

PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada
Local 2



TWO'S NEWS

AUGUST 2018 EDITION
PPWC LOACAL 2

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Solidarity Forever Walking Tour "Remember Empire Stadium" August 10, 2018



If you were at Empire Stadium in Vancouver on August 10, 1983, it is a date you will never forget. Join us as we walk through downtown Vancouver to visit the places where Solidarity took place — with those who were there. This tour will include a theatrical component by **The Troika Collective**.

Solidarity Forever Walking Tour
Starting from Vancouver Art Gallery (North Plaza)
Friday, August 10, 2018 - 6:00 pm
Register:
www.labourheritagecentre.ca/solidarity35
604-419-0400



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On Friday, August 10 we are holding a very special event to remember the 35th anniversary of the massive rally at Empire Stadium in 1983 during Operation Solidarity. There will be a "Solidarity Forever" Walking Tour in downtown Vancouver, complete with theatrical performances by the Troika Collective. Please join us for a rollicking the tour through events of that summer, and help us to promote this event.

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A Note From The President

I have been asked to contribute a short article to this first issue of Two's News in quite some time.

I hope everyone has been enjoying summer and taking the chance to spend time away from work. Remember the reason we work is to be able to spend quality time away from work.

There have been numerous rumors about Catalyst Paper being sold, I am not sure if this has happened by the release of the newsletter, and I am not convinced that it will be good if it does happen. I do know that the mill is being run lean with a constant shortage of manpower and parts to repair equipment.

I am grateful the mill is continuing to make money. Now the Company needs to invest in the Kraft mill to insure the mill will continue to be profitable when the Kraft market softens.

Our relationship with the Company is very, very slowly improving. Grievances are being dealt with quicker, and at times the Company appears to want to work with the Union. HR struggles with having to work with long standing practices at Crofton. I often hear the statement "That is not what I am used to". HR has to understand that there needs to be a reason and plenty of discussion before the Union will agree to any changes to practices, which in some cases have been in place since the mill opened. This Company needs to fully appreciate that this Local is willing to work with them, if they are willing to work with us. We are, also, more than willing to fight for our rights and the conditions we have negotiated over the years. The Company needs to demonstrate that **their employees are truly their greatest assets.**

I have had to deal with a termination recently of a probationary employee. This is never a pleasant occurrence. The Company is taking a harder line on the performance of probationary employees. If you are a new employee or someone working with a new employee, that seems to struggle with working in a unionized industrial workplace, please let one of the executive members know, so hopefully we can intervene before the member is terminated.

I recently sent out an update to the members dealing with the topic of raising the weir.

I have asked Chris Wipplinger to include all the correspondence we have received from the Cowichan Watershed Board concerning the weir in the newsletter. I believe we need to write letters to have a new higher weir installed not just for the mill but for the health of the Cowichan Valley communities and the river itself.

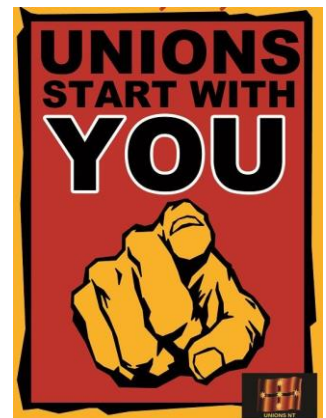
Please take the time to read the information and to take the time to write. To end, once again I urge everyone to get out and explore this beautiful island we have the privilege to call home.

Lynn Lindeman

PPWC Local 2 President

"Joining a labour union is one of the best and influential decisions a worker can make in his or her life. Unions like the PPWC have a long history of protecting the rights of workers, fighting for social justice and equality, and bettering the working lives of millions of Canadians."

Public and Private
Workers of Canada



Lower Cowichan River Cleanup

2018

Sunday August 26 2018 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



Every year the **Cowichan Watershed Board** collaborates with the **Cowichan Lake Stewardship Society** to clean up the **Cowichan River**. We host the **lower river cleanup**. Last year the amazing crew of volunteers cleared nearly 1 tonne of garbage out of the **lower river**! Bring a team and stake a claim to cleaning up a part of the **river**. Family Friendly event. BBQ lunch provided for volunteers. Registration at 9:30. Lunch at 12:30. Wrap-up at 1:00. More information at <http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/> or Please direct questions to Kim at kim@cowichanwatershedboard.ca



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10th Annual River Clean-up & Bottle Drive

FREE: Continental Breakfast & BBQ Lunch!

Join us on **Saturday August 18th** for a day of Fresh air, fun and community involvement!

Where: Central Park, Lake Cowichan, B.C.
(east side of road bridge over the Cowichan River)

Time: 9am-2pm

9-10 am **FREE** continental breakfast & registration

Please note that for insurance purposes, all participants must register by 10 am.

