

leaflet

PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA

Local 16 is on strike for fair wages

ROCKTENN AND PPWC Local 16 were not able to bring the collective bargaining process to a successful conclusion. Wages and term ultimately formed the stumbling blocks that have led to the

Local having to make the decision to strike.

We encourage any and all to support this group of dedicated workers. They deserve better than what has been proposed by management.



side in

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"At times my father carried an 18" piece of steel pipe under the driver's seat of our '61 Volkswagen, 'just in case'."

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES OF MY FATHER'S PAST

Just a short note to say how much I enjoyed reading the "early history" of the PPWC as it appears on your website.

I recall as a youngster learning my A,B,C's but it was always the letters IBPS&PMW (International Brotherhood of Pulp Sulfide & Paper Mill Workers) and hearing my father (Gordie Carlson) along with Bill Cox and Angus Macphee all sitting around my mother's kitchen table in Duncan talking shop.

At times my father carried an 18" piece of steel pipe under the driver's seat of our '61 Volkswagen, "just in case". It was not always clear sailing.

Some years later I wrote a paper for my economic history course at UVic, and Angus Macphee and others contributed heavily to that paper (sorry I no longer have a copy).

I have the industry and companies like the former BCFP to thank for my education.

At the time BCFP had an unwritten rule that they would provide summer

employment for any sons of employees attending post-secondary schools, and I worked extensively at Crofton for several summers and at Christmas.

Tom G. Carlson
DELTA

BURSARY RECIPIENT APPRECIATES GENEROUS SUPPORT

I am honored to be a recipient of the PPWC Angus Macphee Memorial Bursary. Your generous support will help me reach my goal of obtaining a degree in Health Science – Biomedical Studies and pursue a career as a medical professional in the North.

I was born and raised in Prince George, British Columbia. After graduation from high school, I took the opportunity to attend the University of Northern British Columbia. I have always been interested in science and medicine, which led to my enrollment in Biomedical Studies. My first three years have been challenging yet exciting, and academically I am off to a great start in my post-secondary education.

Attending university has opened up many opportunities for my future,

all of which I am very thankful for. Upon completion of my undergraduate degree at UNBC, I plan to enroll in a Master's of Occupational Therapy program. I hope that one day my dedication and hard work will have great

benefit to the medical world.

Once again, I offer my sincerest thanks for your support. It has helped my goals become far more attainable.

Kristi Hurrie
PRINCE GEORGE

STUDENTS RECEIVE BURSARIES



Gary Fiege (r), Local 2's President, presents Tristan Douglas, son of Local 2 member N. Grant Douglas, PPWC's Orville Braaten Memorial Bursary



Mike Scott (l), Local 15's President, presents CCU's Madeleine Parent Memorial Bursary to Bradley Tipper, son of Local 15 member Todd Tipper

What is the real cost?

BY RON RICHARDSON LEAFLET EDITOR

AS WE HAVE SEEN in the news in the past few months, there has been a real hit on the common worker.

The most recent incident was the collapse of the factory in Bangladesh. This incident just goes to show us that the labourer is not as important as the almighty dollar.

The way I look at it is that, even though the building owner is guilty of negligence, the people who own the name brands that produce these clothes and the people who wear the clothes are just as much to blame as the building owner.

It really comes down to the consumer who demands their clothes at a cheaper price. When the consumer demands to have their clothes cheap, it becomes a downward slide. The store needs to get these clothes cheap so the garment supplier goes and finds the cheapest labourers they can find. After they find the cheap labourers, then they have to find a building with cheap rent. Usually this means the building is rundown and in disrepair. This usually ends up with the factory workers suffering.

The other thing that chaps my ass is this temporary foreign worker issue.

When a company lays off their employees and hires people from other countries to do the same job, and says they are training them so that these workers can do the jobs when they move the company to that country, I say "Bull". All they are doing is exploiting these foreign workers so they can get cheap labour and add to the poverty of these countries.

The other part of all this foreign worker program is that it is taking jobs away from people who already live in this country. They are always complaining there are not enough skilled workers in this country. Well, it makes sense to me to train the people in this country who are looking for work.

All you ever hear in the news is that there are no skilled tradespeople available, and we can get people

for these jobs from other countries. Well, I do believe there are a percentage of unemployed people out there who would disagree. With all the mills closing down and other industries doing the same, there are skilled workers chomping at the bit looking for a place to ply their trade.

In 2002 the BC Liberal government droppped the employer-assisted apprenticeship program, which made it easy for employees who already work for these companies to get an apprenticeship and stay with these companies for the long term. It also made it easier for the employer to pay for these employees to get these apprenticeships because the government would help pay for the courses and also pay for part of the wages during the time the apprentice was in school.

