

# PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada  
Local 2



# TWO'S NEWS

SPRING EDITION 2020  
PPWC LOCAL 2

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## Strike over after USW members approve WFP deal

Members of the United Steelworkers union say that 81.9 per cent of their members have approved a deal with Western Forest Products. The vote ends the over seven month strike that has severely impacted about 3,000 coastal forest workers employed in Western Forest Products sawmills and timberlands operations in the province. Earlier this week a tentative agreement was reached between USW Local 1-1937 and WFP, but was subject to approval. The union said the strike was over the potential loss of pensions, seniority rights and long-term disability benefits.

“Our membership has stood up and pushed back against a company that was bent on breaking our Local Union,” said local 1-1937 president Brian Butler in a statement.

“They’ve picked the wrong fight with the wrong local union, our members have negotiated a contract that achieves many of our members goals and notably did not give Western Forest Products any concessions.”  
*CHEKNews*

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CCU founder and union  
activist



*Léa Roback*  
Canadian union  
activist



*Viola Desmond*  
Canadian human  
rights activist



MARCH 8th



# Vancouver Island Counselling

Compassion, Respect, Integrity

Vancouver Island Counselling is a non-profit society supported by local employers, unions and employee groups. We provide professional counselling to affiliated employees, retirees and eligible family members as part of a workplace benefit.

Duncan: 250-746-6900

Nanaimo: 250-754-8222

Port Alberni: 250-723-7001

Victoria & Lower Mainland: 1-800-746-6911

## Environmental & Forest Committee

Our Local is still seeking a member to join the Environmental & Forest Committee.

Be a bigger part of our local and get nominated for this position

## *First Vice Ops*

Well I hope sometime this year will be the start of a turn around for the pulp industry, as we faced a lot of challenges with the talk of curtailment for this month. As I type this out we are still unsure of the company's plans for March, which makes me wonder if they even know themselves. When I attended the meeting announcing the curtailment, Stu Gibson the VP, talked about investing in the future which includes building a 60 million dollar plant to use recycled boxes right here in Crofton. I guess time will tell if that happens or not, as I don't get too excited when corporate executives of the company promise anything. I guess the excitement has been beaten out of me over the last 8 years. Anyway, I hope we stay strong and support one another as that's what a union is about.

Chris Wipplinger  
First Vice Ops  
PPWC Local 2

**They didn't call the trillion-dollar Wall St. bailouts "socialism"**

**They don't call nearly \$1 Trillion in oil & gas subsidies "socialism"**

**They don't call the billions in farmer bailouts "socialism"**

**But health care, wages, food for poor people? "SOCIALISM."**

## REMINDER



**Daylight Saving Time  
March 8, 2020**



# 2020 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Health & Welfare Committee

DALE WILIAMS (CHAIR)  
ALLISON PIRIE  
DON PEARSON

## Apprenticeship Committee

TROY BELBECK  
MIKE HEARSEY  
NATHEN SMITH

## Construction Committee

CHRIS WELTE  
DARYL PUGH  
RYAN BOURELLE  
CARLO AQUINO

## Job Evaluation Committee

MEGHAN IRWIN (CHAIR)  
JONATHAN BEAM  
MATT WALDRON  
TRACEY MEHMAL

## Wage Delegates

MEGHAN IRWIN (CHAIR)  
CHRIS WIPLINGER  
MAXX MURAI  
GEOFF DAWE  
STEVE LANDYGO  
MIKE BREGG (ALT)

## PPWC Convention Delegates

JAMES BUCHAN  
CHRIS WIPLINGER  
MAXX MURAI  
AL KUEBER  
DALE WILIAMS

## Environmental & Forestry

DARYL PUGH  
DWAYNE HALE

## Two's News Editor

CHRIS WIPLINGER



# A Commitment to Save Forestry Jobs in British Columbia

By CCU President Kelly Johnson



There has been a perfect storm heading for the forestry industry in British Columbia during the last two decades. General economic uncertainty, U.S. tariffs and corporate free trade agreements, the export of raw logs and processing jobs, increasing numbers of wildfires and the pine beetle infestation that destroyed millions of hectares of forest have all culminated into a series of devastating blows to the industry.

Announcements of layoffs, closures and mill shutdowns are becoming a regular occurrence throughout the BC media.

