

# TWO'S NEWS

APRIL 2021

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## PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



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

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Duane Gale - Twos News editor

PLEASE NOTE THAT COMMENTS AND OPINIONS  
EXPRESSED HEREIN MAY NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT  
THOSE OF PPWC LOCAL 2



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**Nanaimo**                    **250 754 8222**

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**1 877 746 6911**

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**TOGETHER**  
**WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE**



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



### Brothers and Sisters

Four months ago our executive board members were either elected or volunteered to be a larger part of our local union. I think we have learned a lot these past 4 months and I am proud to be a part of this group in the executive. We have made mistakes, but every one of the executive board members have worked hard to represent you all.

Our grievance for pay issues has gone to arbitration. I applied for expedited arbitration last week, and asked for a mediator from the labour board in the application as well. I will let you all know the date of our case once I know when it's to take place.

Last week I was tipped off that the company is trying to make deals with the BC Government while trying to portray themselves as good and responsible corporate citizens. At that point I decided to contact the BC Government's Deputy Labour Minister, Trevor Hughes again about our pay issues. I felt this was the perfect opportunity to get our point across.

I explained everything to Mr. Hughes as to what has been happening this past year, from all our pay and benefit issues, to us hiring a forensic accountant. Trevor Hughes must have immediately contacted Stew Gibson, because within an hour of my conversation with Trevor Hughes, my phone display showed Paper Excellence was calling.

When I didn't answer, Gibson started texting me asking me when a good time was for us to talk. I didn't reply and let it go over the weekend.

First Vice Jonathan Beam and I met with Stew Gibson. I felt yet again this meeting was no different than any other meeting with corporate managers. Gibson claimed that he didn't know a lot about our pay issues and continued to make other statements both Jonathan and I felt were false.

A couple of positives came out of that meeting. I was told that we in Crofton only, will be receiving pay stubs by mail, and 2 more postings for Power and Recovery will be out bringing the total to 4 this past month. Stay tuned for more in the coming months.

The local has 2 arbitrations dates for replacing the work force, and the swipe time grievance. Like mentioned previously, we have our pay grievance going to arbitration, along with our retiree's benefits grievance. Dates have not been set of yet.

The Local has 6 grievances at 4th step, where I believe 3 will end up in arbitration.

It was a long winter.

In solidarity;  
Chris Wipplinger  
President  
PPWC Local 2



## HISTORY OF THE PPWC

### Chapter 8

#### CERTIFICATION MARKS END OF AN ERA

By mid-June 1963 the fledgling union started in Castlegar was gaining respectability while instilling fear in the hearts of International representatives and supporters. Hot on the heels of Crofton and Woodfibre, Local 708, Prince Rupert, members were de-certifying.

Local 708, Angus Macphee's home local, was also the home of several other un-ion activists who either joined in the breakaway or served profile roles in the PPWC later. Among those were: Reg Ginn, Fred Mullin, Al Smith, Len Shankel, all PPWC stalwarts; and Pat O'Neal, a PPWC nemesis.

While there is no desire to display O'Neal here, by his very notoriety he plays a part in our formation. He was the water to our fire, trying to extinguish us many times. Significantly, he is a common denominator among all early PPWC activists, reviled equally by all. Rumor has it that he was an Irish ex-patriot who jumped a British naval ship in the Prince Rupert area. O'Neal found work in the mines and around Prince Rupert, eventually hiring on at the Watson Island Pulp Mill. There he found something to his liking: the trade union movement and, especially, the political aspects featured in the old International.

O'Neal was a born politician, described by Eric Bodin, Local 8, as a man who swallowed the Blarney stone. O'Neal was smooth. He quickly moved up the union ranks, leaving Local 708 behind. We will meet him again.

Meanwhile, Local 708 was disintegrating. Angus Macphee, the favorite son, had rung its bell in May 1963, when he resigned from the Western Pulp and Paper Council. The council was, after all, a West Coast extension of the International Union. Angus had to resign because he belonged to a de-certified local. Though he was president of the Western Council at the time, his allegiance was with the new PPWC Local 4. In truth, it's hard not to argue that, above all, Angus

Macphee was and remains the central figure of this union.