The other avenue the companies have is our high schools. There are a lot of young men and women in these schools who would be interested in these jobs. All they need is a foot in the door. If an entry-level job was offered to them, and the company was willing to commit

to helping to get their apprenticeships, I am pretty sure there would be some pretty happy employees.

I think if the government would just take the blinders off and stop listening to the corporations and just look at what is available out there in this great country of ours, they would see there is already a workforce ready and able to work. But until the government gets a backbone and stands up to these corporations, then there is going to be high unemployment and foreign workers coming to work cheap.

THEY ARE ALWAYS COMPLAINING THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SKILLED WORKERS IN THIS COUNTRY. WELL, IT MAKES SENSE TO ME TO TRAIN THE PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY...

PPWC celebrates 50th anniversary

Members from all Locals assemble in Cranbrook for convention and labour school

THE ANNUAL PPWC convention is an event symbolic of our organization: democratic, participatory, independent, and always looking to the future while remembering our proud roots.

This defines the 51st Annual PPWC convention, held in Cranbrook, on the half century anniversary of the founding of our union. Local 15 should be congratulated for being gracious hosts.

The issue of workers' rights was brought to the forefront at the labour school, where Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) President Joanie Cameron Pritchett and Vice-President John Hanrahan discussed the struggles taking place by unions and workers around the world.



Sitting at the head table of this year's convention are PPWC National officers (l to r) Wayne Warawa, Occupational Health and Safety Officer; Stuart Blundell, Environmental Officer; Bonnie Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer; Chris Elias, President; Frank Robertson, First Vice-President; Gerald de Jong, Second Vice-President; and Arnold Bercov, Forest Resource Officer

Unknown to many Canadians, millions of workers around the world risk their lives to gain the basic rights we enjoy in Canada today. Hanrahan had no trouble convincing delegates that standing in solidarity with workers everywhere is vital to extending those

rights throughout the globe and protecting them here at home.

Another highlight of the labour school was a comprehensive, day-long seminar by Will Clements and Chris Misura, labour and human rights lawyers from the firm of Glavin Gordon Clements. Will and Chris spoke about concepts and emerging trends in labour law, two vitally important issues overlooked by many unions.

Employers have used the courts to stack the deck against unions for far too long, and the consensus from



At labour school prior to convention Will Clements (left) and Chris Misura present seminar about concepts and emerging trends in labour law

the seminar is that workers must become labour law experts in their own right to better prepare themselves against attacks by employers.

Those attending convention were also provided a tour of the Skookumchuck pulp mill. Delegates who work outside the pulp and paper industry, as well as convention guests, found the tour particularly interesting. For some, it was their first time inside a mill, or an industrial factory of any kind. Tour guides discussed the day-to-day schedules of workers, health and safety issues, foreign competition in the pulp and paper industry, and how the PPWC is leading the effort towards more environmentally-friendly industrial practices.

The convention opened with a talk by Dr. Margo Watt, a psychology professor from St. Francis Xavier University. Margo discussed the issues of fear and anxiety, and how they affect the manner in which unions are seen by members and non-union members alike in the media and mainstream society.

Peppered with humour and colourful anecdotes, the delegates took well to the presentation and quickly found common cause with Margo, especially when reminding us of the struggles faced in convincing friends

and family alike that unions are in immense benefit to working people and play a positive role in the economy.

PRESIDENT Chris Elias (Local 26) talked about educational courses organized throughout the year, discussed position papers she contributed to, and warned about the recent attacks on workers' rights and unions by the federal government.

This includes legislation like Bill C-377, which will radically increase administration costs for unions, especially medium-sized, independent ones like the PPWC.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Frank Robertson (Local 9) spoke about the negotiations during the past year, specifically the pattern bargaining of various mills and that of other certifications. Frank discussed the importance of having younger people involved with the PPWC. Considering the challenges faced by the labour movement in the coming years, increasing the number of active young people in the union is vital to our strength and continued growth.



Dr. Margo Watt opens convention with a talk about the issues of fear and anxiety

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT Gerald de Jong (Local 8) discussed various political issues and how the PPWC took part in activities throughout the year. With pride, he energetically spoke about our union organizing several key events, including the Stop the Enbridge Pipeline rally in Victoria and various Ban Raw Log Exports demonstrations on Vancouver Island.

Gerald also discussed his involvement in organizing the Pinnacle pellet plant that lies between Quesnel and Prince George.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER Stuart Blundell (Local 9) spoke about the PPWC Environmental/Forestry Seminar held in May 2012. He discussed the importance of sustainable development.

Stuart attended various conferences, such as the Natural Resources in BC Conference and the 5th International Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition in



Credentials Committee member Mark Berkhiem of Local 15 signs in Local 8 delegate Mike Federici

Prince George. He also discussed the letter of opposition prepared by him and President Elias, which spoke out against the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project.

