



TWO'S NEWS

WINTER EDITION 2020/2021
PPWC LOCAL 2



EDITOR: CHRIS WIPLINGER
Cwipp1969@gmail.com



*Wishing all Local 2 Members a
Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

HELP WANTED

The local executive is looking for a member to fill the Master Shop Steward position for operations. Must be a PPWC local 2 member in good standing. Must be able to attend Standing Committee meetings and Executive Board meetings once a month each. Willing to help your brothers and sisters in PPWC Local 2. Training provided.

Contact Chris Wiplinger or Jonathan Beam for more info.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters

As your new president of local 2, I'd like to introduce myself to those that don't know me, and give some back ground information about who I am, what I stand for and what I would like to see for our future.

For our members that do not know me, I have worked in the forest industry for 31 years and have been a member of this local for 20 years. I started as a shop steward in 2001, and I have been a part of our union executive since 2017. I began as the Outside Guard and quickly moved up the ranks to 1st Vice President where I have served for the past 2 years. It has been both a challenging and rewarding experience. One that has taught me a lot about our collective agreement, as well as learning to deal with the company regarding grievances, and other complaints from our membership.

I will be the first operator to be president of local 2 since 2003. I have been told it'll be a tough job for an operator on shift, and maybe it will be, but I know it can be done as I look at local 1 where their president Kelly Johnson is a machine tender, and has been the president there for years. I also believe we have a good executive that will help me a lot.

I will always be transparent and honest, taking direction from the membership. I am hoping you all will take on a bigger roll than just attending meetings. We need Shop Stewards very badly and we need a Master Shop Steward for operations. We also have many open positions in committees that need to be filled. I am not going to sugar coat anything. Contact negotiations in 2021 are going to be ugly and a fight. I have always been a fighter and I am willing to fight for our membership if that's what it's going to come to. Which I believe will.

I'd Like to welcome back Geoff Dawe, Tracey Mehmal, and Sean Tutte to the executive, where all 3 have served on the executive board at one time or another. Thanks for stepping up.

At this time I would like to thank Lynn Lindeman, Dale Williams, Meghan Irwin, and James Buchan for all their hard work serving this local. Both Lynn and Dale leave with a lot of experience, and I am glad they both have said they'd be available for advice when needed.

The membership thanks you all for your service. I'd also like to thank 5 of our members; Don Merry, Justine Fooks, Troy Belbeck, Vern Wheeler, and again Dale Williams for explaining pay issues to Curits Jeffery on behalf of the local. Hopefully pay roll got the picture. You all did a great job.

With everyone's support as a union in both operations and maintenance, I think we can accomplish a lot. Remember its up to **all of us**. A union is only as strong as it's membership.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to serving you all in 2021.

In Solidarity
Chris Wipplinger
President
PPWC Local 2



The History of the PPWC

Chapter 4

By Jim White

In the last chapter, we saw the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action (RFMDA) forming in 1961. Among the demands of the RFMDA's position paper was the reinstatement of the fired representatives, Connolly, Hayes, and Brooks.

Writing in support of the above demand, Angus Macphee says, "The International Executive Board meeting in Glen Falls, New York, voted 9-4 to uphold the firing of Bro. Brooks and refused to discuss Connolly and Hayes.

"The fact that Connolly [sic] ran for a Vice-President's position along with his challenge to Tonelli and the fact that Heyes [sic] supported him are clearly factors in the firings. Our Union is crippled with the malignancy of business unionism. The Glen Falls meeting clearly reveals this.

"As to Bro. Brooks, he was hired to advise and direct. This he did, at times in opposition to elected or appointed reps. For this he has been called disloyal. That he has been heard is the crime of disloyalty laid by the same men of Glen Falls."

Angus was speaking for the vast majority of active International unionists in BC. Writing with equal clarity and conviction was Orville Braaten.

In mid '61, Orville asked some intriguing questions. For example, why did the International buy the certification of a converting local in Chicago? Chicago Local 415, a local within the Printing Specialties Union at the time, was paid \$25,000 to join the International. It became Local 415 of the International even though a Local 415 already existed. Where did the \$25,000 go? In short order, they left the International and joined somebody else. More so, why was a certain Anthony Barbaccia from Local 679 in New York City paid \$100 per week by Tonelli to stay away from Local 679? What hold did he have on Tonelli?

