

TWO'S NEWS

MARCH 2021

Editor: Duane Gale

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PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



As the Twos News editor, I look forward to providing content consistent with PPWC local 2 values and beliefs.

Strength and unity are paramount to a solid, well run union organization – equally as important is open, transparent communication.

That said, **USE TWOS NEWS** - let's hear your opinions, likes, dislikes, rants, random musings etc., and send them via email to:

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twosnews@shaw.ca

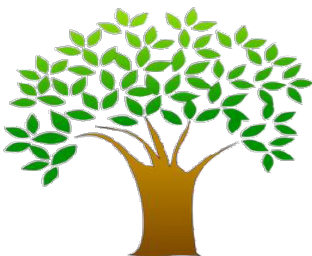
Duane Gale - Twos News editor

Mar 14, 2021 - Daylight Saving Time

When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, March 14, 2021, 2 am, clocks are turned forward 1 hour.

There will be more light in the evening.

Did you know? March was named for the Roman God "Mars"



Vancouver Island Counselling

Duncan 250 746 6900

Nanaimo 250 754 8222

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1 877 746 6911

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Counsellors Corner

How we express our anger is completely our responsibility.

If anger often gets the best of you, you might benefit from talking about it with one of our EFAP counsellors.



THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Dear Brothers and Sisters

Last Thursday I had a meeting with a forensic accountant from MNP. I explained to her what has been going on since last March with our pay, and she couldn't believe what she was hearing. She told me that judging by the information I gave her, there is enough for her to conduct an audit using the pay statements of four members who were chosen - dating back to March 2020. I will be hearing more from her on Monday March 1st.

A member from shipping informed me last Friday, that he received a letter from the Government of Canada stating he has not contributed any money into the Canada Pension Plan. His pay statements show deductions for CCP were made yet the government are saying they weren't. I immediately went to Richard Demchuk office to find out what is going on. He took notes and told me he will be in contact with head office in Richmond. More investigating will be done on this.

Our members are angry and have every right to be. The company has created an atmosphere of mistrust anger and frustration. Please look over everything before filing your taxes this year.

That being said our T4s will be coming in a day late and possibly later for some of us. This is against the law and I have our lawyer Will Clements filing a complaint on March 1st. We have 3 arbitration's scheduled in 2021 with more coming. Our replacing the work force arbitration was rescheduled from last week to November now, because the company complained to

the arbitrator that they haven't had enough time to go through all of the information. They've had since 2018.

Main wage meetings are scheduled for March 2nd to March 5th. We will probably know which mill will be the target mill for negotiations, and we will also know what the agenda for the negotiations will be. Please contact Geoff Dawe for more information.

Being an operator on shift has made being the president of this local a very busy job. Most of the time I am doing union business on my days off without compensation. I am asking you all to please use the shop stewards in the mill and other executives. Most of the time I am too busy to deal with issues like not getting time off wrong call-ins for over time etc. I want to help you all, but there is no way I can continue to go at the pace I have been. Like mentioned previously, I have 3 arbitration cases and 3 or more grievances going to 4th step. I am constantly on the phone with our lawyers and now with accountants. The company has not made things easy for any of us and our HR department makes matters even worse. Please do not call me after 5pm unless it's an emergency. I will always do my best for this local, but it's going to take all of us to unite together against this horrible company we work for. If this local doesn't want to fight for better wages and a brighter future than I am the wrong person to be the president. At some point we will have to make a stand. **Let's start right now.**

In solidarity
Chris Wipplinger
President PPWC Local 2



WOMEN IN FORESTRY VIRTUAL SUMMIT – MARCH 9, 2021



Canadian Forest Industries, Canadian Biomass and Pulp & Paper Canada magazines are building upon our Women in Forestry series with the launch of the [Women in Forestry Virtual Summit!](#) Join us on March 9, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST (8:00 – 11:00 a.m. PST) to connect with industry experts and thought leaders who are working to promote equity, diversity and inclusion in Canada’s forest industry. This must-attend event will feature some of the biggest influencers in the Canadian forest products sector as well as women who have trail blazed in their careers. The Women in Forestry Virtual Summit will feature presentations on a range of topics, including an update on Canada’s Gender Equity in Forestry National Action Plan, an inside look at Canfor’s journey to inclusivity, and a panel discussion focused on solutions to advance women to leadership positions.

In the week leading up to the event, we will be sharing Q&A profiles on 10 women in forestry to share their stories, career advice and management tips here and on womeninfo forestry.ca.

You can find the preliminary agenda on the conference website [here](#).

