

PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada
Local 2



TWO'S NEWS

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PPWC LOCAL 2



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**A UNION IS
ONLY AS**

STRONG

**AS IT'S
MEMBERSHIP**



The History of the PPWC

Chapter 3

By
Jim White

The Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada (PPWC) came into being in January, 1963. Events leading up to that date have been depicted in the two prior chapters. This issue will continue in the same vein.

The word “International” used here means the union called the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers. This was the union all pulp and paper workers in BC and most of North America belonged to prior to 1963. For example, Local 8 of the PPWC was Local 695 of the International.

Why 494 became 3, 708 became 4, or 842 became 1 is an intriguing story. Many are the contributing factors. As mentioned last issue, the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action (RFMDA) set the standards and began the political ferment that revealed some of the answers to the above questions. The RFMDA began as the active unionist’s answer to the US congressional inquiry into union corruption. Any true trade unionist of the late 1950s or early ‘60s in North America was caught up in advancing socialism. The ideals as expressed, allegedly or otherwise, by the USSR and, closer to home, by Cuba were what many unionists, especially Canadians, were about. Little red books abounded.

Socialism, of course, is very idealistic. Macphee, Braaten, McCormack, and Big Al Smith from Woodfibre, Gordie Carlson from Crofton were all idealistic men. Men born into an emerging world, a world that seemed to give the hope of new social order, where workers would take their rightful place and claim the type of life their toil was capable of providing.

Macphee and McCormack, among others, went to Cuba to see first hand socialism in action. The euphoria in the early 1960s in Cuba was very compelling: Batista’s regime had been ousted; the American masters had been sent packing; Cuba belonged to Cubans. What’s more, in theory at least, it belonged to every one of them. It was easy to sing the praises of such a place, and so they did when they returned to Canada. Canada, however, was an enigma, for sure. Blessed beyond most others, our home and native land, but in business, largely a branch plant for American interests. Cuba belonged to the Cubans, theoretically. Canada belonged to the Americans, theoretically.

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The History of the PPWC by Jim White Continued



Still worse than business belonging to the Americans, the very Canadian unions that Macphee and Braaten and their working brothers belonged to were also very much under the control of American international unions. The name “International” is somewhat a misnomer, as only the US and Canada claimed membership.

The word “International” was, thus, a conspiracy word for socialists. Firstly, international socialism was the ultimate dream. Didn’t their chests swell with pride as they sang the very song, “International,” the socialist anthem.

The International that they belonged to, however, was ultimately led by George Meany, the AFL-CIO president. He who condemned socialists as being against the American way. He who sided with the aforementioned congressional inquiry, the Joe McCarthy inspired inquiry. The Joe McCarthy who had just recently red-baited them, essentially destroyed the careers and, in some cases, the lives of many substantial intellectual and progressive men and women in the US. The scars remain to this day. Many of us were proud to see Nick Nolte refuse to stand or acknowledge Ilia Kazan at the recent academy awards presentations. Kazan collaborated with McCarthy and fingered his co-workers in the arts.

Coupled with the ideological differences, as expressed by Braaten and Macphee, versus George Meany, who, incidentally, was supported by his Canadian counterpart Claude Jodain, Canadian Labour Congress president, another factor emerged.

Canadians were blossoming all over the country. A growing sense of nation-hood prompted many Canadians, pulp and paper workers among them, to strive for control of their affairs. A new political party (the New Democratic Party), founded in 1961, held promise for the future.

The Avro Arrow, the fastest and most advanced fighter jet the world had ever seen, was built right here in Canada. The fact it never flew was of no importance. The Leafs had just won a Stanley Cup. Some things were right in our world.

Braaten, especially, voiced the need for Canadian autonomy, if not in accepting International structure, then damn the consequences. “We will have our own union.”

The RFMDA, with its demand for reform, not surprisingly was embraced by the leadership of many west coast locals.

Continued next page



The RFMDA was founded in April of 1961 at Denver, Colorado. While it had as its chairman R. H. Chatham from West Monroe, Louisiana, the remaining leadership were west coast American and Canadian. Canada was represented by Macphee, Braaten, and Murray Mowatt from Powell River Local 76. The movement established a position paper and, though this paper made their demands known, they called for secret-ballot elections of all International officers.