One newspaper story featured a car dealer in Campbell River on Vancouver Island who repossessed cars from almost a dozen forestry workers who lost their jobs. One of them asked if he could just keep his vehicle until Christmas and had to sell the dealer a load of firewood to make one of his payments.

Statistics from the BC Ministry of Finance illustrate that forest revenues are down 11 per cent so far this year and the projected harvest volumes of 46 million cubic metres are the lowest in years.

But the ongoing struggle of the BC forestry industry doesn't only mean misfortune for workers and their families. The real tragedy is how preventable all of this is. British Columbia is a world-class leader in sustainable forest management, and by working with the BC government, Indigenous communities, conservationists and labour unions, we can turn this situation around and save forestry jobs in British Columbia.

*Continued on page 7*



## **BC Forestry Alliance says more aid for forest industry and communities needed**

The B.C. Forestry Alliance (BCFA) is calling on the provincial government to protect the current harvestable land base and establish a “working forest” that will sustain the forest industry now and into the future.

“Last week over a thousand people showed up on the front lawn of the Legislature because they are deeply concerned about their future in B.C.’s forest industry,” Steve Venus, one of the grassroots organizers with B.C. Forestry Alliance, said in a press release. “These are hard-working people and they presented a petition with 8,000 signatures calling on the government to ensure a predictable and long-term fibre supply.”

The rally was held on the same day as the release of the 2020 provincial budget. The NDP’s budget had little assistance to offer the struggling forest industry, the BCFA says.

“Throwing a few million dollars at the industry is a band-aid approach. We need long term solutions for a struggling industry,” said Carl Sweet, spokesperson for the BC Forestry Alliance. “Securing a long term fibre supply on the harvestable land base is what we need. This will create opportunities for new investment. It will also give workers the opportunity to become more skilled and therefore more competitive in the global market.”

The BC Forestry Alliance is looking forward to the government’s reply to the petition. In the meantime, the Alliance will continue to advocate for a sustainable and renewable working forest.

*Campbell River Mirror*

## **Forestry of the future – the sustainable revolution**

For the past three years, I have led a research program at FPInnovations called Forestry 4.0. Our objective is to build momentum towards sustainability by bringing more automation to forest operations in Canada. I am talking about autonomous trucks, platooning systems and automated harvesting machines.

Forestry 4.0 was developed to create solutions for challenges affecting the forest industry, such as labour shortages, high fibre-supply costs and forest connectivity, as well as to improve our environmental performance. The program is inspired by the concept of Industry 4.0, which is seen as the next industrial revolution. New computer technology such as automation, cyber-physical systems, augmented and virtual reality, artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things will drastically change the forest industry for the better and ensure its competitiveness.

Some call this movement the fourth industrial revolution, but I attended an event called Sweden Canada Innovation Day in Montreal recently, and a speaker said to the audience that we shouldn’t use that term anymore. With climate change recognized by the scientific community as the biggest threat to the next generation, they said we should talk about the “sustainable revolution” instead. This new term resonates with me because it is exactly what I envision when I think about the future of our sector.

The term also accurately describes the Forestry 4.0 program’s overarching goal of using technology to solve operational challenges while also creating a sustainable forest industry. I think the marriage of technology and sustainability is the way of the future for all industries, including the Canadian forest sector. In fact, the sector can be at the forefront of this revolution. The future for forestry is exciting and bright. We now have the opportunity to use leading-edge technology to increase the economic viability of the entire supply chain sustainably, which will complement the know-how we already have to manage our forests and the life-cycle assessment of wood products. The forest sector is in a good position to make the “sustainable revolution” a reality. Let’s rise to the challenge, transform the sector, contribute to a greener Canadian economy and share the collective pride of building a sustainable future for everyone. *Francis Charett*



## *FIRST VICE MAINTENANCE*

Hello everyone, and welcome to 2020. It would be fantastic if this decade ahead favours the industry we work in, and with the souring of public opinion on plastics, there is a chance that it could.