Stuart ended his report on a lighter note, talking about a household product containing titanium dioxide that could possibly counteract climate change.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER Wayne Warawa (Local 2) discussed his participation in various conferences and seminars on the issue on health and safety during the past year. Wayne mentioned the success of the inaugural Health and Welfare Conference.

FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER Arnold Bercov (Local 8) discussed the environmental/forestry paper, "Here's What Needs to be done to Save Forestry in BC". Written with assistance from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, the paper was later submitted to the Vancouver Sun by President Elias. Arnold also spoke on the timber supply review, the Stop Log Exports rally in Victoria, and meetings he organized with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada.

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CONVENTION

continued from page 5

LEAFLET EDITOR Ron Richardson (Local 9) gave a short report on the challenges of being the editor.

INVITED GUESTS CCU President Joanie Cameron Pritchett and Vice-President John Hanrahan addressed convention about the activities and projects

**John Hanrahan,
Vice-President of
Confederation of
Canadian Unions**



of the labour association. The CCU includes almost 8,000 members and four affiliated unions throughout the country, including some PPWC locals.

Working people understand well that utilizing social media and outreach to promote events and issues are vital to defending the political and economic positions of unions. Joanie touched on how the CCU is going about that, and how the association has worked with social activists and other progressive organizations to fight for important causes.

Joanie also discussed the significance of unions and workers, wherever they're from, to join together during tough times to protect and extend the gains we have won through years of struggle.

As John Hanrahan reminded delegates throughout the week, the term "solidarity" isn't just a cliché. It is a fundamental component of any labour movement wishing to protect the interest of workers, especially during times of austerity.

The convention also welcomed Jan Noster, President of the Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers Union (CMAW). Delegates were more than impressed when he spoke passionately about how not once, but twice, his union broke away from larger unions to become an independent, much like the PPWC. Jan finished his speech with a raised, clenched fist and received a standing ovation from the delegates.

Norma Blissett, the NDP candidate for Kootenay East, discussed the upcoming provincial election and

what she and her party are prepared to do for BC after they are elected. The NDP is well ahead of the Liberals in opinion polls, and unions throughout the province are hoping that an NDP government will stick to its promises and create an environment where workers, and the issues we care about, are placed at the top of the agenda.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

All positions were filled by acclamation.

- President: Arnold Bercov (Local 8)
- Second Vice-President: Mike Broadbent (Local 18)
- Environmental Officer: Stuart Blundell (Local 9)
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer: Wayne Warawa (Local 2)
- Forest Resource Officer: Steve Miros (Local 1)

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

- Leaflet Editor: Ron Richardson (Local 9)
- Tabulating Committee: Chris Fabbro (Local 16), Les Hillier (Local 8), and Travis McLean (Local 5)
- Tabulating Committee Alternate: Dave Lambert (Local 2)
- Audit Committee: Mike Conci (Local 1), Gary Fiege (Local 2), and Dave Seright (Local 18)
- Audit Committee Alternate: Travis McLean (Local 5)



THANK YOU to Local 15 for hosting this 50th anniversary convention. The 2014 convention will be hosted by Local 2 Crofton.

History shows us that even when facing challenges, there isn't anything people can't do when they work together for a common cause. That's what the labour movement has always been about, and what the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada will always stand for.

Here's to another successful year ahead.



JEREMY CHRISTENSEN

MY NAME IS Jeremy Christensen and I am in my third term as the First Vice-President of Local 15 in Skookumchuck. I live in beautiful Kimberley, BC, with my fiancé and our three kids. In addition to being the Chair of the Standing Committee, I also serve on the following: OH&S Committee, Social Committee, CCU convention delegate, convention delegate, wage delegate and am a shop steward. Prior to becoming First Vice-President I was the Recording Secretary for one and a half terms. I have also previously served on the Health and Welfare Committee.

I continually strive to find ways to better myself and find more effective ways to serve my membership. I believe serving in a National capacity is the next logical step for me. My strengths and interests are what pushed me towards running for the Health and Welfare Trust. It is imperative that we find ways to control costs while ensuring that our members receive the quality and timely care they deserve. I believe I can provide a fresh perspective to the Trust while upholding the core beliefs of the PPWC.

Thank you all for your consideration.



WAYNE WARAWA

ALL OUR UNION positions are filled by people off the floor: from National President to Environmental Committee member we are the union. I want to thank you for participating in unionism by reading these bios and voting.

I am an empty nester with Donna, my life partner of 35 years. Together we raised two girls who are our pride and joy. Like most of you I worked to support our family. Now I am glad to have the health and interest to give something back through the union.