In the International, several areas or regions existed. Each region had a vice-president, who was responsible for goings-on in his region. In the past, vice-presidents were elected by convention at large. This created a situation where voters from Louisiana, for example, voted on the vice-president responsible for BC. This was believed to be counter-productive. The movement demanded vice-presidents be elected by their regions. This manner of elections would enable a region to elect the vice-president they wanted. It would also better enable a region to rid itself of an undesirable.

The RFMDA further demanded a more democratic and militant union, more regional autonomy with Canadian regions forming their own autonomous council within the International.

The movement then stepped into a circumstance that was happening at that moment. Two New York area International representatives had just been fired by the International union. These same two had blown the whistle on one vice-president, Tonnelli, from the New York region. Tonnelli was accused of bribe taking, dealings with the mob, and other union-demeaning activities. The two representatives, Bros. Connolly and Hayes, were subsequently fired by the International executive. Hard on the heels of these firings, the International research director, Bro. Brooks, was also fired when he dared to resist the former firings.

The RFMDA demanded a complete reinstatement of the three and, further, they demanded an impartial inquiry be set up to look into all aspects of the events. The plot was thickening, and Castlegar is much of that.

***The History of the PPWC by Jim White Chapter 4 to be continued in the next edition of the
Two's News***



May 1, 2021 is Around The Corner

Our collective agreement expires in just over seven months. Are you prepared personally? Are we as PPWC Local 2 prepared?

One thing you can do for yourself is to try and save some money just in case there is a strike or lock out. These are very real scenarios and I hope you all take this seriously as we get closer to May 1, 2021.

Many of our senior members have been on strike multiple times fighting for the wages and benefits that we have today. I give much respect to all of them. We need to start respecting each other more as fellow workers and as brothers and sisters of local 2. Only together and collectively can we make changes. Divided we will certainly fail. I am personally prepared for whatever our membership wants and votes for. I hope you all will be too.

We all can be doing a better job helping and supporting our local. All executive board positions are up for nominations and hopefully some elections will take place. I encourage all of our membership to step up and be a bigger part of our local. Nominate someone or have yourself be nominated for one of these positions. A year and a half ago I wrote in the Two's News that many in the executive board are nearing retirement age, and that we need younger members to step up and take charge for the future. Since that time we have had 2 members step up. One as Master shop Steward of Operations, and one as the Outside Guard. The probability that one or more positions will be open for someone new to step in to is very good. We need every position filled so please consider being a bigger part of our local union.

I am not going to kid anyone. This next round of negotiations is going to be ugly. If you think Paper Excellence has been treating us unfairly since they took over the mill, what makes anyone think they will treat us better during and leading up to contract time? Forgive me for feeling pessimistic. We need all hands on deck, and I for one am willing to fight.

Come October I hope you all have a good thanksgiving with your families and on November 11th Lest We Forget.

In Solidarity
Chris Wipplinger
First Vice President





First Call for Nominations of New Officers for 2021
at
September GM

1. President/NEB Member
Nominated: Chris Wipplinger, Lynn Lindeman, Steve Landygo
2. First Vice President/ Operations
Nominated: Jonathan Beam, Matt Waldren, Geoff Dawe, Allison Pirie, Glen Smith
3. First Vice President/ Maintenance
Nominated: Greg Genis, Gary Ramwell, Carlo Aquino, Al Kueber, Kent Hilbrecht, Troy Belbeck
4. Second Vice President
Nominated: Sean Tutte, Al Keuber, Royce Ludvigson, Brian Hicks, Mike Hearsey, Don Pearson
5. Recording Corresponding Secretary/ Trustee
Nominated: James Buchan
6. Financial Secretary
Nominated: Troy Belbeck
7. One Year Master Shop Steward/Operations
Nominated: Kieth Malvena, Jonathan Beam, Chris Wipplinger
8. One Year Master Shop Steward/ Maintenance
Nominated: Gerard Dalle Vedove
9. Two Year Health and Welfare
Nominated: Don Pearson, Gary Ramwell, Allison Pirie, Nathan Smith
10. Inside Guard
Nominated: Sean Power, Don Pearson, Sean Tutte, Grant Peter, Nathan Smith, Mike Hearsey
11. Outside Guard
Nominated: Kieth Malvena, Rob Craig
12. Wage Delegate Chair
Nominated: Geoff Dawe, Kent Hilbrecht, Carlo Aquino, Meghan Irvin, Lynn Lindeman, Chris Wipplinger

**PPWC LOCAL 2 EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRADULATE AND WELCOME GARY RAMWELL AS THE
NEW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF MAINTENANCE**

Thanks to Both Gary and Rob Cage for putting their names forward for this position



What Bill 8 Means for Us

The *Employment Standards Amendment Act* (“Bill 8”) has introduced changes to the *Employment Standards Act* (“ESA”). Bill 8 received First Reading on April 29, 2019 following a British Columbia Law Institute report released in December 2018, and received Royal Assent on May 30, 2019.