These various activities promoted the BC brothers to ask pointed questions. These activities also enhanced the attraction of the RFMDA. In the midst of all this, a seemingly insignificant event occurred in mid '61. Local 795 of the United Paper Makers and Paper Workers Union (UPPU) affiliated to the Western Canada Council. The workers from Castlegar were becoming dissatisfied. Led by, among others, Bro. Evan Moore, they wanted action on several levels.

One particular contentious issue was seniority. A new seniority list, exhibited by the company and agreed to by UPPU International reps. (*note: not the International Pulp Sulphite), was amazing indeed. Any union activists calling for change—there were several—found themselves at the bottom of the seniority lists. Hot on the heels of joining the Western Pulp and Paper Council came a de-certification petition, calling for the expulsion of UPPU Local 795. About 70 per cent of the workers supported de-certification.

Continued on page 6



Joint Main Wage Caucus

Via Zoom @ PPWC Local 2's Office November 23rd to 27th/2020

Before I report on the main wage caucus meeting, I would like to thank the members for voting me in as the wage delegate chair. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. If myself, or any of the delegates are late getting back to you, it's probably because we are trying to get you an answer.

With that being said here is my report

I would like the membership to remember that even though May 1st is not far away in our minds, this main wage agenda is very preliminary which includes all the locals submissions from the PPWC and Unifor that has to be discussed then either passed onto the main agenda or defeated and removed from the main agenda by caucus. That's not to say the items removed can not be discussed at a local bull session as long as it doesn't take away from the main wage agenda (*Pattern*). This is just as starting point.

Before we broke off into separate committees we had to discuss and deal with items as a group. Everything from **Wages/Welfare Plan/ Health Spending Account/ Pension Plan/ Bridging/Job Evaluation, and Bill 8.**

A lot of these items on the agenda were tabled until our next Wage Caucus in March. I feel these items will be the core items in the pattern bargaining and will need to be fine tuned. I will be able to report more on these topics after main wage meetings in March.

Maxx Murai was chair of the Job Security/ Bereavement and Apprenticeship committees. Steve Landygo

Was on the Health and welfare committee and Chris Wiplinger was on the Hours of Work and Time Off committee. I was on the Language Committee. This committee is tasked with either adopting new language and or protecting the integrity and strength of our existing language. This was not an easy task as all the other committees refer back to this committee.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday we reconvened as a group and reviewed the committee reports and how they would affect main wage. With lots of debating back and forth we managed to get through the agenda.

In summary, I noticed that we are not alone in our struggles with this company. Most other locals are dealing with a lot of the same issues ie; not being allowed to use banked OT, manning issues, suspensions and terminations without union representation or notification. The list goes on. I felt good that we shared these issues as a group, with the focus on making the companies more accountable, as it seems to be a province wide standard to operate their companies this way. I did feel that it would be important to have a meeting with just the PPWC locals and PPWC National to debrief and review any concerns moving forward as a group with out Unifor while everything is fresh in our minds. I have asked the PPWC National to set up as one day Zoom meeting for any or all PPWC locals that want to attend for the 2nd week of December. Our committee will report on this meeting.





Thank God It's Thursday: CCU Letter on a Condensed Four Day Workweek.

Letter from CCU President/PPWC Local 1 President Kelly Johnson to the Premier

Dear Premier,

On behalf of the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU), the largest affiliation of independent unions in the country, **I am urging you to reform the labour laws in your province to move to a condensed, four-day workweek.** In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses throughout the country have taken enormous steps to ensure the safety of their employees and customers. Now governments must do the same for all workers throughout the country to minimize contact time between individuals (both at work, and daily travel to and from work) and defeat COVID-19 once and for all.

The four-day workweek actually isn't a new idea. As far back as the 1970s, economists and sociologists pondered a near future where Friday would be part of the weekend, and workers could spend more time with family and friends or undertake activities to learn and improve themselves.