[Registration is FREE](#), so don’t miss out!

Thanks to our sponsors [FPAC](#), [Tolko](#), [EACOM](#), [John Deere](#), [CIF-IFC](#), [the Centre for Social Intelligence](#), [Canfor](#), [AFPA](#), [Resolute Forest Products](#), [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\)](#) and [Forests Ontario](#) for making this event possible.



50 YEARS OF TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH FAILED TO TRICKLE DOWN, ECONOMICS STUDY SAYS.

Tax cuts for the wealthy have long drawn support from conservative lawmakers and economists who argue that such measures will "trickle-down" and eventually boost jobs and incomes for everyone else. But a new study from the London School of Economics says 50 years of such tax cuts have only helped one group — the rich. The study compared countries that passed tax cuts in a specific year, such as the U.S. in 1982 when President Ronald Reagan slashed taxes on the wealthy, with those that didn't, and then examined their economic outcomes.

Per capita gross domestic product and unemployment rates were nearly identical after five years in countries that slashed taxes on the rich and in those that didn't, the study found.

But the analysis discovered one major change: The incomes of the rich grew much faster in countries where tax rates were lowered. Instead of trickling down to the middle class, tax cuts for the rich may not accomplish much more than help the rich keep more of their riches and exacerbate income inequality, the research indicates.

Based on our research, we would argue that the economic rationale for keeping taxes on the rich low is weak," Julian Limberg, a co-author of the study and a lecturer in public policy at King's College London, said in an email to CBS MoneyWatch. "If we look back into history, the period with the highest taxes on the rich — the postwar period — was also a period with high economic growth and low unemployment." New research from the London School of Economics suggests that tax increases on the wealthy should be considered post-COVID.

Since the pandemic began, the combined wealth of America's 651 billionaires has jumped by more than \$1 trillion, reaching \$4 trillion in early December, Americans for Tax Fairness said earlier this month. Meanwhile, almost 8 million Americans have fallen into poverty since the start of the pandemic. Rebuilding the economy and household wealth for low- and middle-class families are among the issues facing President-elect Joe Biden, raising taxes on the rich and corporations could provide trillions of dollars in resources for helping the economic recovery. This is not only a viable option but also a fair option because some of the wealthiest taxpayers have benefited from the pandemic. **AIMEE PICCHI - MoneyWatch**

THE VIEW FROM BIG BUSINESS

.... a typical example of the big business mentality....

The attempt of Long Beach, Calif., to provide grocery store workers with "hero's pay" is ending with two of the city's grocery stores being permanently shut. NPR reports the Long Beach City Council passed an ordinance last month that requires certain large grocery stores to pay local workers an extra \$4 an hour for at least the next 120 days (Covid Pay)—and **KROGER** said no way. Instead, it will shutter two large grocery stores that fall under its umbrella. The Long Beach Post reports the move will impact nearly 200 workers, though it's possible some will be transferred. On top of that, though, is the neighborhood impact: The North Long Beach area near *Food 4 Less* is considered a food desert, and many locals lack cars with which to drive elsewhere. **NEWSER**

THEY SAID IT

My sister's expecting a baby, and I don't know if I'm going to be an uncle or an aunt.

Chuck Nevitt.



A WORD FROM THE MASTER SHOP STEWARD (OPS)

First and foremost, I'd like to thank the membership for voting me in as master shop steward. Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all of our executive members to date. As a group we will need to stand together during these upcoming contract negotiations, regardless of our positions within the mill.

There is no doubt in my mind, the Kraft mill (in its entirety) has been neglected over its lifespan. This mill has proven it's still a consistent producer within whatever corporate entity it has subsided. However, its infrastructure, as well as its work force, are in need of some significant capital investment. This mill has provided a significant source of income, and profit to its employees and the company.

I hope that we all can remember our role in this process. No matter how frustrated, and disillusioned we may become due to current circumstances. No matter how insignificant your contribution may seem to the future success of the mill, every person that works as a member of PPWC Local 2 counts!

I have had the pleasure of working with several senior employees, who have since retired from the Mill. And the one thing that stood out to me; was the number of members that have remained at the mill for extended periods of time.

This say two things to me: one that there is a good living/good career to be made at this mill, and two that a significant camaraderie must exist amongst employees for people to choose to spend their entire working career at one job.

I continue to be impressed with our collective ability to keep this operation functioning throughout continued adversity. There is no reason why we cannot continue to have collective success for our union and the company for which we work. We continue to produce prime pulp through whatever capacity our union members work; from chip supply to the machine room, from operations to maintenance.