10am-12:30pm In, and under the water

12:30pm-2pm **FREE** BBQ lunch!

This is a family friendly event, there is plenty to do and opportunities for all ages and abilities to help out on shore as well as in the water (children under the age of 14 need to be accompanied by an adult). Please bring appropriate gear for working in and around the river (gloves, shoes that tolerate water & swimwear).

There are opportunities for people who don't wish to get wet: they can walk the banks and pick up garbage which would otherwise wash into the River when the rains come. There are also plenty of opportunities for people to get into the water. If you plan to work in the River please bring your own flotation devices, snorkel and mask etc



Introducing the Wage Delegate Chair

To the Members of Local 2,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Meghan Bailey and as per the election in June, I am the new Wage Delegate Chair. I have been on the committee since November of 2015 both as a full delegate and the alternate and I sat at the table through our last bargain. I have worked at the mill for almost 5 years, starting out as an operator in the Kraft Machine Room and as of 2 years ago as an Instrumentation apprentice. I know that 5 years at the mill and 3 on the committee doesn't give me a lot of experience but I am driven and I know that I can do a good job in this position if you will continue to have me.

In the immediate future, my intention is to get us printed out, hardcopy Collective Agreements. Waiting for the arbitration on the Steamers is a ridiculous amount of time to wait, since that arbitration starts 2 years into our 4 year agreement. While myself and the committee push this forward we will need to rely on our members who have been here for a while to help educate our newest PPWC members on what they are and aren't entitled to under our Agreement.

As most of you know, the Wage Caucus starts to ramp up for the next bargain about 2 years out, which means that next year we will start to prepare for our next bargain in 2021. This means that once again we will call on all of our members to let us know what they would like to see changed. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard. It is great if you all start to take notice of what parts of our Collective Agreement need tightening up and that, again, you educate our new members on who haven't been through a bargain on what they can expect.

We have our next Joint Wage Caucus in November. I fully expect that by then we will have some new faces on our committee. If you have an interest in putting your name forward for the Wage Committee please don't hesitate to contact myself or anyone else on the committee and we will be happy to let you know what to expect if your elected. I appreciate the support that Local 2 has shown me to date and I am (mostly) excited to take on the challenges that come with being Wage Chair if you will continue to have me.

Thank you,
Meghan

If unions are "bad" for workers, why do union members have better benefits, higher wages and stronger job protections than non-union workers?



ROTTENCARDS @unions4workers /unions4workers

Local 2's Newest Members 2018

Leonard Gatey
Scott Ceelen
Samuel Buick
Adam McLeod
Matthew Wikes
David Byrne
Paul Kenney
William Walker
Aaron McKenzie
Spencer Morrison
Bradley Wise
Patrick Barrett
Randy Hutchinson
Jason Drescher
Robert Bennett
Shane Gillis
Richard Thiboutot
Thomas Teer
Douglas Blake
Jeeven Sall
Kevin Nicol

**WORKERS
RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS!**



On August 6th the PPWC Local 2 is wishing all it's members and their families a happy and safe B.C. DAY!

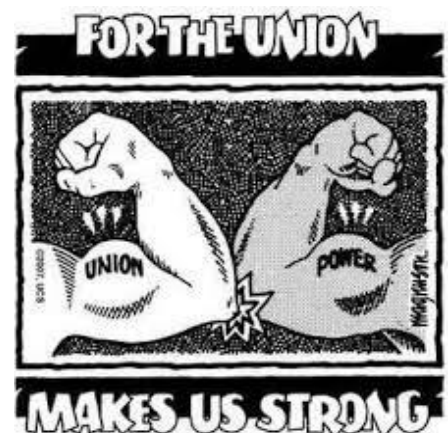
Letter From The Editor

Dear brothers and sisters

I am happy to announce the latest edition of the TWO's NEWS is finally out after a long layoff. Myself not being the most computer savvy person, I waited for some training to put a news letter together to no avail. Frustrated after volunteering to be the TWO'S NEWS editor and months later with nothing being printed, I decided to teach myself to edit using the gift of YouTube. It took a few days of learning and accidentally deleting pages, that I finally have, for the most part figured out to do this. (SortaKinda) This news letter is far from perfect, but I am confident that it can and will get better in time. I would like to thank all the members for their patience and would love to have any feed back on how to make this news letter better.

Please email me your thoughts, concerns, ideas and letters to:
cwipp69@gmail.com

In Solidarity
Chris Wipplinger



WIER READY

The Cowichan Watershed Board is urging local residents and organizations to take a moment this month to write a letter on behalf of the iconic Cowichan River.