First off, I would like to introduce myself as your "newish" 1st Vice President of Maintenance. I'm a Journeyman Welder and have worked in various industries for upwards of 10 years, 4.5 of them here at Crofton. My home base in the mill is TMP (the large orange door across from the stores offices) but I make my rounds on shutdown days. You may recognize me as I previously served on our executive committee from 2015-2017 as Secretary Treasurer and later as a Master Shop Steward. I left Crofton in 2017 to pursue a career with the City of Victoria, in their Fabrication shop. While there I experienced how other unions function, serving on the executive of CUPE Local 50, and as a shop steward. Ultimately though, I decided that municipal government employment was not for me, and I was fortunate enough to recover my position here at our beloved mill (believe it or not I do enjoy this place).

Throughout my time as a welder, I have worked in various industries (oil & gas, forestry, mining), in both union and non-union environments. Both have their pros and cons, but a unionized environment heavily outweighs a non organized environment in many ways.

Unions serve to:

- better the individuals they represent.
- to ensure we can earn an equitable wage
- to ensure our healthcare does not come solely from our own pockets
- to give us pension plans so we can actually retire
- to guard us against the eager employers out there that would readily strip our safety standards to increase their output and save a buck.

All this being said, I am proud to serve again and be a member once more of PPWC Local 2, and walk among the buzzing machinery of BCFP's former crown jewel, the Crofton Mill. I'm happy to see familiar faces and good friends (and the rest of you too). And I am excited to see what the future holds for us here as the new decade unfolds.

There will be challenges, and ups and downs, as there always are in our industry but together we will prevail. It as good a time as ever to remember that Unity and Union share the same root in the Latin word *Unus*, meaning "One". And to remember that our strength lies in us facing our foes as one solid entity. United we stand, divided we fall.

In Solidarity,  
Maxx Murai  
First Vice Maintenance



## A Commitment to Save Forestry Jobs in BC Continued

Yes, the industry is in transition. But we can use this to our advantage. We can make a series of policy choices that attract investors, protect workers' rights, empower Indigenous communities and workers, and create jobs throughout the province.

What will this look like? It will first define and protect the forest land base as a top priority, along with diversifying the forestry-based products that workers produce, helping us move away from an out-dated single-commodity mindset.

This can only begin to happen, of course, when the provincial government of British Columbia finally institutes a ban on raw log exports. For years, the Public and Private Workers of Canada (PPWC) have been leaders in calling for this, and continue to be active on this front. Research from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives has shown that almost 26 million cubic metres of wood has been exported since 2013, worth an estimated \$3 billion.

That's \$3 billion of potential investment that could have gone towards processing jobs in British Columbia. And these value-added jobs would create entire spinoff industries for struggling small towns and communities throughout the province.

Sure, the corporate media will yell the dirty word of "protectionism" every time they hear this. But the most competitive economies around the world have governments that do the exact same thing and protect industries during temporary challenges – and spend hundreds of billions of dollars doing so. China does it. Germany does it. Japan does it. South Korea does it. And even Canada does it – at least for the auto, oil and banking industries.

So why can't the BC government do the same for the forestry industry?

Low and behold, there was a glimmer of hope this past summer when NDP premier Horgan unveiled a two-year plan to revitalize the industry. The provincial government is looking to develop specific policies that will hinder the export of raw logs, but there haven't been any specific promises about an outright ban.

Horgan has agreed to limit the amount of wood waste that gets left behind following big harvests. Each year, millions of tons of excess fibre are burned, consisting of 16% of the total harvest. Yet this material could be transported to pulp and paper mills for process into wood pellets, which would both create jobs and help preserve our environment. As well, the government has promised to create fibre recovery zones and introduce penalties to companies that leave behind too much fibre.

BC already has the infrastructure to do all of this, and there are promises by the BC government to invest more in it. Also, the government has guaranteed that for existing government projects that demand wood and wood products, more of them will be from BC forests and mills, and not imported. This is a good start, but more needs to be done.

To begin, we can invest in forest health to ensure a more stable, fire-resilient and sustainable timber supply. We can also implement lessons learned from the pine beetle infestation and more closely monitor other pest infestation and take prompt action to prevent their spread.

*Continued on page 13*



## *Words from the Wage Delegate Chair*

As many of you have undoubtedly already heard, the Western Forest Products and United Steel Workers Local 1-1937 strike has come to an end. This almost-8-month strike started largely because the company wanted the workers to take concessions to their pensions, as well others. This was at a time when, albeit, the lumber market had softened, but WFP was posting record profits quarter after quarter.