Take pride in our accomplishments, and our continued success through these troubled times. From COVID-19 to malware viruses, to fiber shortages and labour disagreements; we have survived. There are many individuals out there that have not been so lucky. I try to remember that every time I come in to work. I'm hoping that in the future, this will lead to further investment, and long-term success for our local.

Cory Redenbach

One Year Master Shop Steward (OPS)

masterops@ppwclocal2.com

LABOR QUOTES

The labor movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labor miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labor forget these simple truths, but history remembers them.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF NORTHEAST B.C. FOREST TENURE TO 'PEAK RENEWABLES' RAISES ALARM - AREA COULD BE LOGGED TO CREATE PELLETS FOR EXPORT.

Huge swaths of northeast B.C. forests could be chopped down and ground up to make wood pellets to send overseas if the province approves a proposed logging license transfer in Fort Nelson, B.C. Over one million cubic meters of intact forest every year could be logged for export, according to a Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives report published recently.

Last November, B.C.'s largest forestry company, Canfor, quietly announced an agreement with Peak Renewables to sell its forest tenure in northeast B.C., pending approval from the province. Canfor held onto the tenure since closing its two Fort Nelson mills 13 years ago, putting around 600 people out of work. If the license transfer is approved, Peak Renewables would build the largest pellet plant in the province. Ben Parfitt, resource policy analyst for the Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives, said the plant would, at best, employ around 60 people, while logging roughly the same amount Canfor logged when it employed 600 people.

Wood pellets are typically made with a combination of wood waste — unwanted or unusable trees cut down to access higher-quality wood — and by-products from mills like wood chips and sawdust. But Peak Renewables plans to log whole trees purely for pellets.

Producing pellets is quicker and simpler than processing trees for products like plywood and lumber, which means it offers less value in terms of employment.

Gary Fiege, president of the Public and Private Workers of Canada Union, which represents forestry workers, said the tenure transfer would be a mistake.

"We want to see more emphasis put on value-added manufacturing, as opposed to going to the bottom of the pile for our fiber, so to speak," he said in an interview. "We need more value, not just in terms of the wood itself, but in what it brings to the communities and to the workers of this province."

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Conservation North and Stand up for Earth are urging the province to delay its decision and consider transferring the tenure to the local First Nation. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests told The Narwhal in an emailed statement that the tenure

transfer would potentially create jobs in the community and growth in the local economy.

Peak Renewables would log 100 square kilometers of forest every year.

Canfor, quietly announced an agreement with Peak Renewables to sell its forest tenure in northeast B.C., pending approval from the province.

In 2019, the province increased the amount of logging allowed in the Fort Nelson area to 2.58 million cubic meters per year, an increase of 58 per cent. According to the report, the province justified this in part by the lack of logging for more than a decade after Canfor shuttered its mills.

Parfitt said this created an incentive for Peak Renewables to make a proposal.

"We're really concerned that these pellet plants would basically turn into vacuums for primary forest," she said in an interview. She added that it's not about stopping forestry, but said more care needs to be taken when considering where and how logging takes place, given how little primary forest is left in the province.

Fiege said he's not against pellet production but logging Fort Nelson forests to fuel a single pellet plant is not the best use for the trees. "There's got to be a better way."

"If the government agrees to this transfer ... that goes completely counter to the mandate that our forests minister has been given by the premier of the province," Parfitt said.

He said instead of approving the logging license transfer, the province could strengthen its relationship with the Fort Nelson First Nation and revitalize the local economy by declining the transfer, buying out Canfor and turning over the management of the forest to the nation and its non-Indigenous neighbors.

"This is a golden opportunity to do that, precisely because there has been no forest industry presence of any note in the region for well over a decade. This would be a time to actually give the Indigenous people in the region a strong mechanism for charting a new course."

THE NARWHAL Matt Simmons, Feb 17, 2021

Geoff Dawe - Wage Chair Report

Not much to Report on the wage committee, I did speak with Gary Fiege inquiring how they pick a target mill, lots of things are considered within the selection of that for example, how profitable the mill is, how willing is the HR department to work with the Joint wage committee to achieve pattern for the province, and the likely hood of achieving pattern. This decision is also achieved through a joint wage caucus committee vote at our March meeting. Our next joint wage caucus meeting will be held March 2 through to 5 March 2021 where we will be finalizing our agenda, making final bids for our locals items to be added to the agenda .

With that being said and expecting some very busy months ahead of us I would like to address some issues we seem to be having within the local or address the 5% that takes up 90% of our time.