We need to replace the Cowichan Lake weir with one that can handle our current climate. Governments, industry and citizens have been calling for this since the 1990s but never has the science been so compelling and the community so united.

If you want a future where Cowichan salmon can get up the river to spawn and fry have a chance at survival, where tubers still float and lakeside docks aren't stranded in mud, where one of the region's largest employer's is still operational, and First Nations regains access to their constitutionally protected food and cultural resources, please write a letter this month.



WEIR READY for a Future-Friendly Weir Here.

Why?

1. Because we've been working on this for a very long time.

By all measures the Cowichan is an exceptional river¹ which is why various agencies and organizations have studied and proposed "raising the weir" since 1992. This year, a Water Use Planning process lead by CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, Catalyst Paper and Cowichan Watershed Board engaged lakeshore property owners, stewardship organizations, and local business interests in an exhaustive study of the science and the consequences of various options, including the status quo. This process resulted in a consensus that we need to rebuild the weir at 30-70cms higher than the current one. After over 25 years of talk and study – it's time for action.

2. Because the community is largely united and political leaders are supportive.

Proposals or support to raise the weir have now been made or supported by all of the following: Cowichan Tribes First Nation, Federal government (DFO), BC Government, Cowichan Valley Regional District Cowichan Watershed Board (representing elected officials from throughout the Cowichan Valley and appointed experts), Catalyst Paper, and citizens groups including One Cowichan, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, Friends of Cowichan River, and many others. There is very strong and broad agreement for this approach.

Both the MLA and MP are also actively advocating raising the weir and Minister Donaldson is well respected for his past work to support salmon, watersheds, and First Nations rights.



WEIR READY CONT...

3. Because climate change predictions tell us it's going to get worse.

CVRD recently commissioned a Cowichan specific climate projection study¹ to better understand what to expect locally so we can plan for it. The study clearly shows the need is increasingly urgent when we look to the future. Longer drier summers, combined with far less snowpack to feed streams in spring, will mean that in many years, rivers like the Cowichan will dry up unless they have a water storage 'bank' in the headwaters.

4. Because the consequences of inaction are dire.

Doing nothing won't result in the status quo. Studies show there will be steadily worsening conditions as climate change progresses resulting in severe ecological, social and economic impacts. This past year, a very thorough Water Use Planning process delved deep into climate analysis, user needs, and ecological impacts. The process confirmed that raising the weir was the best solution, and the costs of doing nothing are too high. Even under current conditions Catalyst cannot meet minimum summer flow targets in most years and Cowichan Tribes have felt the need to restrict their constitutionally protected fishing rights to conserve salmon in low flow conditions.

5. Because we can fix this!

Many climate change impacts seem insurmountable, but here is one we can address. Unlike most rivers, Cowichan River is blessed with a natural storage bank that can be increased to capture the abundant spring rains to mitigate against drought summers. The fact that most other rivers on Eastern Vancouver Island can't be helped with such climate mitigation technologies makes it even more critical to protect the Cowichan and its salmon stocks. Storing water in the spring will provide huge benefits to the environment, economy, First Nations and local communities. It's a big project, but it's also a success waiting to happen, with an experienced and cohesive community ready to see it through.



WEIR READY CONT...

How-To Tips!

- 1) The appropriate salutation is “Dear Minister” and the address is:

The Honorable Doug Donaldson, M.L.A.
Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
PO Box 9428, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

- 2) Keep it respectful, simple, and from your own perspective. How would/might lower summer water levels in the Cowichan River impact your life/livelihood, your family, or your community? Be as specific as feels comfortable to you, from wanting your grandchildren get to see salmon when they are older, to protecting our heritage river, to worrying about your job at Catalyst, etc. Minister Donaldson has a history protecting the Skeena watershed and First Nations rights, so acknowledge and respect that he likely wants to make this happen.
- 3) Before you seal the envelope, scan, save, or photograph your letter and send a copy to **cowichan.weir.ready@gmail.com** or **4335 Riverside Rd, Duncan BC V9L 6M8**. We will compile all the letters received to provide copies to MLA Furstenau, MP McGregor, and Environment Minister George Heyman.

Thank you!!

**Personal letters help
politicians know what citizens
care about most.**

**Hand written letters have
added impact!**



**NEXT UNION MEETING
AUGUST 20/2018**

**CROFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
1681 ROBERT STREET**

CROFTON BC

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Your
Opinion
matters

A healthy Union needs to hear the voices of all its members. Please share your thoughts, ideas, experiences, rants and good news via letters to the Editor.

Send your letters to cwipp69@gmail.com



The opinions expressed in Two's News, letters, and other submissions are the opinions of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Local 2 Executive, PPWC National, or the Editor.