Still ongoing, is the Unifor Local 594 and Federal Co-Operatives Limited (Co-op) Refinery Lock-out. This is also a company that is asking for concessions to pensions while Co-op is raking in \$3 million a day.

There used to be a time when the only Company's asking for major concessions during the collective bargaining process were Company's that were struggling and occasionally, Union's would accept them in order to maintain the jobs, rather than risk plant closures. This no longer seems to be the case. In this day and age, it seems, Company's ask for MAJOR concessions (i.e. pensions in both the previously mentioned situations) regardless of what their balance sheets say. In 2012, our Company asked and won major concessions during our Collective Bargaining process. In 2017, Catalyst asked for us to take severe cuts to our pensions for our newest workers.

We are now only 14 months away from our next opportunity to bargain. I would like this article to serve two purposes. One, regardless of the situation of your Company, you should be prepared for a strike or lock-out situation leading up to any bargain. We have no way of knowing what the Company will attempt to achieve through the Collective Bargaining Process. The last thing we want is for our members to cast their vote for a strike or a vote on an agreement based on their current financial state, rather than principle. Secondly, look around at the workers that came before you. Right now, it seems that pensions are the flavor of the week for companies to attack. The people you work next too have been on strike, fought hard for language that protected our pensions and voted for a strike in 2017 to protect the pensions of people who hadn't even been hired yet. Not everything in the agreement affects you at the life stage you are at right now, but our older workers have been fighting for new hires for years, be prepared to step up for them should it be required.

In Solidarity  
Meghan Irwin  
Wage Delegate Chair  
PPWC Local 2

### *Words from our Inside Guard*

With all that is going on please remember to make sure your proper mailing address is at the union office. Also a reminder to print your name clearly and sign the book for every union meeting you attend. If you're not getting union emails let us know, and we will get you on the emailing list. With these crazy times please be safe!

Don Pearson  
Inside Guard  
PPWC Local 2



# *The Early History of Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada*

*By Jim White*

*The following is an attempt at putting something on paper concerning the organization we belong to, The Pulp, Paper, and Woodworkers of Canada.*

*Through installments over time, hopefully, I will be able to compile a record of the formation of this union and its early years.*

*The information is gleaned from our national Leaflet and, in no small part, listening to conversations over the many years. Ultimately, it is my opinion of how events unfolded. While many stood up the scale, only a few made the bell ring.*

*This is, essentially, a BC story, but like a lot of the BCites, it begins elsewhere.*

The drive to unionize the pulp and paper mills of Canada was forged by two American unions: The International Pulp Sulphite Workers Union and the United Papermakers International Union. Each held a jurisdiction rights in their respective areas, granted and guarded by the AFL-CIO. They were, one may say, the only game in town.

By the late 1950s, virtually all pulp and paper mills in North America were certified by one and often both of these unions. Many pulp mills were also paper mill, thus the dual certification.

These unions, of course, were American through and through. Their overview of Canada was in keeping with the American business overview. Branch plant mentality ruled the day.

A bit of digression is necessary to better understand the events of the late 50s.

The first digression is a jump back 200 years to the beginnings of the industrial revolution, especially in England and, to a lesser degree, in Europe. The inventions, discoveries and events evolving led quickly to a broad-base capitalistic system. Having no fetters or bounds, the power was completely in the hands of the bosses. Abuse, of course, was rampant. Governments of the day were mostly unwilling and generally powerless to act often in the hands of the abusers themselves.

In the face of this, two other events occurred about 150 years ago, again, principally in England, then spreading to Europe and elsewhere England had influence.

Unions rose from the ranks of craftsmen (tradesmen). Craft unions began as vehicles offering protection to those similarly skilled workers. For example, all stonemasons banded together, establishing a craft guild or union by another name.