Running to the company to get your work mates in trouble.

This has to STOP! We as a union took an oath to protect our brother & sisters, but somewhere along the way some of us have forgotten this and would rather run to the supervisor, write notes in log books, or even go as far as to set up others members to get them in trouble. This Company will fire anybody anytime they can and not ask any questions making the union go through all the grievance process which cost us thousands, and prove the member was wrongfully accused all along. They may like that you give them the information they need to reduce our membership numbers, but they don't care about you and they will fire you as well. I personally will not support any member running to the company before they've given the union an appropriate chance to deal with any issues within our membership and I hope that the rest of the executive will support this decision, ***we are a union, act like you belong.***

Showing up to work & expected to fulfill our part of the Collective Agreement

I know this is not everyone but there are some and this baffles me! Why someone would think it is okay to bring sleeping supplies, alcohol, or marijuana to work or show up under the influence it's NOT. It's all of our responsibility to come to work sober and fit for work and ensure that we all make it home to our families at the end of our shifts. Yes, there are days that are busier than others or day shifts that may be busier than nights but by no stretch are we running our asses off every day and if so then we have the option to ask for help. I

understand that these are tough times with the way the company has been treating our membership i.e.; payroll issues , suspensions, excessive work hours or lack of any type of support from management or maybe the looming contract talks. All I know is that some members feel it's okay to stick it to the company because they feel they are wronged, but those are the actions Richard & Candy are wanting, so when they discipline, suspend or fire these members it makes it really hard to represent them when they have played right into the company's hand, or lied to the union representation.

....We need to start focusing on the next few months and getting a collective agreement...

Abusing bullying harassing members of the executive or the office staff

This action is unacceptable if people think they're so tough and have all the answers and feel that they can get better results or representation these people need to step up and become part of the executive. Time and time again I keep hearing our members ranting and raving on issues, about how our union is shit or useless but when you ask these people to help out "oh fuck that" or they say " I'm too busy I don't have time". Very few members realize the extra hours executive members log or the amount of bullshit they have to weigh threw in a day, very rarely do we deal with actual grievance's we are so busy deal with topics already mentions or deal with the HR's 3 card Monty game they are always giving the union. Again, I will not support or recommend the local spend any money on members that insist on any of this behavior, this is a union and we should not act like this.

In Conclusion

I guess what I'm saying is come to work ready for work. Supervisors are not our friends nor HR, they hate our union, they feel the company could do way better with critter crews that do all or any work, only pay you for the lowest job possible and don't forget to get rid of any pestering benefits or screw them up enough we get frustrated and stop pointing them out. And I'm sure the company loves when we are all fighting with each other, it gives them more opportunity to divide us .We need to start focusing on the next few months and getting a collective agreement and none of the above will help us achieve that.

(Cont. next page)

Geoff Dawe - Wage Chair Report

(From page 7)

We need to start acting like a union that is not out for personal interest, personal gains but for better wages that are industry standard, proper pay, and holding the company to the collective agreement they signed. Don't forget, Paper excellence bought these mills in Canada because they are cheap and established - as compared to new mills or new startup costs. They are a corporate shell game that love to screw over their workers with

incorrect pay, pension, time off, excessively long hours, short manning. Jesus, you would think we are owned and operated by the 2nd richest in Indonesia, oh that's right where just owned by them and they are wanting to operate us Canadian mills as if we were in Indonesia. I personally do not want any part of that or dividing this union to help them accomplish their goals of the rich getting richer and the workers treated like 3rd world sweatshops. Please - let's all stand together as a union, let's be the strong passionate union I know we are.

I AM MY BROTHER/SISTERS' KEEPER
Geoff Dawe

ST PATRICK'S DAY is an official holiday in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador but not a public holiday in other parts of Canada.

St Patrick's Day marks the feast day and anniversary of the death of a Christian missionary known as Patrick. He was born in the year 387, probably somewhere near the present-day border between Scotland and England. At the age of 16, he was captured and taken to Ireland as a slave. During this period, he became deeply religious and after six years he fled back to his family.

Later in his life, he returned to Ireland as a missionary. He is said to have played an important role in converting the inhabitants of Ireland to Christianity and in ridding the island of snakes (It's true, there are no snakes in Ireland)

It is believed that St Patrick died on March 17 probably in the year 461 or 493 (according to different sources).

St Patrick's Day celebrations were brought to Canada by Irish immigrants.