His early writings are timely and, what's more, they bring the message clearly to the people. The message, simply stated, says that unions must exist for the members, they must represent the views of the members, and their direction must come from the shop floor. No one did this earlier, better or longer than Macphee did.

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*Fighting the company was bad enough. Having to face off against your own union did not enhance good feelings.*

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Even Macphee, of course, did not act alone. Reg. Ginn, Si Miners, Bunn Fortune, and Frank Bennett, among others, heeded the trumpet's call.

Reg Ginn tells the story of International Union behavior shortly before the breakaway in 1963. He remembers Local 708 was caught up in the firing of a member. Both sides were polarized, and no resolve seemed possible. The local executive repaired to their office for further deliberation, where they were met by Stubby Hansen, International Union vice-president and BC area representative. Much to Ginn's surprise, Hansen stood firmly on the company side. Clearly, they (Hansen and company) had contrived to better the local.

Fighting the company was bad enough. Having to face off against your own union did not enhance good feelings.

Events of this nature, however, were symptomatic of how affairs were conducted at that time by the International Union.

The certification of Local 4 marks the end of an era. It is the last comparatively easy certification achieved by the PPWC.

While the International tried to hang on, all activists supported the new union. The Labour Board granted certification in June, and Local 708 was gone.

## DISCUSSION/OPINION - Tracey Mehmal

I am involved in a few councils, as well as groups through social media. Recently, I was involved in a conversation in one of the groups where I gave some input. Wasn't meant to be disrespectful to anyone, but was taken that way by some. One of the responses I got, after they said their piece, was for me to not respond, as I already had my say. That is not the purpose of having councils and groups. It is to hear the comments of others, whether you agree or not, and continue a discussion or debate. It is not about putting a "gag order" on someone just because you disagree.

This article is about using your voice. It is not always easy to do, especially if using social media or email, because sometimes the message, and sentiment, can be totally misread. If you can use your voice, in person, or at least aloud, that is always more effective, as others can hear the sentiment, rather than hear what they are feeling.

It is my hope that more of the membership use their voice, in a positive and respectful way, to say what they want to say, and maybe open up a new conversation.

**In Solidarity,  
Tracey Mehmal**

### The Importance of Using Your Voice

Having a voice means having the ability to conquer the world - **Arynn Troupe, Faulkner University**

Our voices are our strength, weapon, and power. We have the ability to do great things with them. But having a voice is something that is often taken for granted and used for gossip, hate, and bitter words. Instead lifting others, or ourselves, up, we choose to tear people down with what we say. It is important to use your voice for the positive because whether you know it or not, your voice can do a lot.

This weekend, I went to an Open Mic and got to hear some incredible artists. And while I was sitting there, I decided to dig deep and listen. In doing so, I learned why it really is so important to use your voice.

#### 1. Telling Your Story

Every person has a unique, important story to share. When we share our stories, we become free of any pain hidden in them; we get to re-experience and share all the joy. When Lianne Martin got to the stage, she was spunky and smiling, and when she told her story, she put her soul into it. What captured me is when she said, "And if 1 in 4 women are sexually assaulted or abused, then I guess I am pretty lucky that this is all I have to show for being a statistic". In one sentence, I felt like I learned so much about this person who I didn't even know existed before today. Because she used her voice, she was able to share a piece with herself to the people in the room. And while it probably affected each person differently, it had an effect nonetheless.

#### 2. Creating and Gaining Confidence

It is important to use your voice even when you are scared. When one girl got up to the microphone, she said, "Sorry if this sucks". But in her moment of fear and uncertainty, everyone in the crowd clapped and cheered for her. They encouraged her to do her absolute best. This is so important because sometimes using your voice is hard. All you want to do is stay quiet and let others speak for you. When you do this, you lose part of who you are. Having a voice means having the ability to conquer the world. We must learn to have the confidence and strength to use it without hesitance.

#### 3. Spreading Awareness

Sometimes, people are oblivious, or ignorant, to the things happening around them. We have a tendency to block out the things we don't want to hear. But when you use your voice, you force people to listen. Amiri Lynx got up to the stage and shared his power when he said, "I can't breathe, hands up and hands tied. I won't bleed because my blood might meet your quota". Amiri opened the eyes of people to see the world we are living in today because not everyone is lucky enough to leave their house unafraid. He spoke for the people whose voices are not always heard, and he spoke for himself as a man seeking justice.