I have worked at Catalyst Crofton for 23 years, including a nine-month layoff in 2009-10. In Local 2 I have held positions as Shop Steward, Health and Welfare Chair, Occupational Health and Safety Rep, Inside Guard, WCB Rep, and Executive Board member. I was elected for National Occupational Health and Safety Officer in 2007, making me responsible for the PPWC Safety Conference with a host local, the Joint Industry Safety Conference (Planning Committee), WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar, and Health and Welfare Conference. At a Local's request, I will provide com-

mittee-level training for safety, health and welfare, and WCB appeals for the Local. I am also doing various WCB appeals for Locals 2, 8 and 18.

My first year in the National office I had help from Local 8's Safety Chair for the PPWC Safety Conference. In 2008 Harmac Pacific went bankrupt so the company was not able to put on the Joint Safety Conference. There was no help from management to create a theme; book speakers, hotel facilities, rooms, a banquet; arrange workshops and everything else required in having a Joint Union-Management Safety Conference. That experience let me know what it's like to be "over your head". When those conferences were complete I resolved not to expand my union duties until I was confident in all my National responsibilities. When this Health and Welfare Trustee position became available I was more than ready for it. I am confident my history and experience will be of benefit to the Health and Welfare Trust.

Thanks again for your interest in our union activities, and I hope you can support me in this election.

Voting took place April 22-May 6, 2013. Wayne Warawa was elected.

What's new in your local? Write to your union. Keep us all in the know. Contact richardsonron6@gmail.com.

LOCAL 26

CASTLEGAR

Bargaining is not until Fall

Our contract ended on Dec. 31/12. We learned the ministry set aside a 1 per cent increase in recognition of our patience over the last few years, and that anything else would have to come as a savings from the college.

Our bargaining team has met a couple of times and has done some preparation.

Bargaining has not yet begun, due to everyone's schedule, and it has been difficult to come together. It's looking like bargaining will not likely get started until early Fall.

NADYA SOFONOFF
NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 2

CROFTON

Shop stewards are ready to go

The company has sold Powell River Energy, and we as a Local are in line to receive \$1.2 to \$1.3 million for the concessions we gave up (3.5¢ on the dollar).

The company is trying almost anything to get people to be part of the "team" again (aside from wages); they want to engage us, etc.

The company now is at the realization that it will have to grow the tradesmen from within, and we now have 13 apprenticeships on the go. We have room for many more.

Frank came over and put on a shop steward course for us that was well received and attended. We want to put on more training as we feel we need to educate our younger members. To this value we as unions bring to the table.

The company is finally investing in the "hard" assets of the mill. Now if we can only get them to see the value of "people" and invest in them.

Many of the Local and executive are getting tired of beating our heads against the wall in respect to getting back to main wage and now want to work to make our mill better within the confines of our sub-standard collective agreement.

GARY FIEGE, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 15

KIMBERLEY

Skookumchuck Pulp Mill is sold

Local 15 ratified our collective agreement on Dec. 22/12. The membership voted 82 per cent in favour. Thank you to Frank Robertson for helping us get through our 90-point agenda.

We continue to lose steam plant operators to the oil sands. We have lost 109 years of experience.

After many years of our members bringing up dust concerns in the mill, the company has announced and posted three new cleanup positions for chip handling and hog. It took bringing in WCB and third parties, but now there is a step being made towards improv-

ing our workplace. There was also a bid for a six-month trial for a steam plant trainer position. Two members bid on it. The question is: can the steam plant afford to lose another man at the panel?

MICHAEL SCOTT, NEB MEMBER

Michael Scott represents Local 15 at convention



LOCAL 1

CASTLEGAR

Company hires new employees

In 2012 the pulp we produced was 98.5 per cent on grade with no customer complaints and we had no effluent violations (first time ever).

In our management's quest to control fixed costs, they now are hiring up to 10 new employees into our relief pool. They will not guarantee them a 40-hour work week but rather train them in multiple departments and keep them on call.

Management also informed us there would be no 12-hour shifts for maintenance in this year's mill shutdown. They have decided to work maintenance and contractors 10-hour shifts, avoiding any bank time. We will see how all this plays out.

Management has decided to take on 10 summer students for the last two months of summer.

NEIL BERMEL, NEB MEMBER

BMW filters contain Canfor Pulp products

WITH THE recent addition of our new certification, Pinnacle Pellet, Local 9 has now surpassed the 700-member mark with 723 members.

An approval for expenditures has been submitted to the Canfor board for a new stand-alone turbo generator that will double power production at Intercon to 35 mW. Just waiting on final approval from BC Hydro. Once this project and the one for Northwood are complete, Canfor Pulp will be a net exporter of power at all three facilities to the tune of \$30-35 million a year added to the bottom line. At PG the precipitator will begin construction again as soon as the weather allows. This project was started while the Green Transformation Project money was being spent, but because of cost overruns, it was temporarily halted. All parts are on site.