PAPER EXCELLENCE GIVEN APPROVAL TO COMPLETE ACQUISITION OF LEADING BRAZILIAN PULP PRODUCER, ELDORADO BRASIL CELULOSE

Arbitration Panel Rules in Favor of Paper Excellence -- Paper Excellence to become the 100% owner of Eldorado Brasil Celulose, one of the largest pulp producers in the world.



HISTORY OF THE PPWC

Chapter 7

LOCAL 3 CERTIFIES ON JUNE 18, 1963

Woodfibre, BC: a pulp mill, a town site, the company houses clinging to the side of a Howe Sound mountain.

A coastal town site less than one hour away from Vancouver by road but, alas, there was no road. Woodfibre, between the villages of Squamish and Britannia Beach, was accessible only by boat. The workers were to the large part captive. "I owe my soul to the company store," from the song "16 Tons," rang true. The rents in the company-owned town site were high. The members of International Local 494 were agitating for a ferry, a road to Squamish and Britannia Beach, a way out of the isolation they were in. The company offered no resolve. They were pleased with the circumstances as they were. One day followed much like its predecessor.

Then, Jan. 31, 1963, dawned like no other day in Woodfibre. The members of International Local 494 had voted 92 per cent in favour of joining a Canadian union at a prior membership meeting. On Jan. 31, PPWC Local 3 came alive. A charter signed by National President W. H. Cox and National Secretary P. J. O'Brien was eagerly received by Al Smith, Bert Biglow, Keith Hall, and Reg Ginn, among others.

In the spirit of fellowship, the international union was advised by the newly formed local executive of the intent to decertify.

International President John Burke replied. Contrary to his public statement at the November '62 Detroit convention (he said if any Canadian locals wish to decertify let them go ahead), he now informed Local 3 that their move to certification would be opposed in every fashion. Gazing into his private crystal ball, he further informed Local 3 their venture was doomed to failure, against the natural forces of evolution, said he. Fortunately for

him and his dependents, he earned his living as a union president, not as a seer. Burke's words were not prophetic. Neither he nor the International representatives from western Canada could squelch the move in Woodfibre.

...members of International Local 494 had voted 92 per cent in favor of joining a Canadian union....

International representative Stan Green was an ex-member of Local 494. He knew many Woodfibre workers. His influence was essentially nil in the squelch attempt. On June 18, 1963, Local 3 received Labor Relations Board certification and moved into immediate wage negotiations with Woodfibre owner Rayonier.

In short order, led by Smith, Shervez and Biglow, with Local 1's Evan Moore representing the national, Local 3 reached agreement.

- 4 per cent wage increase, with base rate going from \$2.10 to \$2.18.
- Meal ticket arrangement. Past meal ticket arrangements were for tour workers only. This newly bargained one included all day workers having a meal after one hour of overtime and a second meal after five hours.
- Provide leaves of absence for local members elected to full-time union or government positions, with seniority accumulating while away, a very progressive move for a progressive union bent on no Papa Doc presidents.

With the contract in place on Aug. 8, Local 3 leadership turned its attention to the Woodfibre issue itself: the town site, the high rents, the lack of a ferry and a road to freedom. The town site was doomed, and the Squamish ferry and road were on their way.



**EXPIRES MAY 1st/2021
ARE YOU PREPARED?**

WE ARE ...

PPWC Local 2

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info@ppwclocal2.com

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday

8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Closed from 12 Noon to 1 pm for lunch.

FOLLOW PPWC Local 2 ON FACEBOOK



IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

Mar 5 - Employee Appreciation Day first Friday in March – also happens to be payday...

Mar 8 - International Women's Day is sponsored worldwide by the United Nations. However, the UN did not originate this special celebration. The roots of this celebration goes back to the late 1800's and early 1900s. It grew from women's socialist movements and early women's trade union groups.

The first International Women's Day was held March 19, 1911. Women socialists and trade unions held an earlier Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1908. The event grew from there and has been celebrated annually since. **The focus is upon women workers, and advancing women's rights in the workforce, politics, and society.**

Mar 17 – St Patrick's Day



THEY SAID IT

Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff.

Mariah Carey



2021 PPWC Local 2 Executive

★ CHRIS WIPPLINGER

President / NEB Member
Machine Room

★ GARY RAMWELL

First Vice President Maintenance
Millwright

★ JON BEAM

First Vice President – Operations
Power Engineer

★ AL KUEBER

Second Vice President
Electrician (Day)

★ TRACEY MEHMAL

Recording/Corresponding Secretary
reports@ppwclocal2.com

★ TROY BELBECK

Financial Secretary
Millwright

★ CORY REDENBACH

One Year Master Shop Steward -Ops.