#### 4. Bringing People Together

Using your voice does not always have to be done through spoken word. There are so many different ways to express your thoughts and opinions without saying them aloud. At this open mic, all different people were brought together. You had people who were poets, musicians, and even me, a writer eager to share the stories I heard. **(Cont. page 5)**



(Cont. from page 4)

It's important to remember that people tell their stories in many different ways whether it be through playing piano or guitar, or by sharing a poem near and dear to their heart.

No matter how you choose to go about it, use your voice in a way that brings meaning and purpose to you.

### 5. Sharing Your Opinions

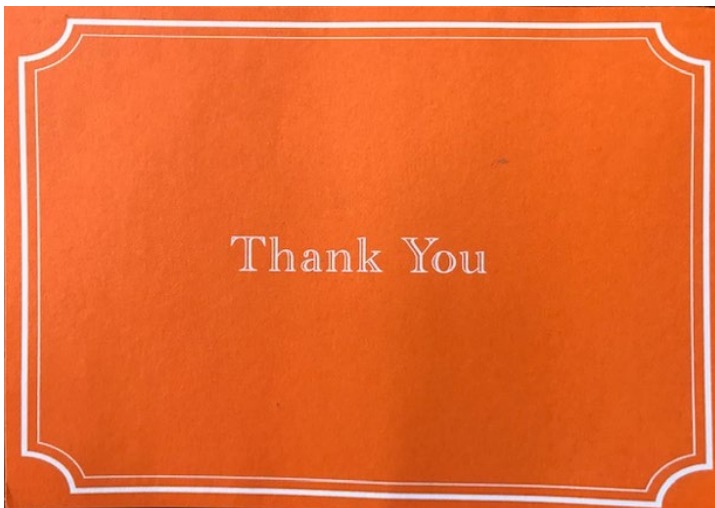
One of the most important uses of using your voice is simply the ability to share your opinions. When Lex spoke, she said, "When asked to spit a few verses, it

became less about being perfect and more about purpose. Less about what's on the surface and more about lessons learned". Speaking and being open about your opinions doesn't have to be perfect. When you use your voice for a purpose, it becomes its own version of perfect because it has meaning and power behind it. People can speak pretty words all they want, but if it has no meaning behind it, what's the point? I encourage every person who reads this to step out of their boundaries and work harder and sharing their voice. Speak your mind and be open to the world around you. More than anything, be open and true to yourself. **Submitted by TM**

### PAPER EXCELLENCE ANNOUNCES RESTART POWELL RIVER MACHINE

Paper Excellence has announced plans to restart the number 11 paper machine at the Powell River Mill in May. According to PE, the restart is a reflection of the on-going recovery in the global paper markets and PE's long-term commitment to the Powell River Mill.

The machine was curtailed in the spring of 2020 after the external malware attack and the COVID-19 pandemic simultaneously impacted the mill's paper production as well as global paper demand. A total of 200 jobs will return with the startup of the paper machine.



Dear members of PPWC local 2,

I would like to thank you for the scholarship you awarded me. It is helping with my financial needs while I pursue my Bachelor of Music. It has helped to allow me to have great success.

Sincerely,  
Aedan Geiger

### DID YOU KNOW.....?

58 percent of workers in Canada don't have access to paid sick days.

Without paid sick days, some workers go into work sick because they can't afford to stay at home and get better.

That puts them and other workers at risk of serious illness.

**Research shows that more paid sick days can reduce the spread of viruses, including the coronavirus.**

## IMPORTANT APRIL DATES

Apr 2 - **Good Friday**

Apr 4 - **Easter Sunday** – 1 week after the Paschal Full Moon, which is the first full Moon after the Spring Equinox - always falls between March 23 and April 26.

Apr 5 **Easter Monday**, Since the Bible does not recount what occurred on Easter Monday, most Western nations that observe the holiday celebrate it with a day off.

Apr 22 – **Earth Day**

Apr 28 - **Day of Mourning History**

Day of Mourning seeks to remember those workers who lost their lives due to workplace injury or illness. It aims to acknowledge those workers whose lives were irreparably or seriously harmed due to workplace injury or illness. This day also aims to renew commitments toward improving health and safety in the workplace. On this day, flags are flown at half-mast and ceremonies are held in remembrance.

