being held in MacKenzie, BC, April 5th, 6th & 7th, hosted by Local 18.



Nominations & Elections

President:

Arnold Bercov (Local 8) and Mike Scott (Local 15)

Arnold Bercov elected

First Vice President:

Gary Fiege (Local 2) acclaimed

Second Vice President:

Nathan Blackler (Local 18), Kelly Johnson (Local 1), Todd Smith (Local 5)

Todd Smith elected

Secretary Treasurer:

Al Sahlen (Local 9) acclaimed

Occupational Health and Safety Officer:

Rod Gallant (Local 8) acclaimed

Environmental Officer:

Dean MacKinnon (Local 1) acclaimed

Forest Resource Officer:

Cam Shiell (Local 8) acclaimed

Nominations for Committees:

Leaflet Editor:

Ron Richardson (Local 9) acclaimed

Tabulating Committee:

Les Hillier (Local 8), Todd Smith (Local 5), Glenn Jackson (Local 5)

Les Hillier, Todd Smith and Glenn Jackson elected

Tabulating Committee Alternate:

Doug Narver (Local 8)

Audit Committee:

Les Hillier (Local 8), Tracey Mehmal (Local 2), Todd Smith (Local 5)

Audit committee Alternate:

Quinn Glock (Local 1)

*From everyone at the
Public & Private Workers of Canada...*



...and all the best in 2017!