Working from home and telecommuting have made an enormous difference in combating the COVID-19 epidemic and saving potentially tens of thousands of lives. But even this isn't enough. **Condensing the workweek into four days is the next step to fight this deadly illness.**

There are other benefits. Large corporations like Microsoft Japan began trials of a four-day workweek last year, and it led to happier workers, fewer electricity and workplace costs, more efficient meetings and higher rates of productivity. Not surprisingly, Microsoft Japan decided to permanently adopt the policy.

Similar experiments and studies show that workers are more productive during a four-day workweek, which is why in addition to Microsoft, a large number of other corporations throughout the western world are moving to adopt the policy as well. And if businesses can make this move while maintaining production and workflow, why can't all workplaces in both the public and private sectors move to a four-day workweek and enjoy the same benefits?

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the idea is the level of support it has already garnered. It's extremely rare that policies this important earn universal backing from across the political spectrum, yet if you scan newspapers and online news sites from throughout Canada, you'll read from a wide range of journalists, commentators, economists and political scientists glowing reviews and articles about the benefits of a four-day workweek.

It's no wonder that an increasing number of Canadians are supporting the idea. A [June 2018 Angus Reid poll](#) showed that 68% agreed with moving to a condensed four-day workweek while maintaining 40 hours of work. [Another study from 2019 by Citrix](#) showed that 80% of office workers in Canada would take a four-day workweek if they could.

There is also a large amount of research going back decades illustrating that the traditional five-day workweek is actually detrimental to our mental and physical health, and results in high stress levels, fatigue, low motivation and job satisfaction, poor sleep and higher rates of cardiovascular disease.

Add the COVID-19 health crisis to this, and the reduced contact time from a condensed, four-day workweek will literally become a lifesaver for potentially tens of thousands of Canadians.

Most Canadian workers have been on a five-day workweek since well before World War II. We are now in the third decade of the 21st century and facing a major medical, social and economic crisis with COVID-19. It's time we take the next step in battling this deadly illness, save lives, and create a condensed, four-day workweek for all workers in Canada.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Kelly Johnson
President, Confederation of Canadian Unions
250.365.5309
contact@ccu-csc.ca



**Confederation of
Canadian Unions**



The History of the PPWC Chapter 4 Continued

Castlegar's struggle towards Canadian unionism and local autonomy was on its way. We'll catch up to it later.

Meanwhile, back on the coast, the RFMDA had evolved as a strong challenge to the power base of the men from Glen Falls. Its demands for democratic action, new voting systems, and the like spelled doom to Tonelli and his cohorts. So, they (Tonelli and crew) resorted to what they knew best: more lies and deceit. They published (anonymously, of course) a 12-page bulletin called "Truth". It was sent to all International members and, essentially, challenged the RFMDA, the "Western Pulp and Paper Worker" (predecessor to our Leaflet), and anyone who asked for the reinstatement of Connolly, Hayes and Brooks.

Put clearly, it red-baited (accused of being communism) all of the above and held a special place for Angus Macphee, whom it called a liar and a man about to plot the dissolvment of democracy in Canada.

Macphee, Braaten, and McCormick were quick in their critique. All called attention to the falseness of unsigned and unsponsored articles. Angus, especially, was quite eloquent: "To a serious adherent of the trade-union cause, the 12-page publication is a tragic thing. It embodies all that is rotten and reactionary in current literature. From its flag-emblazoned masthead to its promise of more to come, its writing dwells in the journalistic mire of the typical 'Confidential'. Its insinuating slanders are a fearful reminder of the McCarthy press. It could be the work of the Klan, American Firsters, or the Pinkertons. It is boss writing of the most insidious kind. Its appeal can only be to the ignorant or misled.

"'Truth' does not mention that Burke, whom it eulogizes, opposed all three discharges. It made no mention of Tonelli paying off Barbaccia at \$100 per week. It falsely states that the 'New York Post', which first exposed the above bribe, retracted.

"It offers no defense against the charges made by Connolly and Hayes. It does not support an impartial investigation of these charges. It does not discuss the program of the RFMDA on its merits. It offers no program.

"It represents the intellectual and moral poverty of business unionism. It parades this poverty in all its bigotry, ignorance and corruption. This is the dishonesty of the 'American Way' in capsule form and close to home. This is not the Teamsters union by the Pulp Sulphite."