### THEY SAID IT

To those of you who received honors, awards and distinctions, I say, well done. And to the 'C' students, I say, you too can be president.

George W Bush

### THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

**April 19/1974**

In a targeted campaign for pay equity, postal workers begin a seven-day illegal strike that wins women postal code machine operators the same pay as male postal clerks.



### MONTHLY HUMOUR



In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the Mystic delivered the grave news:  
“There’s no easy way to tell you this, so I’ll just be blunt. Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year.”

Visibly shaken, the woman stared at the Mystic’s lined face, then at the flickering candle, then down at her hands...

She took a few deep breaths to compose herself and to stop her mind from racing...

She simply had to know.

She met the Fortune Teller’s gaze, steadied her voice and asked, “Will I be acquitted?”

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

14	MITTON, R.L.	APR 14/80
37	HAYWOOD, D	APR 21/86
57	ROCHON, M.A.	APR 05/88
58	ANDERSON, G.M.	APR 17/88
92	GRONLUND, C.G.	APR 06/94
93	HILLBRECHT, L.E.	APR 11/94
112	DOUGLAS, R.G.	APR 08/03
126	LANDYGO, S.J.	APR 03/11
127	ROBERTSON, C.I.	APR 03/11
128	CASPARIE, B.K.	APR 04/11
129	FOORT, R.A.	APR 04/11
130	CHOW, R.H.	APR 04/11
131	WALDHUBER, S.N.	APR 14/11
148	VANHERWAARDEN, E.R.	APR 19/12
149	KLOPPER, A.B.	APR 19/12
150	CONDON, D.J.	APR 25/12
151	MYHR, S.C.	APR 25/12
152	RAYMOND, J.R.	APR 25/12
177	YORK, P.W.	APR 15/13
178	MARCHESSAULT, M.D.	APR 15/13
179	COOKE, B.C.	APR 22/13
180	KIDD, S.E.	APR 22/13
181	BISSETT, W.R.	APR 22/13
203	CRAIG, R.W.	APR 07/14
204	RANDALL, J.	APR 07/14
205	GORRILL, C	APR 07/14
233	HORSPOOL, C.A.	APR 20/15
251	INGHAM, D.W.	APR 04/16
252	RETZLAFF, C	APR 04/16
253	SUTTON, D	APR 28/16
275	MARIN, B	APR 03/17
276	SMITH, A	APR 03/17
277	DALLE VEDOVE, G	APR 04/17
313	BLAKE, D	APR 09/18

### RETIREMENTS

Apologies in advance here, need more info than just a name. Got to have dates etc. DG

### WE ARE ...

PPWC Local 2

1616 Chaplin Street. Crofton, BC.

VOR 1R0 - 250.246.9272

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



### THEY SAID IT

If it weren't for electricity we'd all be watching television by candlelight. - George Gobel

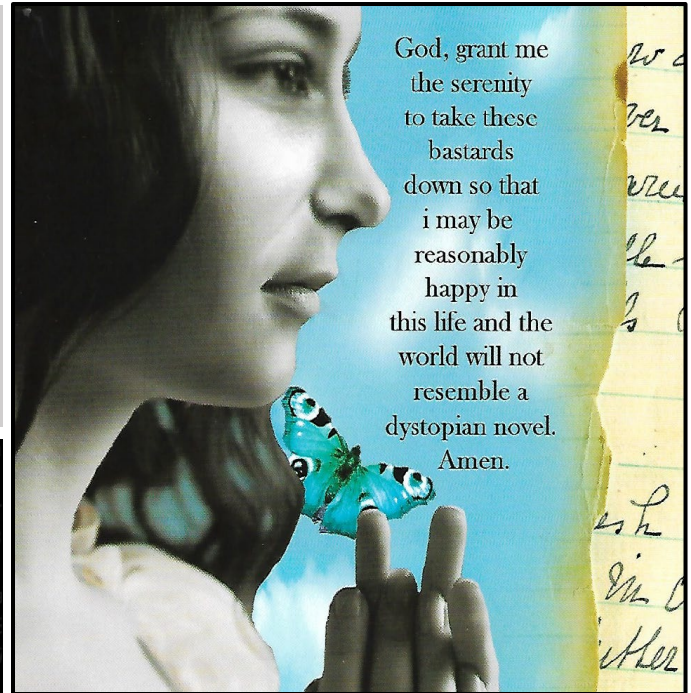
### THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

#### April 28/1984

The Canadian Labour Congress establishes the first National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. The idea of a Workers' Memorial Day is adopted by more than 100 countries around the world.