*Continued on page 11*



## 2020 Executive Board Officers

<i>President:</i>	<i>Lynn Lindeman</i>	<i>Pipefitter</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>First Vice President (M)</i>	<i>Maxx Murai</i>	<i>Welder</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>First Vice President (O)</i>	<i>Chris Wipplinger</i>	<i>Machine Room</i>	<i>D Crew</i>
<i>Second Vice President</i>	<i>Al Kueber</i>	<i>Electrician</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>Recording/Corresponding Secretary</i>	<i>James Buchan</i>	<i>P&amp;R</i>	<i>C Crew</i>
<i>Financial Secretary</i>	<i>Troy Belbeck</i>	<i>Millwright</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>One Year Master Shop Steward (O)</i>	<i>Jonathan Beam</i>	<i>P&amp;R Engineer</i>	<i>C Crew</i>
<i>One Year Master Shop Steward (M)</i>	<i>Gerard Dalle-Vedove</i>	<i>Instrument Mechanic</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>Two Year H&amp;W Trustee</i>	<i>Dale Williams</i>	<i>Electrician</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>Inside Guard/Trustee</i>	<i>Don Pearson</i>	<i>Millwright</i>	<i>Day</i>
<i>Outside Guard/Trustee</i>	<i>Keith Malvena</i>	<i>Machine Room</i>	<i>D Crew</i>
<i>Wage Delegates Chair</i>	<i>Meghan Irwin</i>	<i>EI Apprentice</i>	<i>Day</i>



Ever since it's founding in 1963, the PPWC has been a proudly Canadian union that prides itself on its democratic organization and participatory decision-making, which allows everyone from each of our locals to be an active member. The PPWC stands for the creation of a fair and just economy and society based on the ideals of democracy, human rights and equality.



*The Early History of  
Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada chapter one  
Continued from pg. 9*

They established a criteria for their craft and insisted that anyone calling themselves master craftsmen meet these criteria. They also established a system of tenure or apprenticeship whereby the young and so inclined entered the trade and became qualified.

The second event was the socialist call to arms: **“communist manifesto”** in 1848 by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, two exiled free thinkers from Germany living in England. While socialism as a system was not known in 1848, the manifesto became the bible. **“workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains,”** became the rally cry.

These two events had nothing to do with one another for some long time. In fact, unions were somewhat elitist, private clubs almost guarding their domain against all comers. In the late 1800s, when Marx set up something called the International Workingman’s Association, headquartered in London England, trade unions generally ignored its existence. Socialism, however, did not ignore the existence of trade unions.

North America’s first brush with union socialism was in 1886 in Chicago. There at the infamous Hay Market riot, which began as a strike for the eight hour day, six strikers were shot to death by police, putting large breaks on union expansion, especially socially inclined unions.

Opportunists arise always. Not the least of these was Samuel Gompers. An English expatriate, and now a factory worker in New York. Gompers founded the American Federation of Labour (AFL). You have seen that name before. In 1998 it divorced itself from political activity, accepted capitalism as away of life, and began its march towards a national federation wrapped in the American dream.

It’s important to understand that American unions eventually followed the AFL lead. They remained mainstream American.

In the rest of the world where unions existed, Europe and English colonies, socialism steadily gained ground. Socialists understood that unions were a proper vehicle to further advance their views. Generally, their views were he betterment of the common man, a notion that found much favour among downtrodden people. Especially in the 1930’s. Canada witnessed a decided move towards socialistic intent.

Canada then, as now, was largely branch plant USA. The American owners welcomed their American unions when they came a-calling. Better if unions were going to exist that they be mainstream American types. Much better than who knows what might occur if socialist doctrine ruled the day. Canada, still a very conservative country, followed the American lead. Now we are back where we were in the late 1960s with those two AFL unions.

While the unions were American, and while their stated philosophy was anti-socialist, head offices in New York State had little control over day-to-day events in a back water like Prince Rupert or Castlegar, BC. These two areas, along with Woodfibre and, to a degree, The Vancouver/New Westminster sector, were the hot beds of ferment against the American unions in the late 1950s, early ‘60s.