★ GERARD DALLE VEDOVE

One Year Master Shop Steward -Maint.
Instrument Mechanic

★ DON PEARSON

Two Year H&W/ Trustee
Millwright

★ VACANT

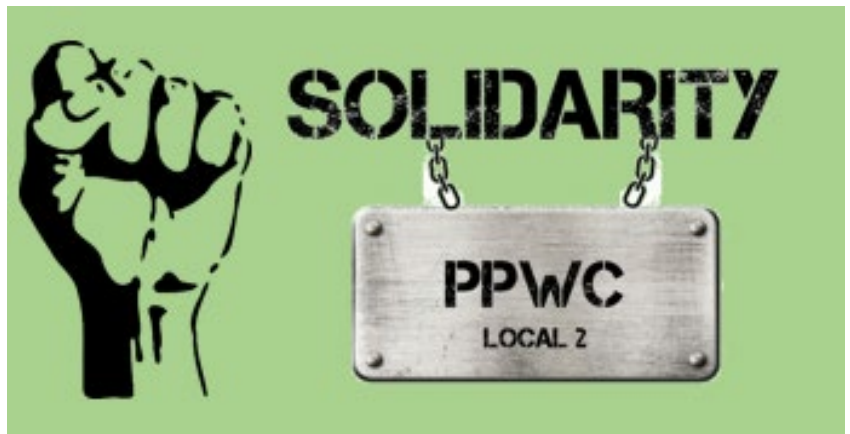
Inside Guard/Trustee

★ KEITH MALVENA

Outside Guard/Trustee
Machine Room

★ GEOFF DAWE

Wage Delegates Chair
Power Engineer



MAR 15th 6:30 PM

AGENDA: Regular order of business
VIA ZOOM



THEY SAID IT

The doctors X-rayed my head and found nothing.

Dizzy Dean

MONTHLY HUMOUR



An old married couple no sooner hit the pillows when the old man passes gas and says, 'Seven Points.' His wife rolls over and says, 'What in the world was that?' The old man replied, 'its fart football.'

A few minutes later his wife lets one go and says, 'Touchdown, tie score...'

After about five minutes the old man lets another one go and says, 'Aha. I'm ahead 14 to 7.'

Not to be outdone the wife rips out another one and says, 'Touchdown, tie score.'

Five seconds go by and she lets out a little squeaker and says, 'Field goal, I lead 17 to 14.' Now the pressure is on for the old man.

He refuses to lose, so he strains as hard as he can, defeat is totally unacceptable, he gives it everything he's got, and accidentally poops the bed.

The wife says, 'What the hell was that?'

The old man says, "Half time, switch sides."



2021 PPWC Local 2 Committee Members

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ALTERNATE - VACANT

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APPALLING CONDITIONS IN OVERSEAS PPE FACTORY SUPPLYING CANADIAN HOSPITALS, EXPERT SAYS.

(Condensed from a lengthy report)

The production line, filled mostly with migrant workers, is cramped. Yet COVID-19 protocols like sanitizing, physical distancing or mask-wearing, meant to protect against the spread of the coronavirus, don't seem to be enforced at this Malaysian factory.

"They just want you to work. They just want product. They don't care about the worker," said one employee from Nepal, who works 12 hours every day.

In spite of these health risks, some employees say they can't leave their jobs. They say they have significant debt — often borrowed at the hands of unscrupulous lenders — having paid recruitment agencies massive fees to line them up for their jobs.

"I don't have any choice, I have to work to pay off my debt," said another worker from Bangladesh, who makes around \$3 an hour and is paying back loans two years after starting his job.

As global demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) surges during the pandemic, so has the human cost for those making it overseas, an investigation by CBC's Marketplace has found.

The investigation into the global PPE trade revealed that some of the life-saving equipment Canadian health-care workers are using appears to be made in sweatshop-like conditions — raising doubts about Canada's commitment to international human rights and its ability to prevent unethically sourced goods from entering the country.

Several Canadian companies that have tens of millions of dollars in PPE contracts with the federal government imported goods from the Malaysian manufacturers Marketplace investigated.

"Canada is tainted and Canada is complicit in this abuse that's going on," said Hall.

Canada, through import laws, prohibits the entry of goods that are produced with forced labour, which according to the International Labour Organization

(ILO) can include such indicators as debt bondage, restriction of movement, excessive overtime and poor living conditions.

It's all coming from an industry with systemic forced labor issues."