**APR 19th 6:30 PM**

**AGENDA: Regular order of business  
VIA ZOOM**



### THEY SAID IT

What's Wal-Mart ? Do they sell like wall stuff ?

Paris Hilton

### LABOUR QUOTES

"The Labor Movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."

Martin Luther King Jr.

### REMINDER

Contained within our Membership Oath are the words "I shall not wrong any member".

From the National PPWC,  
The Local Unions have a right to discipline any member for a violation of the National Constitution, Local by-laws, decisions of regular or special membership meetings, or the working rules only after a fair hearing and a majority vote at the Local Union meeting.

**You need to contact your union reps about your brothers/sisters woes – do not report to the company.**

# Day of MOURNING

Last year, 140 B.C. workers died from a workplace injury or disease.

When you lose a loved one,  
the pain never goes away.

We all have responsibilities to ensure  
workers and workplaces are healthy  
and safe.



**Tuesday, April 28**  
[dayofmourning.bc.ca](http://dayofmourning.bc.ca)



### April 28<sup>th</sup>, DAY of MOURNING

In 2019, 140 B.C. workers died from a workplace injury or disease.

There were 56 fatalities due to traumatic injury and 84 fatalities due to occupational disease - 60 as a result of asbestos exposure.



## 2021 PPWC Local 2 Executive

✳️ CHRIS WIPPLINGER - [president@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:president@ppwclocal2.com)  
**President / NEB Member**  
Machine Room

✳️ VACANT  
**1st Vice President Maintenance**  
Millwright

✳️ JON BEAM - [vp1ops@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:vp1ops@ppwclocal2.com)  
**1st Vice President – Operations**  
Power Engineer

✳️ AL KUEBER - [vp2@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:vp2@ppwclocal2.com)  
**2nd Vice President**  
Electrician (Day)

✳️ TRACEY MEHMAL - [reports@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:reports@ppwclocal2.com)  
**Recording/Corresponding Secretary**

✳️ TROY BELBECK - [finance@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:finance@ppwclocal2.com)  
**Financial Secretary -**  
Millwright

✳️ CORY REDENBACH - [masterops@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:masterops@ppwclocal2.com)  
**One Year Master Shop Steward -Ops.**

✳️ GERARD DALLE VEDOVE  
[mastermaint@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:mastermaint@ppwclocal2.com)  
**One Year Master Shop Steward -Maint.**  
Instrument Mechanic

✳️ DON PEARSON - [healthwelfare@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:healthwelfare@ppwclocal2.com)  
**Two Year H&W/ Trustee**  
Millwright

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**Outside Guard/Trustee**  
Machine Room

✳️ GEOFF DAWE - [wage@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:wage@ppwclocal2.com)  
**Wage Delegates Chair**  
Power Engineer

## 2021 PPWC Local 2 Committee Members

✳️ **Health & Welfare Committee**  
DON PEARSON, [healthwelfare@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:healthwelfare@ppwclocal2.com) - Pager: 499

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BRENNER DAVIS, [brenner.davis@live.ca](mailto:brenner.davis@live.ca)

## 2021 PPWC Local 2 Committee Members

### ✳️ Construction Committee

GARY RAMWELL

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RYAN BOURELLE, [ryanbourelle@gmail.com](mailto:ryanbourelle@gmail.com) Pager 113

CARLO AQUINO, [pablos@telus.net](mailto:pablos@telus.net)

### ✳️ Apprenticeship Committee

ANDREW MORRIS (Chair), [andrewmorris8@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmorris8@gmail.com)

KYLE CHYPLYK, [modelaeh@gmail.com](mailto:modelaeh@gmail.com)

NATHAN SMITH, [nathan\\_smith001@hotmail.com](mailto:nathan_smith001@hotmail.com)