While it wasn't unusual in 1961 for Angus and Orville to go into the bear pit and battle with anyone, new voices emerged as more than local report voices.

Gordon Wickham, Local 695 (8), soundly condemned the "Truth" article and, more so, Reg Ginn, Local 494 (3). Reg, who knew Angus, in fact worked in Prince Rupert prior to Woodfibre, pointed out that, sure, Angus is a dedicated socialist and true unionist. It is those who fear the Anguses of the world who have need to red-bait. They have something to hide. He ends his piece by a Jean Dixon like prediction: "A majority of our members would like to see the International in our name supplanted by National. Much more of this abusive, stomach-souring trash could greatly swell those ranks."



Letter from the Editor

Brothers and Sisters

Well it's been some work and a lot of fun being the editor of the Two's News. It's something that I thought I would never be able to do or even be interested in doing, but I am glad I took the opportunity on as it gave me experience in different ways to help our local. 2 years ago I took the job to be editor and I hope you were all able to get some information and some understanding about our local and the need for unions. As I have now taken on the roll of local 2's president, I will no longer be the editor of the Two's News. This roll will now be taken over by Duane Gale who is a #1 Machine Tender in the machine room. I know Duane will do a great job as he's been a long time member of this local. Thanks to Duane and thanks to you all.

Chris Wipplinger

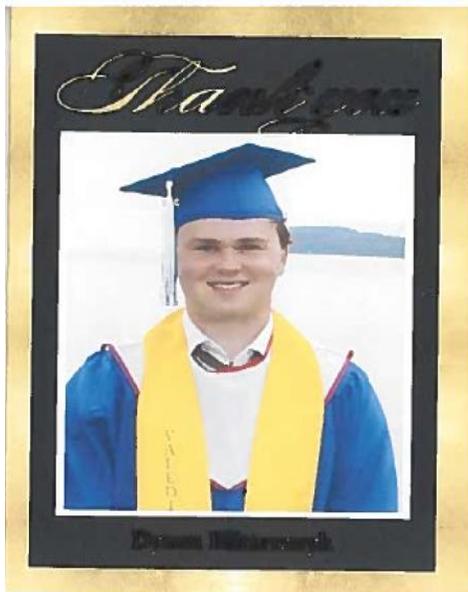
COUNT DOWN TO THE CONTRACT

In 5 months our current contract expires.

May 1st 2021 be prepared

Thank you for your bursary. I will be doing engineering online through UVics 1st semester.

Dyson Blitterswyk





THANK YOU LETTERS



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation, in the amount of \$200.00, to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation. Donations such as yours help to raise the funds needed to purchase the equipment our local hospital needs to ensure the best possible patient care. Thank you again for your support of the Hospital Foundation.

Sincerely,

Aimee Sherwood
Executive Director
Cowichan District Hospital Foundation

www.cdhfoundation.ca

Ph: 250-701-0399 Fax: 250-701-0339 #101 - 5822 Garden St., Duncan, BC, V9L 5H2



Certificate of Appreciation

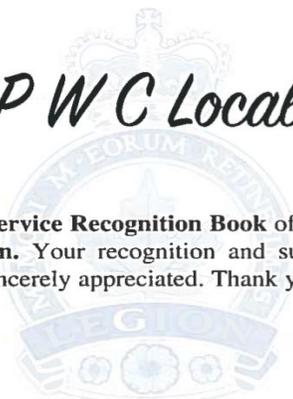


Presented to



PPWC Local 2

For supporting the **Military Service Recognition Book** of the **BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion**. Your recognition and support for Veterans in British Columbia and the Yukon is sincerely appreciated. Thank you for your participation.



Val MacGregor
President

2020 - Volume XV

BC/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

"LEST WE FORGET"





The History of the PPWC Chapter 4 continued

In every adventure, there are those who participate and those who dissent. The RFMDA and the move to Canadiana was no different than any other such adventure. Notably in dissent was Reno Biasutti, Local 76. Reno supported the International in all its endeavours. Coming back from a European trip, he stopped in New York City and went to the International offices in Fort Edward. There he met with Tonnelli and others.