Canfor Pulp factoid: All new BMWs coming off the line have Canfor Pulp product in their filters.

At Chemtrade the brine treatment project is underway. The foundations are in and the building and machinery are on order.

Pacific BioEnergy is finally making their production totals, as they have made many changes and the fibre they have been running is of higher quality. The company recently changed their RRSP provider. The bad part of this is they did not inform the Local. When the language in the collective agreement was pointed out, they apologized

profusely. The good side of the change is that most of our members are now signed on to the matching program.

At Pinnacle Pellet all of our plant committees are in place. The membership has stepped up and are excited about having a say in their work lives. We held two plant committee meetings this year, and the management and Local 9 committee members have been working very well together. We also held the first membership meeting in Quesnel.

The collective agreement at Esther's Inn is up in July.

The collective agreement at Ainsworth OSB expires in July. The wish books are in the plant, and the bargaining committee will be elected March 19.

On a happier note, we would like to welcome Julie back to the office after a lengthy illness. Her cheerful presence is nice to have back. We would also like to thank Susan, who came back from retirement to bail us out. As always, she went above and beyond as she truly believes in what the PPWC is about.

CHUCK LEBLANC, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 8

NANAIMO

Pulp markets get better

At Harmac we have 258 members right now. We have hired two 4th class power engineers in the steam plant. They have 18 months to get their 3rd class tickets. They hired one new instrument mechanic apprentice to start soon.

The big buzz at Harmac right now is the G4 project and shutdown, which will tie everything together. The G4 project is on time and on budget, we are told. The only major frustration at this point is a delay by Hydro in taking our total power export capacity due to delays in their ability to install upgrades at the Jinglepot substation

until the end of this year.

Safety has improved since my last report thanks to our safety people working very hard to bring safety awareness to the forefront.

At Western Forest Products Ladysmith Sawmill Division we currently have 62 members. The mill is running well, making money. They have hired two more people.

There are 58 members at Western Forest Products Value Added Division. The mill is running two shifts and hired two more people.

There are 48 members at Long Hoh. Everything looks good, accessing more wood.

Canexus has 14 members, which is a full component, and they are getting ready for bargaining this March.

LES HILLIER, NEB MEMBER

John Darling

The manager of a large office noticed a new man one day and told him to come into his office. "What is your name?" was the first thing the manager asked him.

"John," the new guy replied.

The manager scowled, "Look, I don't know what kind of a namby-pamby place you worked at before, but I don't call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my employees by their last name only—Smith, Jones, Baker—that's all. I am to be referred to only as Mr. Robertson. Now that we got that straight, what is your last name?"

The new guy sighed and said, "Darling. My name is John Darling."

"Okay, John, the next thing I want to tell you is..."

- WorkJoke



Business signs

- Pizza shop slogan: "7 days without pizza makes one weak."
- At a tire shop in Milwaukee: "Invite us to your next blowout."
- At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."
- On an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts."
- In a non-smoking area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

- Humor Matters

provincial

WCB seminar is held in Vancouver

On April 23-25, the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada held a Workers' Compensation Board Claims and Appeals Seminar in Vancouver. Members from every Local participated. It was an intense three days of training on the WCB and the entire appeal process.

The seminar was facilitated by Occupational Health and Safety Officer Wayne Warawa and was also presented by lawyers from Rush, Crane and Guenther: Rolf Harris, Janet Patterson and Sarah O'Leary. Also included was a presentation from the Workers' Advisers Office.

The PPWC is deeply committed to labour education, raising awareness, and creating strong health and safety standards to reduce, and one day eliminate, all injuries and deaths on the job.



Members from PPWC Locals participate in WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar

Retirees run in Vancouver marathon



(L) Bill Adair, past president of PPWC Local 2, finishes the Vancouver Marathon on May 5 with a time of 4 hours and 33 minutes



Ken DeEll, a PPWC Local 2 retiree, shows medal he received for completing the Vancouver Half Marathon

Liberal government more than triples raw log exports

THE BC LIBERAL government more than tripled the amount of unprocessed, raw logs leaving the province to foreign mills during their time in office.

From 2002 to 2012, over 47 million cubic metres of raw logs were exported from BC to foreign mills. This contrasts to about 14.8 million cubic metres from 1991 to 2001 under the NDP government.

“The BC Liberals have decimated the province’s forestry workforce through massive raw log exports, industry deregulation, and unsustainable practices. Thirty thousand BC forest workers lost their jobs and over 70 mills were shut down under the BC Liberals, yet they’ve allowed companies to cut at near record levels,” stated Arnold Bercov, national forestry officer of the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada. “Under the BC Liberals, we lost both our forests and our jobs. It’s nuts.”