*Continued on page 12*



## Early History of the PPWC Chapter one continued

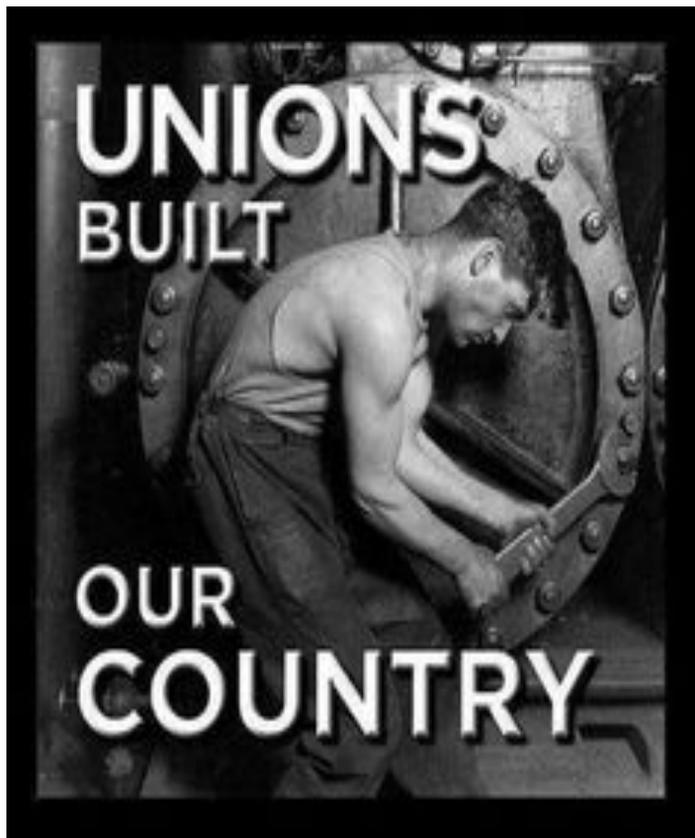
It's time now to introduce a founding father of our union, the PPWC. His name is Orville Braaten. While Orville is not the only founding father and, as time evolved, due to circumstance, perhaps not the most important one, Orville was the first to question the direction of the INTERNATIONAL Pulp Sulphite Union. He was the first to demand alternatives, the first to talk of Canadian ideals.

Orville was a member of Local 433 in Vancouver, known as the converter local. A large portion of Local 433 was a predecessor to the present PPWC Local 5. Its make up was similar. Orville was the full time business agent for Local 433. He also was a member of the Western Pulp and Paper Council. The council was a regional affiliate of pulp and paper mills in BC. Canada was divided into three councils: Eastern (Quebec and Atlantic Provinces), Central (Ontario and Manitoba), and Western ( BC only, as Alberta and Saskatchewan didn't have any mills).

The Western Council published a monthly newspaper called the Western Pulp and Paper Worker. Orville was the editor of that paper. Its first edition was January 1956.

The first stirrings of malcontent appear in mid 1956. As stated before, Alberta and Saskatchewan were without mills, but that was about to change. A mill in Hinton, Alberta and another in northern Saskatchewan were in the offing. The Western Council believed both these mills would fall under their stewardship in the initial discussions. It appeared as though that notion would carry the day.

*To be continued next edition of the Twos News*



### Why Unions?

**Unity is Strength** – Unions provide workers with a powerful, collective voice.

**Unions negotiate better terms and conditions** – Trained representatives of the union lead negotiations on behalf of the employees.

**You get more annual leave** – Unionized workers get on average 25% more annual leave per year compared to non-union workers.

**Better job security** – Union members are more likely to stay in their jobs longer

**Better pay** – Union members earn on average 10% more than non-unionized employees.

**Unions will fight for you rights**



## ***A Commitment to Save Forestry Jobs in BC....Continued from page 7***

We can also help grow the fibre resource by using modern technologies like artificial intelligence and drones to enhance an updated Standing Timber Inventory and improve yields and mitigate timber supply impacts. And the government should also implement an intensive second-growth program that improves seed stock, which will create economic benefits and additional employment.

Investing in forest jobs means investing in forest sustainability, and we can learn from other jurisdictions like New Zealand and Sweden, who have transitioned their respective forestry industries and improved yields. This way, we can sustain forestry jobs and the environment.

And this also means building respectful relationships with Indigenous communities.

Today, 9% of the forestry workforce in BC is Indigenous, and their communities should share in the stumpage revenues generated by the forestry sector. We can also increase community forest agreements and Indigenous woodlands licenses in areas near their communities.

Creating forestry jobs in the future inevitably means preparing the next generation of forestry workers, and the government must invest more in training. This includes expanding high-tech, skills development, the Forest Education Program, Natural Resource Management camps and the Women in Trades program.