Upon returning home, Reno was very clear in his beliefs. He had personally asked Tonnelli if there was something afoul. Tonnelli had answered him that nothing was, and that was good enough for Reno. Two others of note, who were emerging in Ocean Falls, replacing Pemberton and McCormick, were Peter Marshall and Bill Smalley. Both preached caution and maintaining an International approach. McCormick perceived himself a communist, as he also perceived others to be. He, in the end, supported International unionism. Nationalism smacked of fascism to him. His last words of note were the disappointment he felt in the move to Canadian autonomy. One Big Union was his goal. Fred Wood, Local 742, Campbell River, also preached caution and stood on side with Biasutti and Marshall. So, in early 1962, there was division in the International, as professed by the RFMDA; division within the Western Pulp and Paper Council, as professed by the Macphee/Braaten vs. Biasutti/Wood ideologies; and Castlegar had jumped ranks. The chaos in Castlegar arose over how union certification occurred in the first place. While the mill was being built, construction crews were approached by the UPPU. People staying on after opening, which was sometimes the case, were signed up to the UPPU.

The International Pulp Sulphite Union didn't move on the Castlegar workers until the mill was up and running. They expected automatic certification. It was a pulp mill. They were astonished to find a certification in place. Dissatisfaction soon grew to the boil-over stage. UPPU Local 795, Castlegar, was de-certified and became International Pulp Sulphite Local 842.

It's important to note this was not a raid. Raiding was frowned upon big time. The workers in Castlegar had effected this all by themselves. The International's only compliance had been the granting of a charter applied for. Castlegar was now solidly in the ranks of the Western Pulp and Paper Council and solidly in the ranks of the RFMDA.

Local 842 entered negotiations in late March of '62. Committee members were Haviland, Besso, McFadgean, and Sorge.

Trouble was in the air, especially in the form of the AFL-CIO. On appeal from the UPPU to the affiliate body (AFL), it determined that Local 842 was, indeed, the result of a raid. Under the no-raid agreement, it could not exist. This, in effect, UPPU Local 795 was reinstated. Again, Orville, in his paper, admonished the AFL for the ruling, saying it disregards Canadians and, more so, the workers in Castlegar, who have voted en masse to leave the UPPU.

In the meantime, Local 842 had negotiated a first contract, which the members had accepted. The term of the contract is interesting. It spanned a 7½-month time frame. The contract had also clarified and successfully dealt with issues at odds with the UPPU attempt at contract resolutions.

The AFL order to the workers in Castlegar was the final insult. They were never going back to the UPPU. If they couldn't be International Local 842, then they would be Local 1 of the Canadian Pulp and Paperworkers Union. In June of 1962, that is what they became and forever after changed the face of unionism in the province.

Continued Page 11



PPWC LOCAL 2 EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021

President/NEB Member: *Chris Wipplinger (Machine Room)*
(250) 709-5206 Mill Phone# 6623 (D Crew)

1st Vice President (O): *Jonathan Beam (Power Engineer, P&R)*
(250) 709-3874 Mill Phone# 6562 (C Crew)

1st Vice President (M): *Gary Ramwell (Millwright)*
(250) 701-1127

2nd Vice President: *Al Kueber (Electrician)*
(250) 210-0468

Master Shop Steward (O): *Open*

Master Shop Steward (M): *Gerard Dalle Vedove (Instrument Mechanic)*

Financial Secretary: *Troy Belbeck (Millwright)*
(250) 981-4111 Pager 407

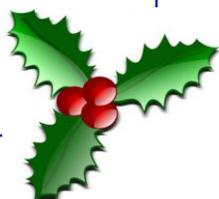
2 Year Health & Welfare Trustee: *Don Pearson (Millwright)*
(250) 710-8116 Pager 499

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: *Tracey Mehmäl (Lubrication Mechanic)*

Wage Delegate Chair: *Geoff Dawe (Power Engineer P&R)*
(250) 526-2911 Mill Phone# 6562 (C Crew)

Inside Guard/Trustee: *Sean Tutte (Machine Room)*
(250) 246-0373 Mill Phone# 6623 (C Crew)