Conservationists and forestry workers have found common ground in opposing raw log exports and have joined together in numerous rallies and protests over the past decade for sustainable forestry. The BC Liberal government expedited raw log exports by removing the local milling requirements (appurtenancy) that historically tied companies with logging rights on Crown lands to also provide BC milling jobs; by removing vast areas of Tree Farm Licences that once regulated private forest lands on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast; by issuing record numbers of log export permits on Crown lands; by removing log export restrictions from vast regions of BC’s northern coast; and by overruling the recommendations of their own Timber Exports Advisory Committee.

At the same time the BC Liberal government failed to create any regulations or adequate incentives to retool old-growth mills to handle second-growth logs or to develop value-added facilities. “The BC Liberal gov-

ernment has been a failure on both counts: to ensure that BC logs go to BC mills that can process them, and to foster new mills and value-added facilities to handle logs currently without BC processors,” stated Bercov.

At its core, the massive export of raw logs has been driven by a combination of the BC Liberal government’s deregulation of the forest industry and by the industry’s unsustainable depletion of the biggest, best, old-growth trees at the lower elevations.

The overcutting of the prime stands of old-growth red cedars, Douglas firs, and Sitka spruces in the lowlands that historically built the industry. Today, more than 90 per cent of the most productive old-growth forests in the valley bottoms on BC’s southern coast are gone.

“BC’s coastal forest industry, once Canada’s mightiest, is now a remnant of its past.”

Coastal mills generally haven’t been retooled to handle the changing profile of the forest with small trees as the ancient forests in the lowlands have been depleted, with hemlock and Amabilis fir stands constituting most of the remaining old-growth, and maturing stands of Douglas fir, cedar, and hemlocks constituting most of the maturing second-growth stands.

At a critical juncture in 2003, the BC Liberal government removed the local milling requirements, thus allowing tenured logging companies to shut down their mills instead of being forced to retool them to handle the changing forest profile. This allowed the companies to then export the unprocessed logs to foreign companies.

BC’s coastal forest industry, once Canada’s mightiest, is now a remnant of its past. Over the past decade, more than 70 BC mills have closed and over 30,000 forestry jobs lost. As old-growth stands are depleted and harvesting shifts to the second-growth, BC’s forestry jobs are being exported as raw logs to foreign mills due to a failure to retool old-growth mills to handle the smaller second-growth logs and invest in related manufacturing facilities.

*The entire article is available at:
www.ancientforestalliance.org/news.*

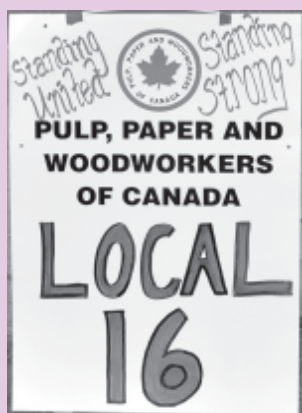
Labour quotes

"For a government to legislate away the power of labour at the negotiating table is simply reckless. It is blatantly designed to tip the balance in favour of the employer."

- Steve Barrett, Member of the Board of Directors, Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights

"Canada's reputation as an international champion of human rights falls appallingly short when it comes to the question of workers' rights. While we are among the first nations to sign international labour conventions, too often we break them when they prove inconvenient at home."

- Ed Broadbent, former Member of Parliament, Past President, Rights and Democracy



"The right to strike is fundamental because it is the only means by which workers have to persuade their employer to reach a deal. Without that leverage collective bargaining becomes meaningless."

- Ed Cavalluzzo, Member of the Board of Directors, Canadian Foundation for Labour Rights

"The failure to protect freedom of association and collective bargaining in Canadian workplaces diminishes our standing as a democracy."

- Elaine Bernard, Executive Director, Harvard University Trade Union Program

Dismissed Just Us! workers file with Labour Board

Three workers at the Just Us! Coffee Shop have filed a new complaint with the province's ministry of labour.

The workers claim they were denied breaks during their shifts at the Spring Garden Road Café. They say it's mandatory for employees to be given breaks if they're working more than five hours.

The allegations come after two other former employees said they were dismissed for trying to unionize. They filed a complaint with the Labour Board in April.

The company has denied the allegations on its Facebook page, writing the store can't say why the two were let go because of privacy laws. Just Us! wrote that the specifics will come out during the Labour Board proceedings.

Corporate greed makes disasters almost inevitable

You see the clothes in stores across our country and around the world: colourful and stylish clothing with happy-sounding brand names like Children's Place, Papaya, Joe Fresh, and Mango. But you don't see the factories where these cheerful garments are made. Nor are we shown the strained faces of the impoverished workers who make them, paid little more than a dollar a day for long, hard shifts.