Finally, labour unions and workers in BC are the first to understand the importance of remaining competitive in the global economy. That's why the BC government must continue to develop new, overseas markets for our high-quality wood products. This will help us reduce our dependence on the US market, where we continue to face unfair, punishing tariffs on softwood lumber products.

Around the world, there's a growing need for low-carbon, renewable products from sustainably-harvested forests, produced by a diverse, unionized workforce whose rights are protected. This is the strength of the BC forestry industry, and it is exactly what will protect and sustain it for generations to come.

*By Kelly Johnson CCU President / PPWC Local 1 President*

The CCU and its affiliates are active in the struggle for a new world based on the ideals of equality, democracy, environmental sustainability and solidarity. It supports, participates and works co-operatively with many social activist groups, including the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the Maquila Solidarity Network, Council of Canadians, the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG), various health coalitions, Make Poverty History, and Gathering Place, among others. We write submissions and lobby all levels of government on issues such as health care, education, pay equity, social services, forestry, fair trade, and labour standards for workers. The PPWC has been a proud and active member of the CCU for decades.



**Confederation of  
Canadian Unions**



## *Suddenly Out of Work?*

For most of us this will soon become an issue. The remnants of your latest paycheque will vaporize in short order.

If it's a layoff, immediately see human resources for your R.O.E (record of employment), then apply for E.I online or at their office. If your layoff is longer than a few weeks you should also be concerned about your benefits running out. Read your contract and talk to human resources. If this doesn't get you the answers you need, talk to a job steward or your health and welfare committee for assistance in walking through this.

Then there is the more common "Suddenly Out of Work". The "Unfit for Work" kind. You've got to look at the cause of your injury or illness. If it is work-related, make note of who you were working with and go to first aid. This is where the rubber meets the road because this is something you do on your own soon after an event occurs. Now I know we all have busy lives, got to pick up the kid after work, got to buy flowers for your significant other or just got to hustle home and crack a cold one to watch the game. "Wrong", Something just happened to you. You need to deal with this now. The job can wait. You go to first aid and get whatever treatment they can provide and follow any referral advice they recommend. At first aid, you are about to give one of the most important dispositions regarding your work-life – "What happened". Should you end up requiring compensation for medical bills or time off, WorkSafe must meet two criteria before accepting a claim. First, they must establish your injury or illness occurred at the workplace, thus a timely first aid report is important. Secondly, your description of the "work you were doing" to sustain the injury received must be sufficient for people that never see you and don't know your workplace to get a grasp around posture, force, unseen hazard, etc. so they can believe it is possible to sustain the injury from what you said you were doing. So you may have to brow-beat the attendant at security, but make sure your description gets recorded accurately even if they need to attach a page. Most issues and conflict with WorkSafe come about around the "acceptance of a claim". The company is all about shedding claims. If they can save a nickel, they will. As such the staff is mandated to save the company. They are not your friends. Their concern for your well being and the financial security of your family vanishes when there is a potential WorkSafe claim. So maybe you should bang your head on the wall just to make sure you are awake and take this stuff seriously!

Most times a first aid is just that, a first aid, but if you are having any issues beyond that the next most urgent thing you must do is see a doctor or go to emergency and I do mean in a timely fashion. After that, if it is determined you need medical support and or time off work you need to initiate a claim. Your health and welfare committee can help you with this, please call if you are in this situation.

*Continued on next page*





# DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK



## NEXT UNION MEETINGS

MARCH 16, 2020

APRIL 20, 2020

MAY 19, 2020

CROFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE  
1681 ROBERT STREET  
CROFTON BC

### Other Meetings & Conferences

- March 4-5, 2020      Health & Welfare Conference  
                                 Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver BC
- March 5, 2020        Local 2 Executive Board Meeting
- March 8-13, 2020    58<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention & Labour School  
                                 Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver, BC
- April 9, 2020         Local 2 Executive Board Meeting
- April 7-8, 2020      Joint Wage Caucus  
                                 Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, Vancouver, BC
- May 7, 2020         Local 2 Executive Board Meeting



For the latest information go to our Facebook page PPWC Local 2 or log onto our website at [www.ppwclocal2.com](http://www.ppwclocal2.com)