Outside Guard/Trustee: *Keith Malvena (Machine Room)*
(250) 701-6691 Mill Phone# 6766 (D Crew)





The History of the PPWC Chapter 4 Continued

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The History of the PPWC by Jim White Chapter 5 to be continued in the next Two's News



Your responsibilities as an employee regarding the COVID-19

Your responsibilities as an employee

You have the responsibility to inform yourself by consulting information provided by health authorities and by their employer, such as [2019 novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Outbreak update](#). You are responsible for following your management's directions regarding reporting to work and workplace health procedures in the context of the COVID-19.

Section 126 of the *Canada Labour Code* outlines reasonable expectations for all employees **regardless of their position in the organization**. Your duties include, among others:

- using safety equipment provided to you
- complying with all instructions from the employer concerning the health and safety of employees
- cooperating with any person carrying out a duty set out in the *Code*

If you have [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (fever, cough, and difficulty breathing), you should inform your manager, go home if in the office, and follow the advice of local public health authorities. To avoid spreading the virus to colleagues and clients, if you have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, and difficulty breathing), you have a duty to isolate as per direction by public health officials and to stay at home as long as you present symptoms or as long as directed by your local public health authority.

Employees must also report to the employer any circumstance in a workplace that is likely to be hazardous to the health or safety of employees or others in the workplace. This includes reporting their own potential exposure to COVID-19 that caused or is likely to cause illness to the employee or to any other person.

If an employee has symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19 in the workplace

These guidelines are provided for departments and agencies, however they should be adapted to the workplace reality of each organization.

- consult the relevant public health authority in order to obtain guidance on next steps
- if the employee is/was in the workplace and it is confirmed by a health care provider that the employee is/was infected with the COVID-19, under the *Canada Labour Code*, this would constitute a workplace hazard
- contact your Human Resources team. They should share information with other departments that could be co-located in the same building
- contact the [National Service Call Centre](#) at Public Services and Procurement Canada to ensure that the affected areas are cleaned as per their protocol
- inform local bargaining agents that an employee who was recently in the workplace has symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 and inform them of the steps taken and the plan of action moving forward
- determine whether or not to inform your employees of the situation and the direction they need to take
- depending on the size of the organization it may only be necessary to inform other employees who would have come in direct contact with the infected employee. Or, it may be necessary to inform all employees. These decisions should be made by consulting your Departmental Labour relations and Occupational Health and Safety coordinators
- regardless of who you decide to inform, keep them updated if information changes
- report in via the COVID-19 tracking tool



LOOKING BACK *Crofton Mill 1960's*



Above: Construction of power house 1963

Below: #1 pulp machine 1965





PPWC Local 2 Notice of Election



VOTE via ppwc2.simplyvoting.com

START

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

9:00 AM

END

Monday, December 7, 2020

11:59 PM

VOTE for WAGE DELEGATES

OPERATIONS – 2 to be elected

Jeremy Johnson (Power & Recovery)

Matt Waldron (Bleach plant)

Jonathan Beam (Power & Recovery)

Lynn Lindeman (Weir Attendant)

MAINTENANCE – 2 to be elected

Steve Landygo (Lubrication Mechanic)

Maxxwell Murai (Welder)

Don Pearson (Millwright)

If you are not on the email list please contact the union office
admin@ppwclocal2

or
250-246-9272

You will not be able to vote if you are not on the unions email list



The 19th Annual Joseph Mairs Memorial

‘What We Must Demand-Covid or No Covid’

The Joseph Mairs Memorial Committee welcomes everyone to the 19th Annual

Joseph Mairs Memorial. We will begin at 1 pm Sunday January 24th, 2021. Though we wish it were otherwise we must do things differently this year.

As a result of concerns around Covid and distancing etc., we have decided to hold the memorial at the graveside of Joseph Mairs which is located in the Ladysmith Cemetery at 4th Avenue and Christie Road.

Please gather at the parking lot of St Mary’s Church Hall, 1135 4th Avenue in Ladysmith at 1 pm if you wish to march with our piper to the graveside. Or if you prefer, meet us at the cemetery.