The April collapse in Bangladesh that killed more than 700 garment workers wasn't an "accident". It was the inevitable result

of a western business model that demands such low prices from off-shore suppliers that worker safety is their dead-last priority. Is there something about clothing factories that makes them disaster magnets? Yes, the massive gravitational pull of corporate greed. Not merely the greed of sleazy factory owners, but most significantly the greed of such "respectable" retailers as Walmart, Benetton, Gap, and H&M.

- Adapted from Straight Goods News

British unions fight privatization of probation services

Public sector unions in the United Kingdom are gearing up to fight the government's attempt to privatize most of the country's probation and parole services.

"According to UNISON, the largest public sector union in the UK, "the government has not taken heed of the overwhelming opposition to its plans to privatize 70 per cent of probation and create a small national probation agency of what is left."

In May, the Ministry of Justice published "Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform", which sets out plans to radically reform the way in which probation services are delivered in England and Wales.

"UNISON will now be gearing up to protect members' interests in the months ahead, as the government tries to implement its plans. More information on this will be made available shortly, once we have fully digested the government's final proposals."

- NUPGE

We must build workers' power across the globe

WORKING people are facing sustained and often brutal attacks on their rights in every region of the world. Inequality and unemployment are hitting record levels, as governments continue to follow the failed and destructive policy of austerity-at-any-cost, and the onslaught against collective bargaining continues. The future of an entire generation of young people is at serious risk.

Corporate greed runs unchecked, costing the lives of thousands of workers, most recently in Bangladesh and Pakistan as factories burn and collapse. Trade unionists in Colombia, Guatemala and elsewhere are paying the ultimate price for their commitment to social justice, while Turkish workers face the heavy hand of judicial repression for standing up for their rights.

The promise of transformation in the Arab world is being betrayed by the replacement of one form of autocracy by another. Decades of social progress in European countries are being wiped out by the untrammelled power of global finance, while people across Africa continue to suffer under neocolonial plunder and corruption.

Discrimination against women at work is still pervasive, while migrant workers are exploited, abused and treated as slaves, even in some of the richest countries of the world.

The spirit of solidarity that inspired the first May Day marches, and has sustained trade unionism ever since, remains strong. It is more needed than at any time in decades. Our movement must grow, to foster and harness that spirit

to counter the false promise of neoliberalism.

We must build workers' power.

Workers everywhere are showing their resilience in the face of model of globalisation designed to benefit the rich at the expense of the poor. Through their unions they are winning new gains for working people. Hundreds thousands of informal workers in India are building their unions, domestic workers across the globe are gaining labour rights for the first time in history, and unions are leading political and community action for development, sustainability and social justice in every part of the world. Where governments turn their backs on working people, unions must organise.

Where company bosses pit worker against worker, unions must organise. We must grow in number and in strength, taking inspiration from those who stand today, and have stood in years gone by, steadfast against repression and the avarice of the few at the expense of the many.

This May Day 2013, we must rededicate ourselves to the enduring vision of the foremothers and forefathers of the greatest democratic power on the planet: the power of working people, united and determined to make the world a better place.

- International Trade Union Confederation

Tunnel collapse was human error

A worker from a mine in West Papua says the tunnel collapse that killed 28 people was caused by human error.

Alex Perrottet reports:

The US-based Freeport McMoRan receives most of its income from one of the world's biggest mines in the remote province of Papua. It reopened the mine last week, but employee and non-member Darmawan Puteranto says it's not good enough to continue operations without a bigger commitment to improving conditions.

He says he is convinced there was human error involved in the collapse. He says workers who sat in the classrooms regularly reported poor conditions and said they could hear rocks falling.

The company has made it clear the accident in the training facility was well away from their production area. But on Friday a truck driver died in a separate incident within the mine area. Mr. Puteranto says pay is also an issue. He says workers at the mine earn a fraction of what colleagues earn overseas, and a tiny portion of the company's profits. But the vice chairman of the Indonesian Mining Association, Tony Wenas, says the comparison is unfair.

PPWC: what an independent union should be

ON BEHALF OF the Confederation of Canadian Unions, I want to thank the PPWC for inviting CCU Vice-President John Hanrahan and me to the 2013 convention in Cranbrook in March. It was an incredible experience for both of us.

It was such a pleasure meeting PPWC rank and file members and activists. Your union has always made such a positive impression on the entire CCU family.

The PPWC is a perfect example of what a labour union should be: democratic, proudly independent, supportive of its roots, and always willing to take on new struggles.

I really appreciated talking to PPWC delegates about the CCU and many of the important initiatives and activities we have taken part in together during the past few years. It shows that, during difficult times, independent unions have to stick together in order to survive and prosper. Workers have certainly faced challenges before, and it was co-operation and solidarity that brought us through.

I want to personally invite every one of you to the CCU Labour School taking place in Vancouver on May 25-26. We have a lot on the agenda, and it will include participation from activists and CCU members from throughout Canada. We hope that as many PPWC members as possible can come out and take part.