Yet according to records reviewed by Marketplace, millions of disposable gloves manufactured by Malaysian companies in conditions that experts say have the hallmarks of forced labor have come into our ports.

Hidden camera footage also showed unsafe working and poor living conditions inside a Malaysian factory, which Hall described as "really, really appalling" after viewing the video.

Gloves of all types — nitrile, vinyl, latex — are used by health-care workers in many situations, including swabbing, intubating and examinations. Some health-care professionals can go through several boxes of gloves a week.

In 2020, Malaysian glove makers produced close to 220 billion gloves, about 70 per cent of the world's supply, according to the Malaysian Rubber Glove Manufacturers Association. Manufacturers rely heavily on migrant workers from countries with few employment opportunities, including Myanmar, Indonesia, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Reports of human rights abuses in the PPE industry aren't isolated to gloves. Gowns were reportedly being made with North Korean forced labour. Masks were being made by ethnic Uighurs as part of a controversial labour transfer program in China.

"This is an issue around the world," said Hall. "The whole supply chain of medical products, ventilators, masks, gloves, gowns, it's all coming from an industry with systemic forced labour issues." **CBC MARKETPLACE - THANKS TO AP FOR INFO**

THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

Mar 3, 2004

Bill C-45 comes into force, amending the Criminal Code to impose penalties on corporations and managers for violations causing workplace injuries or death. It is named the Westray Bill after the 1992 mine disaster.

OPINION

Maybe a little off topic here ... but has anybody noticed the striking number of potholes travelling to and from work?

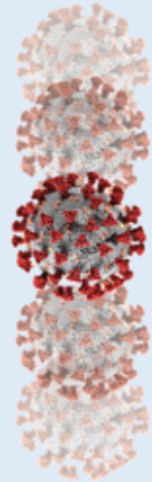


Anyways....I can't gripe enough about the PGI payroll system, but the Mill Lockout structure was also an HSI system that was compromised during the computer virus outbreak. After dumping HSI, we now we have a different lockout system in place. It's called Intalex, it was designed to imitate or mimic the system it replaced – one that worked so well. It has a myriad of login issues and isn't quite HSI but pretends to be. Usable, but its replacing something (like payroll) that was never broken.

Also a huge loss is the HSI Time Off system. No replacement here, just a spreadsheet adjusted by the scheduler. This one is driving us nuts. We used to be able to schedule and check **ALL** of our time off with the previous system, make printouts etc. as proof, look at time off used, unused, accumulated etc. etc... Now it's a common spreadsheet with upcoming time off requests, nothing more. Very difficult to compare accumulative values with the PGI system as you may have guessed...they don't match. -DG



- Data
- Outbreaks
- Public Exposures
- Symptoms
- Testing
- Prevention
- Plus much more



Visit: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/> for current information.

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Most infected people will develop mild to moderate illness and recover without hospitalization.

Most common symptoms:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Tiredness

Less common symptoms:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea
- Conjunctivitis
- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- A rash on skin, or discoloration of fingers or toes

To the Membership, Executive and Committee members:

Twos News needs contributions from YOU! A sentence, paragraph or whole page on who, what, when, where, how & why or a combination of such.

Send to twosnews@shaw.ca or twosnews@ppwclocal2.com

THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

Mar 4 1910

An avalanche in the Rogers Pass, British Columbia, takes the lives of workers clearing snow from Canadian Pacific Railway tracks. A total of 62 bodies are recovered, including four the following spring. The dead include 32 contract laborers from Japan.

CUPE 4500 ratifies new agreement with BC Transit

CUPE 4500 members have ratified a new three-year collective agreement with BC Transit that includes wage increases and significant improvements to benefits and contract language. The two parties reached a tentative agreement on January 14 after nine sessions of bargaining. Members ratified the agreement on Wednesday (January 27).

“We’re very pleased to have reached this agreement, and with so few dates required at the table,” said CUPE 4500 President Rob Woods. “This agreement is good for our members and for the public we serve. That’s a testament to the tone of mutual respect the parties observed throughout bargaining.” The agreement includes wage increases consistent with the Public Sector Employers’ Council (PSEC) bargaining mandate while also improving shift premiums and language for job security. It also includes significant new language on harassment and bullying, and on various types of leaves. The agreement runs from January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2023.

CUPE 4500 represents 22 members who work as transit supervisors, control coordinators and lead supervisors for BC Transit in the Capital Regional District.