It will be a shorter event and though we will dispense with a keynote speaker, we will welcome a few of our regulars to say a few words and encourage our participants to speak briefly if they wish.

Come and join with other working people to honour Our Labour Martyr, Joseph Mairs.

As always, our general theme for the day is ‘Our Common Condition’. Our theme this year will be ‘What We Must Demand – Covid or no Covid’

Please contribute to our day by bringing flowers for the cairn from individuals, families or organisations.

As always, we welcome interest from media.

Joseph Mairs was a trade unionist and a coal miner. He died in 1914, a month short of his 22nd birthday, after being arrested by government troops during the Occupation of Ladysmith.

This struggle which coal miners on Vancouver Island waged was for the eight- hour day, health and safety regulations and union recognition. Joseph rests in the Ladysmith Cemetery beneath a cairn his fellow miners erected in his honour with the inspiring inscription:

“A Martyr to a Noble Cause - The Emancipation of His Fellow Men”.

Eden Haythornthwaite 250-709-7975/250-748-3274
haythornthwaite@shaw.ca



Joint Wage Caucus Report

November 23rd to November 27th/2020

Well I would be lying if I didn't tell you all how frustrating I thought some of these meetings were, but like Geoff Dawe said in his report these meetings are "*very preliminary*". That being said I volunteered myself to be apart of the Hours of Work and Time Off Committee. On the first day we broke off into our committees where I debated and sometimes argued with certain members of other PPWC locals and Unifor. We discussed and debated on items that we either wanted to see be apart of the main wage agenda or on items that we wanted to see be removed from the agenda. Some of the topics we discussed will be apart of Bill 8 so we tabled them for the next Joint Wage Caucus on March 5th, 2021. Other items such as double time for working OT on Sundays instead of a Sunday letter and banking of OT were heavily debated.

On day 2 we broke off into our committees again to go through what we removed and what we added to our agenda that was to be brought forth to the Joint Wage Caucus. After a little more debate we came up with a list of our wants just like the other committees, and presented this to the main wage caucus. The next three days were filled with debate between all PPWC locals and Unifor Locals about what should be apart of the main wage agenda and what shouldn't be. This is where I was frustrated as certain members of Unifor I felt were grand standing as debates went on about items to include on the main wage agenda.

On day 4. I had to start the meeting earlier than most as I had to cover issues with Job Evaluation as I am the Job Evaluation Officer for PPWC National as well. In this meeting we discussed how crane operators should be apart of trades since they need to be red sealed, and how the yard crew at the Canfor mill in Prince George should be part of production so their jobs can be evaluated. The rest of the day was back in the Joint Wage Caucus discussing what we could agree upon. Not an easy task but I got through it.

After day 5 was completed I felt Geoff Dawe, Steve Landygo and Maxx Murai did a good job representing our local. All 4 of us didn't have much experience, but we made our points known regardless. I know all 4 of us have your best interests at heart and we will continue to have the interests of this local to be known at the next meetings in March. These negotiations for a new contract are going to be a fight. Something I am willing to do if you are. We all need to step up and be a bigger part of our membership. Be vocal, ask questions but mostly respect and care about each other. If we don't go into this together in solidarity nothing good will come of it. Being a bigger part of this local also means to vote. On December 1st to December 7th/2020 vote for the person you want as a wage delegate.

As President I have made the decision not to run as a wage delegate but I will be apart of every meeting. I also have NEB meetings December 2nd and 3rd. I will report on that at the December GM.

In Solidarity
Chris Wiplinger
President
PPWC Local 2

**TOGETHER WE STAND
DIVIDED WE FALL**



Joint Wage Caucus, November 2020

During the week of November 23-27th, I had the privilege to attend our Joint Wage Caucus as a delegate for PPWC Local 2. As you all know, it is an event hosted by both PPWC and Unifor on behalf of the Pulp and Paper Industry workers in British Columbia and one local in Alberta. I saw many familiar faces from past caucuses, as well as some new ones. This was the last one to be attended by both Gary Jackson of Unifor Local 1, and Bill Spence of Unifor Local 76, two long-time stalwarts from Powell River, and we thank them for their contributions. However, this was not done in person but via Zoom Conferencing, and after some initial kinks, I have to say, it was a success.