The school will feature a workshop on conflict dispute resolution, which is increasingly becoming one of the most critical and influential issues in the labour movement today. For far too long employers have had the upper hand, and it's time that independent unions learn the best practices in order to fight back.

CCU communications consultant Sean Cain will also be in attendance to continue his work on the recruitment video and short documentary he is producing for the PPWC. He really enjoyed speaking to you in Cranbrook about the union, the role each of you play, and where you see the PPWC going in the future.

I understand there's a lot on the agenda for work-

ing people in British Columbia. The election on May 14 is likely to finally rid the province of a government that for more than a decade has placed the needs of corporations above that of working people and their families.

Just like the 2011 federal and 2011 Ontario provincial elections, the CCU is once again launching a voter education drive to better prepare members for the BC election. Called "BC Workers Vote", we have sent questionnaires to the four major parties in the province, focusing on economics, workers' rights, health care, education, resources and the environment, and democracy.



Joanie Cameron Pritchett

When we receive their answers, they will be posted on the PPWC and CCU websites. Feel free to log onto the "BC Workers Vote" page at www.ccu-csc.ca/politics/british-columbia-election to read the questions and responses.

There is so much at stake in this election. Since the Liberals won government in 2001, corporations and the wealthiest income earners have received big tax cuts, supposedly to "create jobs", yet the current unemployment rate is the same as it was since they came to power.

At the same time, social programs like health care and education have suffered. We all remember that appalling story from April 2011, when a New Westminster hospital was forced to use a Tim Horton's shop as a temporary emergency room.

And the PPWC understands more than anyone the damage that raw log and resource exports are doing to communities throughout the province, threatening good-paying jobs and entire industries.

British Columbia deserves better. That is why it is so important that we demand a government that puts jobs, workers' rights and our environment at the top of the agenda.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Vancouver in late May for the CCU Labour School. Hopefully, by then we'll have a government in Victoria that listens to our concerns and gets things done for working people.

Joanie Cameron Pritchett is President of the Confederation of Canadian Unions (www.ccu-csc.ca).

US IMMIGRATION

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Brother Henry Segal, International Treasurer, and John McNiff, Research Director, along with Brother John West, President, Local 708, and Sister Margaret Carter, Secretary, Local 433, met with top immigration officials in Detroit in an attempt to have the brothers admitted, to no avail. Final appeal on the matter has not yet been filed. Some confusion exists at the moment whether any further appeal will be possible.

The barring of the two delegates caused considerable alarm among Canadian delegates to the convention, especially the BC group, who wired Canadian authorities to intercede on their behalf. A number of Canadian delegates expressed their views and thoughts that Bros. Macphee and Braaten were denied entry to the US in order to prevent them from taking their usual active and effective part on the floor of the convention.

It was felt by many Canadian delegates that the two brothers denied entry would have been the most effective delegates to speak from the floor. They felt this had some bearing on them being denied access to the country.

- from Western Pulp and Paper Worker, October, 1962



One of the great struggles of working people and labour unions throughout history has been to reduce working hours. This has been accomplished gradually from a century and a half ago, when the 80-hour work week was common. The achievement of paid vacation for workers has been a century-long

struggle. In Canada, workers are guaranteed two weeks every year, yet PPWC members enjoy longer vacations. Enjoy yours!



PPWC President Chris Elias (second from right) and First Vice-President Frank Robertson (third from left) welcome representatives from Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers (CMAW) to the convention



PRESIDENT

Chris Elias

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Frank Robertson

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Gerald de Jong

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US Immigration bars Canadian delegates from Detroit convention

aCTION BY THE US Immigration authorities at Detroit barred two Canadian Pulp and Sulphite delegates from attending the convention of their International Union. The two delegates barred were Bros. Angus Macphee, Local 708, Prince Rupert, and

Orville Braaten, Local 433, Vancouver Converters.

It is interesting to note the US Immigration authorities had a complete list of all the BC delegates.

The harassment of Canadian delegates as they crossed the border during the first two or three days back east was extensive indeed.

Some of the delegates who stayed in Windsor and commuted daily were stopped every day and questioned then allowed to proceed.

Other delegates spent as much as two hours being questioned before they were allowed entry into the United States.

Brother Macphee was questioned for approximately six hours, mostly concerning his trip to Cuba last year. Brother Braaten was questioned for three hours, mostly concerning his activities as editor of the *Western Pulp and Paper Worker*. Of course, the usual questions were asked: "Are you a member of the Communist Party or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" In both cases, the answer was a truthful "No".

President John P. Burke appealed to Robert F. Kennedy, Attorney General of the United States, to reverse the decision of the local immigration authorities. As the convention ended a week later, no further word had been received from Mr. Kennedy.

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