I thought I would take this opportunity to explain to you how Bill 8 effects our Collective Agreement as we know it so far. Please keep in mind that this is just the areas we have flagged so far and that the Joint Wage Caucus is waiting on a legal opinion for more information. This article is just to inform you of the areas where changes have to be made and what they MIGHT look like.

First off, Bill 8 is the Bill that was the first update to the Employment Standards Act since the 1990's. One of the items contained in it is that Collective Agreements are no longer allowed to bargain below the employment standards minimums. The government allowed Collective Agreements that were already in force to continue, but these changes are mandatory upon expiry of the agreement.

The first area that this affects our collective agreement is statutory holidays. The Act recognizes New Years Day, Family Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, BC Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day. Our agreement does not recognize 5 of these days but recognises New Years Day for 40 hours, Easter Monday, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day. We don't know yet if we just have to recognise the same number of stats or the actual stat days. This could have multiple outcomes during bargaining ranging from we only recognise the provincially mandated stats to we recognise all the stats from both lists.

Stat pay is also different under the act. Under the ESA, the employer must provide you with the day off and pay you the number of hours your shifts averaged out to over the last 60 days, if you were scheduled to work that day. So, if you work 12 hour shifts, they must pay you 12 hours, instead of the 8 they currently pay you if you are not working on a stat day when you normally would have been scheduled too. This would also affect stat short week.

Next, we have overtime. Currently we have no double time provisions in our Agreement. Under the Act, if you stay over on a regular day then the first 3 hours are at time and a half and all hours after that are at double time. The same applies to overtime days. So, if you are a day worker your first 13 hours of OT would be time and a half and everything after that would be double time on an overtime day. On a regular day, your first 10 hours would be straight time, the next 3 hours would be time and a half and all hours after that would be double time.

These are the two biggest things, there are also some other unpaid leaves that are not currently recognised that will have to be, such as leaves for those suffering domestic abuse.

Like I mentioned at the start of this, this is where the biggest discrepancies are that we know of so far. It is all subject to a legal opinion, and what we go for in bargaining will be decided by the Joint Wage Caucus, so make sure that if you have thoughts or opinions on any of this to get a hold of someone on the Wage Committee so that we can represent you at Joint Wage Caucus in November.

In Solidarity
Meghan Irwin
Wage Delegate Chair
PPWC Local 2



Survey Results for Main Wage

Deep Sea Loading: Is it a priority to negotiate a deep-sea loading premium for the shipping dept?

Answered 105 Skipped 0

Yes	25%
No	43%
I don't care	32%

Bill 8 requires us to recognize all provincial stats (This is going to be subject to legal opinion) with regards to recognizing these days

Answered 104 Skipped 1

See more floaters	59%
See Stat days	39%
I don't care	1%

Is an increase to retiree's benefits a priority for you in bargaining?

Answered 105 Skipped 0

Yes	63%
No	28%
I don't care	9%

Do you agree with being able to sell back vacation entitlement?

Answered 104 Skipped 1

Yes	14%
No	69%
I don't care	16%

Would you support the return of lead-hands (provided they were selected based on sonority)?

Answered 105 Skipped 0

Yes	41%
No	45%
I don't care	14%

What area of our benefits would you most like to see an increase in?

Answered 104 Skipped 1

Dental Care	23%
Vision Care	21%
Paramedicals (Physio, Chiropractics etc)	41%
Drug Coverage	15%

Survey results Continued next page



Survey Results Continued

How long would you like to see the term of the agreement?

Answered 105 Skipped 0

1 year	0%
2 years	4%
3 years	15%
4 years	31%
5 years	39%
6+ years	11%

DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK



October 19th 2020

2nd Call for Executive Board Officers

November 16rd 2020



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let's We Forget



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**Remember
to set your
clocks back.
November
1st**