We went over the agenda on Monday as a whole, then as usual, we broke off into our separate committees beginning Tuesday to decide what was to remain on the agenda for our next Caucus in March. I had the honour of Chairing our committee on Job Security and Apprenticeships, which in todays world, was a rather poignant item. With the state of our industry the way it is, in a constant flux, we had members on the committee that the Job Security (and Elimination) language could significantly impact. I learnt that our Sisters and Brothers in Unifor Local 1092 in Mackenzie, have no contract language stipulating the payment of severance after (1) year down as we at PPWC Local 2 do, and have been in a state of limbo since Paper Excellence decided to indefinitely curtail their mill. We decided as a committee that this needs to change, as many of us have preventative language in our Agreements that hold our employers to pay up after they kill our jobs. We elected to keep this item on the agenda, as well as a few other less consequential items we were tasked to deal with. We want all our members to enjoy the same protection from the indecisiveness of our corporate taskmasters, caucus wide.

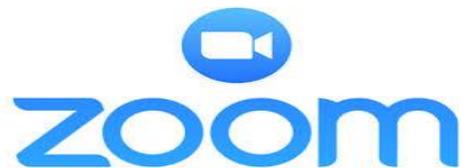
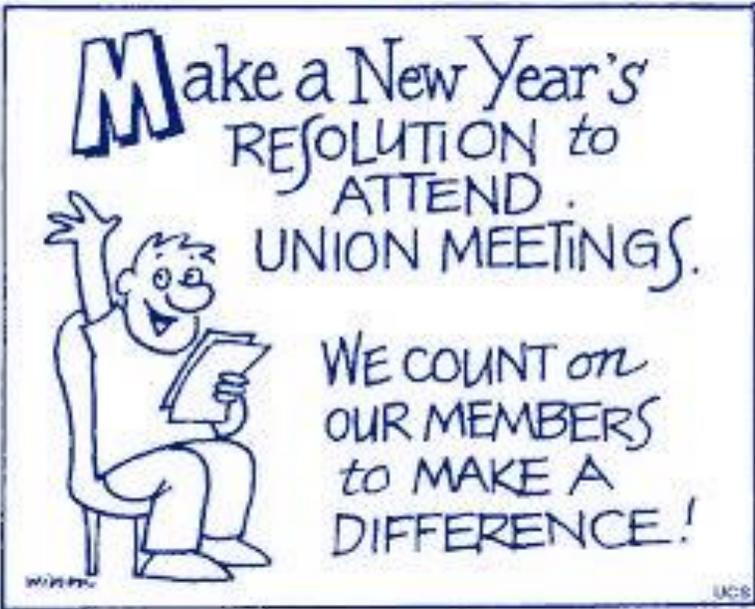
We reconvened on Wednesday to hash out all our items as a caucus and as always there was good debate amongst all. We had some items sent back to committee and sent up to the “Head Table” for review, but all said and done, by Friday afternoon when we completed it had gone well. A lot of items we discussed will be affected by Bill 8 directly, so we tabled some discussion until our next Caucus in March, one that I again hope to have the privilege to attend.

In summary, with the global pandemic, and roller coaster ride of the global Pulp and Paper Industry, we have a lot of items that we need to address as Unions. We are seeing the situation being taken advantage of by companies like Paper Excellence, using it all as an excuse to bully us into submission and treat our collective agreements like toilet paper. In May, we have an opportunity to bring them down off their high horses, and I say, lets do it. We have seen the effects of this on our paper machines at Crofton and Powell River, at the pulp mill in Mackenzie, and in the more recent past, at Port Alice and Elk Falls, and many other long forgotten pulp and paper mills throughout British Columbia. Let us keep this industry alive, keep our members working (and paid), and let us do it through negotiation. We know it can be done.

In Pride and Solidarity,
Maxx Murai
Wage Delegate
PPWC Local 2



In the work place, we are all we really have.



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS THROUGH ZOOM
6:30PM STARTS**

DECEMBER 21st /2020

JANUARY 18th /2021

FEBRUARY 15th/2021

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