The Prime Minister of Canada’s salary is \$334,800 a year. Members of Parliament make \$167,400 – or almost as much as Specialist Physician. Cabinet Ministers earn \$247,500. Alberta is home to six of the top ten regions for high wages. Wood Buffalo (Fort Mac) was the town with the top hourly pay rate in the country in 2017.

The 10 regions with the highest hourly wages: (AVG)

- Wood Buffalo–Cold Lake, Alberta – \$36.50
- Nunavut – \$35.95
- Northwest Territories – \$34.20
- Calgary, Alberta – \$32.60
- Toronto, Ontario – \$30.40
- Edmonton, Alberta – \$30.20
- Regina–Moose Mountain, Saskatchewan – \$30.00
- Camrose–Drumheller, Alberta – \$29.95
- Banff–Jasper–Rocky Mountain House and Athabasca–Grande Prairie–Peace River, Alberta – \$29.70
- Red Deer, Alberta – \$29.20

Retail salesperson is the most common job in North America. There are 1.9 million retail salespeople in Canada and 4,340,000 in the U.S.

The second highest-paid job in Canada is dentist. (The highest paid job in Canada is “specialist physician.”)

Lawyer is the fourth highest-paid job in Canada.

Salt, peppercorns, cows, stones, clamshells, and beads are among the things that have been used as currency. **(DON’T TELL RICHMOND)**



MARCH 2021 EMOJI AWARD



And the winner is

THE PAPER EXCELLENCE BENEFITS DEPT.

This is their first award and very deserving. They came out late in the year (2020) with cancellation of AD&D benefits unless you sign up again...with another carrier. Auto-carry-over didn't apply for some reason. As if that wasn't bad enough, the time period allotted was nearly non-existent. However, we did get a reprieve and were allowed another kick at the can recently, only to be flustered by the complicated paperwork. At least two versions of the forms were being circulated – both convoluted and mysterious. **EDs note:** This dept. has some good people, all these issues were really caused further up the chain.

Runner up: Don't really want to malign a fellow union member, but on that last big snow fall, you parked so close that ... well, just remove the blindfold next time, should help a bit.

REMINDER

You can no longer attend meetings in groups and text your names to the inside/outside guards.

Your names must appear at the GM Zoom meeting individually.

During the general meeting you will be asked to click the hand icon twice at random times to show you are attending the meeting. If you fail to do so your name will not be recorded by the guards, and the meeting will not count towards your dues refund.

If your name appears 10 minutes after the meeting is over, your name will be omitted from the record and you will not receive credit towards a dues refund.

It is strongly recommended **not** to attend these zoom meetings *at work*. This is a slippery slope and the company could easily deem this theft of time.

PAPER EXCELLENCE REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO RESTARTING PRINCE ALBERT PULP MILL BY INVESTING MORE THAN \$600,000

Paper Excellence has recently invested more than \$600,000 in engineering and consulting work focused on restarting the Prince Albert pulp mill. Paper Excellence originally purchased the Prince Albert pulp mill in 2011. It now plans to restart the facility as soon as possible once the current non-compete agreement with the former owner expires in March 2021.

"We plan to replace the entire fiber line from the digester to the last bleaching stage. This will replace the heart of the mill and let us take full advantage of the existing recovery boiler which is one of the most modern in Canada," explains Carlo Dal Monte, Vice President, Energy & Business Development. "While this is an expensive strategy, it will simplify construction and minimize commissioning risks.

Currently, Paper Excellence is carrying out engineering work for the new equipment and completing a detailed evaluation of the existing equipment that will be refurbished.

In addition to the work taking place on site, Paper Excellence is meeting with representatives of the Saskatchewan government and local Indigenous groups to discuss shared funding, project timelines and related investment opportunities. Paper Excellence looks forward to the day when the site can employ 200 people creating over \$300 million per year in economic benefits for Prince Albert and all of Saskatchewan.

THE LAST WORD

The "Opinion" area as well as this section could very well be written by anybody within the membership who wish to express their views and beliefs. There is simply too much going on for all this silence. Everybody is actually happy? No gripes? Then send in your happy thoughts. I would be glad to write about any ideas you have, good or bad.

As mentioned in my first edition, Twosnews would evolve to a more meaningful and useful newsletter. Coming soon in future editions, as suggested by members, anniversaries, new members, passing's etc... If you would like to see something, let's hear it.

Duane Gale – Editor

Reach me:

#1 Kraft Machine tender – B Crew local 6328

Sorry, patting myself on the back...couldn't help it.

To the Editor:

Great job on your first edition of Twosnews. I look forward to many more.

Sandy McDougald

Retired local 2 member



LABOR UNION

PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada

