



PPWC
Public and Private Workers of Canada
Local 2



TWO'S NEWS

SUMMER 2019
PPWC LOCAL 2

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**IS WISHING ALL MEMBERS
A HAPPY CANADA DAY**



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BC'S Operation Solidarity

In 1983, labour and activist organizations alike across the province, including unions, environmental, religious, social justice and women's rights groups, came together over the course of several weeks through escalating actions in what would effectively become the largest political protest in BC's history. (Source: BC Labour Heritage Centre)

In the spring of 1983, British Columbians re-elected the Social Credit Party headed by William (Bill) Bennett. Within months of taking office, the "Socreds" introduced an austerity budget along with 26 pieces of radically right-wing legislation that included measures to abolish watchdog agencies, attack collective bargaining rights (especially in the public sector), and cut social services.

Opposition to these brazen austerity measures was widespread and popular. It brought the province's labour movement together with a wide range of social groups, people who relied on social benefits, women, children's advocates, students, people with disabilities and diverse cultural communities, all of whom felt the full impact of the government's attack. Led by the BC Federation of Labour (BCFed), unions joined with community organizations to organize a massive public resistance known as "Solidarity".

Marches and rallies took place throughout the province. Thousands took to the streets with calls for a general strike. The mass firing of government workers slated for October 31st triggered a mass protest the following day as the BC Government Employees' Union (BCGEU) and its members walked off the job. This snowballed into a series of escalating job actions as the province's teachers joined the strike the following week with thousands of key public sector workers ready to take to the streets in the days that followed.

Recognizing the rapid escalation of the confrontation, the leadership of the BCFed applied the brakes rather than risk an all-out confrontation with the government. Rather than risk the introduction of repressive back-to-work legislation and spreading the work action into the private sector – where there was a risk workers would not join a general strike – they opened a dialogue with the government. On Sunday, November 13, 1983, IWA President Jack Munro met with Premier Bennett and reached a truce, ending the biggest popular protest movement BC has ever seen.

The mass mobilization of "Solidarity" was the start of the fight back against government austerity policies in Canada. Coming together as they did, out of a shared sense of oppression, a sense of unity and common cause developed among the labour, social and civil movements. Yes, there were hard feelings and recriminations in the days that followed labour's deal to end the protests but they were not enough to smother the sparks of solidarity that resulted in their coming together.

Indeed, many of the key social and political advances made in Canada came about through the solidarity of the labour movement working in common cause with others. To list a few: Medicare, paid maternity leave, legal recognition of same-sex relationships, expansions to the Canada Pension Plan and improvements to Old Age Security, paid leave for victims of domestic abuse, and – in the near future, a National Pharmacare Plan.

Solidarity... Forever!



Good day from Winnipeg, I was attending the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) meetings on Friday, Saturday and Sunday held June 21st – 23rd on the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, more about that later. The resolutions committee met on Friday, followed by labour school on Saturday and the Executive Board meeting on Sunday.

The Saturday labour school dealing with the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike began Friday night, 100 years to the day from “Bloody Saturday”. Twenty-four of the affiliate members attending the board meeting boarded a bus and headed out to the Rainbow Stage for the musical “Strike! The Musical”.

This show was a great introduction of the history we would learn the next day.

The 1919 General Strike was the product of decades of struggle, since 1870 craft and skilled workers, mostly men at that time, created the first unions. These unions were based on a trade or skill. The idea of a Trade Union covering every worker at a site was one of the aims of these groups. In the prewar years many workers led strikes over union recognition, wages, hours of work and health and safety issues. These are the fights which continue today. The War Measures Act of 1914 curtails many Union rights. There was much unrest in 1918; with the war over returning soldiers demanded changes. In 1918 workers managed to increase wages and to confirm the right to strike. Management were not happy with this outcome. This was the setup for the 1919 General strike.

On May 1st Building Trades and Metal Trades Councils went on strike over union recognition, wages and working conditions. The Winnipeg Labour and Trades Council held a vote which resulted in overwhelming support of a sympathetic general strike. On May 15th the first workers to walk off the job were the “Hello Girls” the Manitoba Telephone Operators, this effectively curtailed the only form of mass communication at the time. They were swiftly followed by 10,000 unionized and 20,000 nonunionized workers. This ethnically mixed group contained Canadians, English, Scottish, Irish, Ukrainian, German, Polish, Icelandic and Russian workers. The Companies and the Government feared this show of solidarity on the workers part. They were determined to crush this strike and predicted a quick and violent end.

○ **May 16th the business elites formed the anti-strike Citizens**



Looking Back

DOH CANADA

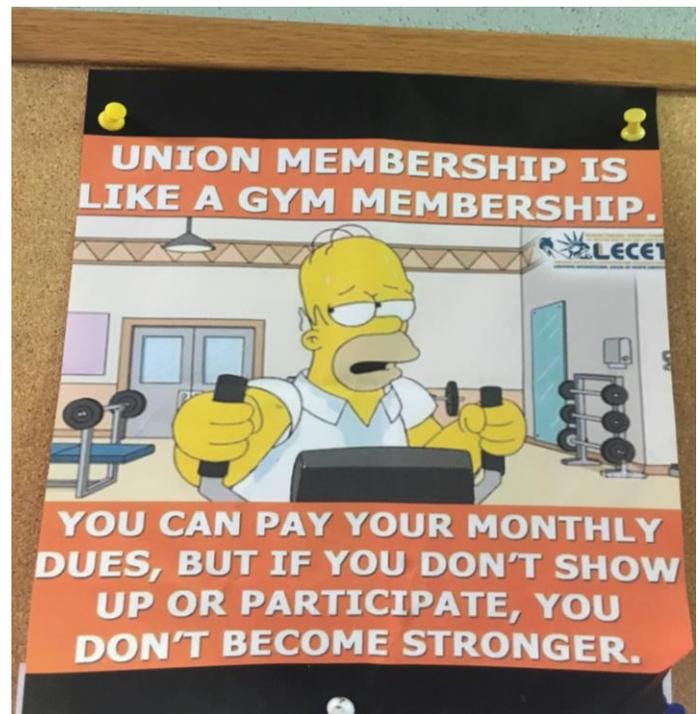
1996 – 2006 – Under successive Liberal governments, the reduced ability of unemployed workers to qualify for EI benefits builds up a massive surplus of \$57-billion. Rather than save the money for future employment needs, the money is taken out of the fund, and used to balance federal budgets that offer substantive tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy.

2008 – Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Conservative government establishes a new Board to govern Employment Insurance financing (Canadian Employment Insurance Financing Board), wipes out the \$57B “borrowed” by the federal government and reboots the program with only \$2B in EI fund. Unions take the government to court, asking for the \$57B to be repaid, but the Supreme Court sides with federal government. Later that year, the Great Recession hits.

Local 2 Retirements

Gregory Hanes	33 Years
Edward (Ted) Ingham	32 Years
Gerald Lundahl	43 Years
Eugene Maglio	38 Years
Bruce Cavers	33 Years
Les Jenzen	29 Years
Dennis Popplestone	42 Years

Congratulations! Wishing you all the best in your retirement.



WANTED

SOMEONE IN OPERATIONS TO STEP UP AND FILL THE MASTER SHOP STEWARD POSITION FOR OPERATIONS

CONTACT ONE OF OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS IF INTERESTED

STEP UP TO HELP YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS



Ginger Goodwin Day July 26th



Albert "Ginger" Goodwin emigrated from England to Canada in 1906, arriving in Cumberland in the fall of 1910 where he worked as a mule driver in the No. 5 mine. Known by his friends as 'Ginger', Albert was slight, and short, with a shock of red hair. He was quiet, but tough and smart, with a playful sense of humour. At 23, he had already laboured nine years underground, yet was still healthy enough to play soccer, swim, and take his young friend Karl Coe on fishing excursions. It was not long, however, before his health deteriorated.

The conditions for workers in the Cumberland mines were atrocious with the ever-present threat of black lung, explosions, and deadly vapours. Goodwin quickly became known as a union organizer, impassioned speaker, and labour activist fighting for better working conditions for his fellow miners.

Following the Big Strike of 1912 – 1914, Goodwin was one of hundreds blacklisted from the mines due to his union activity. After remaining in Cumberland for a year without work, he found a position as a smelterman in Trail, B.C, where he remained politically active, speaking publicly about socialism and the fight of the working class. In 1917 Goodwin was elected treasurer to the Trade Mill and Smelters Union, and Vice-President of the BC Federation of Labour.

Goodwin was a known Conscientious Objector and anti-war advocate, however it was his ill health caused by life as a miner and smelterman that allowed Goodwin to avoid conscription for WWI. His first prominent act after being declared unfit for active duty was his leadership in a Trail Mill and Smeltermen's Union strike. Eleven days into the strike Goodwin was instructed to appear for conscription re-examination where his status was then changed to 'fit for combat'.

Following a series of un-successful appeals, Goodwin returned to Cumberland in April 1918 to live beyond Comox Lake with a small group of like-minded war resisters. These men were able to survive for months in the wilderness due in large part to the support and generosity of local labour activists and Cumberland businesses who brought food and supplies to their camp.

In July of that year a special force of Dominion police was sent to Cumberland to bring in the draft evaders. One of these officers was Constable Dan Campbell, who tracked, shot, and killed Goodwin at the young age of 31 years.

Although Campbell claimed the shooting of Goodwin was an act of self-defence, the Labour community always considered it to be an act of cold blooded murder; a sentiment that remains to this day.

The shock and anger around Goodwin's death was felt not only in Cumberland, where his funeral procession was over a mile long, but throughout the Province. Goodwin's death sparked Canada's first general strike in Vancouver on August 2, 1918, the day of his burial. This strike was the precursor to the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 – a defining moment in Canadian labour history. Although those who knew Goodwin personally have now passed, his legacy has far from died. Albert Goodwin is honoured each year at a graveside vigil during Miners Memorial,

present

ON JULY 26th JOIN THE PPWC LOCAL 2 IN REMEMBERING THIS GREAT MAN



Health and Welfare

I would like to thank the Executive and the Membership for sending me to the Mental Health Toolkit on May 6 and 7th in Victoria. This course was put on by the BC Federation of Labour and was facilitated by a Social Worker with real time experience on the Downtown East side of Vancouver.

The aim of this course was to extend the concept of First Aid Training to include Mental Health Problems, so that people are empowered to provide better initial support to someone developing a Mental health problem or to who is in a mental health crisis.

This course discussed and taught mental health first aid for substance abuse disorders, mood disorders, anxiety and trauma related disorders and psychotic disorders.

Some statistics from the course:

- In Canada... 1 in 5 will experience some problem with their mental health in a course of one year.
- 23% of workers have experienced physical health problems caused by stress, anxiety or major depression.
- 1 in 5 workers have experienced fatigue, sleeping problems, headaches, and anxiety.
- 20% of all sick leaves are mental health related.
- More people die from suicide than motor Vehicle accidents - 3500-4000 a year.
- The world health organization anticipates that depression will be the leading cause of disability for all people in developed countries by 2020.

The Course broke down Mental Health issues and gave each participant steps to follow in offering Mental Health first aid.

When you look at our workplace, it is sometimes the case that we are with our co-workers more than with our families, whether you want to be or not. This being the case, if you think someone is struggling with a mental health issue, connect with them don't judge, and help them get professional help like EFAP or contact one of the executive or health and welfare committee. All lives matter – everyone of us. You could be that one connection a person needs. With more awareness people will be able to recognize their own problems or those of others and feel more comfortable about seeking profession help.

If anyone would like to see the training material we were given just give me a shout. Again, thank you for this opportunity.

In Solidarity
Allison Pirie
Health and Welfare

Vancouver Island Counselling

Compassion, Respect, Integrity

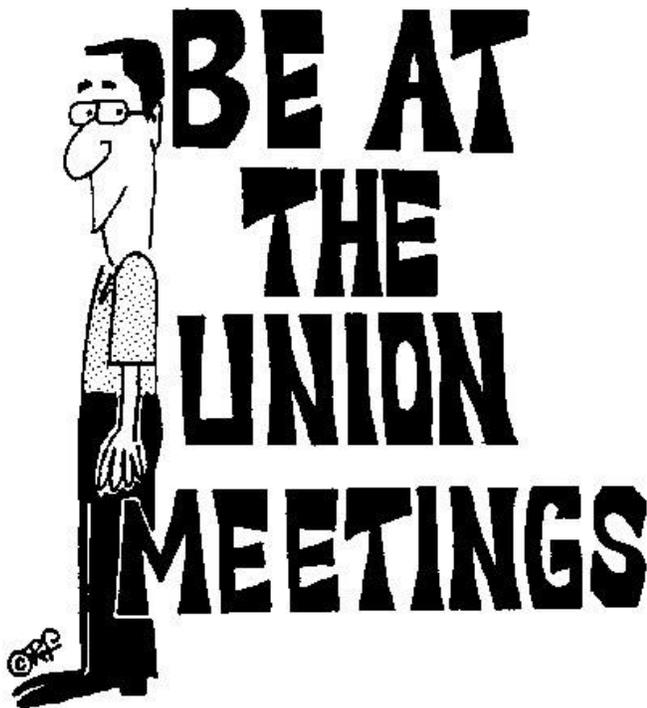
Vancouver Island Counselling is a non-profit society supported by local employers, unions and employee groups. We provide professional counselling to affiliated employees, retirees and eligible family members as part of a workplace benefit.

Duncan: 250-746-6900
Nanaimo: 250-754-8222
Port Alberni: 250-723-7001
Victoria & Lower Mainland: 1-800-746-6911





HAPPY B.C. DAY
AUGUST 5th



JULY 15th 2019
AUGUST 18th 2019
SEPTEMBER 16th 2019
Crofton Community
Center

OPS. 1st VICE

I hope you all are having a good summer so far. I hope you all get some needed time away from the mill this summer to spend with your families.

The good news to report is that we in the PPWC Local 2 have won our arbitration case for operators in power and recovery. This is great news because I thought we had a 50/50 chance. That being said this shows that the system works and can work if we are all willing to do the work that needs to be done. Being apart of the union executive is a lot of work and every one of us are willing to, and have put in our own time, on our own dime, away from our families to make sure we serve you all. I get the frustration a lot of you have with your grievances, but realize there is more going on than just the issues you see individually. The company doesn't like to agree with most of our grievances, so sometimes things take longer than we want them to. Also please, if you are putting in a grievance start with our shop stewards first, and make sure you have all the correct information. Some of you have to stop thinking you can send us into a gun fight with a crayon. If its not in the contract its not grievable, and again please have all the right information.

On the bad. The lake in Lake Cowichan is the lowest I've seen in over 30 years and I am sure the company with orders from BC Fisheries will start using the pumps installed there to start pumping water over the weir very soon. I believe we all need to take a stance to protect our river in the valley by demanding the weir be raised.

In solidarity
Chris Wipplinger
First Vice President (Ops)
PPWC Local 2



Thank you to the membership for sending me to the 2019 PPWC Environmental and Forestry Seminar.

1. **Dean MacKinnon**, PPWC National Environmental Officer and **Glenn Calder**, National Forest Resource Officer were in attendance.

Also present were Environmental and Forestry committee members from our PPWC locals in:

- Local 1 – Mercer Celgar Pulp Mill in Castlegar, B.C.
- Local 2 – Paper Excellence Crofton Pulp & Paper
- Local 8 – Which has 5 certifications; 4 were represented - Western Forest Products' Value-Added Division in Duke Point, Nanaimo
- Local 8 – Long Hoh Sawmill, Qualicum – a Taiwanese-based company that provides <http://www.longhoh.ca/services.htm> beams and lumber with, among the usual housing, door and panel applications, specification focus on Asia Temple Construction, Carving and Exterior Appearance lumber.
- Local 8 – Western Forest Products' Ladysmith Sawmill
- Local 8 – Harmac Pulp Mill
- Local 9 – Prince George Pulp
- Local 15 – Skookumchuck Pulp a Paper Excellence Company

Day 1: The first day had a full slate of interesting speakers.

1. Dean Mackinnon started things off stating that even as individuals need to be educated on how they affect the environment, multinational companies need to have a global awareness of Environmental and Climate Change issues. Environmental practices and industry emissions contribute to the state of the greater global environment.
 - All who have enjoyed a good living from the forest industry should think about giving back in some small way to the forests. E.g. volunteer tree planting, clean up, signing petitions and voicing opinions regarding forest issues.
 - More attention needs to be focused on forest issues and practices to ensure future viability.
 - There are a lot of other businesses who have benefitted indirectly because of the forest industry.
2. The first guest speaker was Dr. Dick Beamish, Emeritus (retired) Scientist from the Pacific Biological Station. He spoke on Climatology and Climate Change; Long Term Climate Trends and how they relate to Pacific Salmon.
3. Then Dr. Johannes Feddema, UVIC Professor; Climatology and Climate Change; Long Term Climate Trends
4. Our third guest was Susan Shaw, Life Coach. Her topics were Time Management and Self-Awareness.
5. The fourth speaker was Dr. Sarah Henderson, UBC Professor, Senior Health Scientist BCCDC.; Pollution Specialist – Air Quality, Water Quality.
6. Next to speak was Chief Bill White of the local Snuneymuxw First Nations Elders Advisory Council.
7. Over the first couple days several of the locals gave reports on environmental and forestry issues that were of concern in their areas. There was interesting information and conversation about the PPWC local environment committees brainstorming to form a letter to the government expressing concern about environmental issues that affect the communities we live in.

Continued next page

Day 2:

3. We heard from Dr. Geoff Strong, Climate Scientist with Environment Canada on Climate Change and Global Warming.
4. Later in the day the group toured the Harmac Pulp mill. The guided tour started with a look at their effluent system and continued through the rest of the mill.

Day 3:

5. We toured the Wildwood Ecoforest in the Yellow Point/Cedar area. Wildwood Ecoforest is managed by the Ecoforestry Institute Society (EIS). The mission of EIS is to foster the development of a forest management system which values, protects and promotes ecological integrity, community vitality and economic opportunity. Ecoforestry practices maintain intact forest ecosystems while providing for harvest within ecological limits.

The hike was led by Erik Pikkila a local Forest, Watershed, & Historical Ecologist & Ecoforester. Eric was very informative explaining elements of forest systems, interconnectedness, and the forest management system promoted by the Ecoforestry Institute Society.

6. After lunch we met Chris Faber the new PPWC Communications Officer. Chris talked about using today's social networks to bring awareness of Environmental and Forestry concerns which the PPWC supports, to its members and the public.
7. Later we toured the B.C. Forest Discovery Center in Duncan. The committee members from other locals particularly were impressed with the history and displays.
8. That evening we arrived at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Station at Mesachie Lake.

After dinner served by the camp cooks, we enjoyed a welcome speech from Cowichan Lake mayor Rod Peters who talked about the area and how it has been developing.

Day 4:

2. We bused to Port Renfrew's Avatar Grove Forest. Ecoforester, Erik Pikkila accompanied our tour and provided comments and answered any questions from the group.

All said it was an informative week. It was good to meet committee members from other locals, share information and get to know one another.

Thanks again to Local 2 for the opportunity to participate this event.

In Solidarity

Daryl Pugh

**Public and Private
Workers of Canada**

The Presidents Page

Continued

On May 16th the business elites formed the anti-strike Citizens Committee and had General Ketchen order 5000 federal troops into the city. The war veterans were split on which side to support. On May 25th Federal and Provincial governments ordered workers back to work and to sign anti-union pledges. Both ultimatums are rejected by the strikers. June 6th the Federal government introduces an amendment to the Immigration Act to deport any person not born in Canada, including the British, for sedition at the request of the Citizens Committee. On June 9th the Police force is fired for refusing to sign the anti-union pledge and “Special Police” are hired by the Citizen Committee. During June many mass rallies are held throughout the city.

On the night of June 16-17 Police raid the homes of the strike leaders and arrest 11. A decision is made to hold a silent protest march on Saturday June 21st in support of the imprisoned strike leaders. This march will be made up of veterans, union and non-union workers, their wives and children.

During this march a scab drives a streetcar through the crowd, when the streetcar turns and attempts to once again drive through the crowd, the crowd reacts. The streetcar is turned onto its side and set on fire in front of city hall.



Even though the fire was put out by the marchers and order restored the North West Mounted Police on horseback armed with pistols charged the crowd from the North and the Special Police equipped with nightsticks attacked from the south. The Mounties would shoot to death two people that day and many people would be injured, most in a place known as hell alley when they were boxed in by the Special Police and beaten. This would include men, women and children. The Army with fixed bayonets and machine guns is ordered into the city. This day would become known as “Bloody Saturday”.

On June 25 the Winnipeg Labour and Trades Council called off the strike. While the strike could be viewed as a failure at the time, all the changes that have occurred in legislation to protect workers since can be traced back to this time. Many of the strike leaders were elected to all levels of government office from their jail cells. The Canadian public started to become more sympathetic to the struggles of labour. Their struggles for better wages and working conditions are still ongoing.

It is surprising and more than a little disappointing that the struggles and fears of 100 years ago continue today. The Winnipeg General Strike shows once again that only by working together do working people achieve any real advances in wages and working conditions.

I would like to thank Nolan and Sharon Reilly and the members of the Winnipeg General Strike tour committee for all the information I used to put this short recap of the strike together.

Sunday was taken up with the Confederation of Canadian Union's (CCU) executive board meeting. The CCU is our labour central of independent Canadian Unions with representatives from all parts of Canada. This is the organization that gives us a national voice. This meeting began at 9:00 and finished at 5:45.

There were reports from the President, Vice President, the Treasurer and all the affiliates. A young activist from the Manitoba "Drive for 15" movement spoke on how their volunteer grassroots organization were the leading push to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. She was the second person we heard from this weekend that stated that a lot of young workers see unions as being part of the establishment. Hopefully with the forming of a Young Workers Committee at our last convention, the PPWC starts to deal with this view. Much of the day was taken up with discussion around the upcoming elections in both Manitoba and Nationally. The CCU will be putting out a "Raise your Voice, Cast your Vote" information sheet which will share the positions of all 4 Federal parties on issues effecting labour, along with a similar one for Manitoba.

The next executive board meeting will be held right after the convention celebrated the 50-year history of the CCU beginning the weekend of October 5th and continuing till October 7th in Ottawa, Ontario. I apologize for the length of this report; I feel it is very important to share labour history as so little is taught in the education system today. Someone once said "We must know where we have come from to understand where we are today"

Lynn Lindeman
PPWC LOCAL 2 President, CCU Rep