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JEREMY JOHNSON, [jeremydouglastjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jeremydouglastjohnson@gmail.com)

### ALTER NATE – KEITH MALVENA

### ✳️ Wage Delegates

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MAXX MURAI, [maxxwelljmurai@gmail.com](mailto:maxxwelljmurai@gmail.com) Pager 692

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LYNN LINDEMAN, [lynnlindeman@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnlindeman@hotmail.com)

MAT WALDRON, [matwaldron@telus.net](mailto:matwaldron@telus.net)

Alternate Wage Del. - VACANT

### ✳️ Young Workers Liaison

ZAC SMITH, [zacharywsmith@gmail.com](mailto:zacharywsmith@gmail.com)

BRENNER DAVIS, [brenner.davis@live.ca](mailto:brenner.davis@live.ca)

### ✳️ Forestry & Enviro committee

VACANT x 3 (1 chair)



In the last few planned short shutdowns, there appeared to be a scheme in place to shorten the amount of locks used, less master lockouts etc. It looked as though a plan was in place to intentionally shorten the duration of the shutdown by shaving the time needed for locking out equipment etc.

Aside from the obvious safety implications, how is it ok to deliberately circumvent equipment a procedure isolation in order to speed up a shutdown?

A more logical concern should be an attitude of how can we make this a safer shutdown? What more can we do? ***The time it takes to ensure safe isolation etc. should never be questioned.***

There is a reason we have a Lockout Committee, lockout procedures etc. The company needs to be asking what they can do to make things safer rather than worried about time constraints.

It's inconceivable that some believe shortening safety procedures is a desirable outcome - all in the hopes of a hastier startup. - DG



## LABOUR QUOTES

**"My friends it is solidarity we want. We do not want to find fault with each other, but to solidify our forces and say to each other: We must be together; our masters are joined together and we must do the same thing."**

Mother Jones

### **First Nation and Steelworkers' union ink deal to access timber, create jobs on Vancouver Island**

Huu-ay-aht First Nation & United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 sign memorandum over land in Alberni Valley

A new agreement between the Huu-ay-aht First Nation and the union representing forest industry workers on Vancouver Island means the two will lobby the B.C. government together for access to uncut wood in the Alberni Valley area — and the economic benefits that come with it.

The nation and United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 have signed a memorandum of understanding focused on getting the province to give Tree Farm License 44 (TFL 44) undercut access to the Huu-ay-aht and create jobs through early retirement and training initiatives.

Undercut is the term used for timber that a tree farm license owner could have harvested within a five-year term but was left in the woods. If it is still on the stump at the end of term, the province can give it away to another company or nation, or turn it into community forest. The Huu-ay-aht Nation has an ownership stake in the land purchased from Western Forest Products and the new agreement is, according to the nation's chief, "a big step" toward reconciliation and economic benefits for both nation and union members. **Bridgette Watson • CBC News**

**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](mailto:twosnews@shaw.ca) or [twosnews@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:twosnews@ppwclocal2.com)

## To All Locals - Public and Private Workers of Canada

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

As most elections and nominations have concluded for 2020, I'd like to take this time to welcome everyone to their positions as environmental reps, forestry reps, plant chairpersons, and all those who are members of the PPWC who have an interest in environmental and forestry issues. I'd like to set out some goals for these issues and begin opening up communication for the upcoming year.

First and foremost, I am requesting the email addresses of all relevant members to make a chat group so we can start to get to know everyone. I am requesting that all locals put out this letter along with the attached voluntary sign-up sheet in order to collect member's names and email addresses of the local reps or those who have an interest in the topics of forestry and the environment. I am also requesting all members and affiliated groups of the PPWC to reach out to myself to have your emails included in these discussions.

Meeting once a year like before isn't effective. We all have great ideas and can always use more information. A Facebook or other social media account will be set up for you to follow. This can be decided by the group and the National office will administrate it.

Goals of the group are as follows:

- Opening communication for like-minded individuals in the industry within the PPWC
- Networking and Co-op problem solving
- Quarterly site reports or local reports
- Generate policies and position for the PPWC
- Create press statements and opinion pieces for local media.
- Have all locals represented in this discussion! Just because you're not a forestry based local shouldn't stop you from sharing your great ideas.
- Include quarterly presentations and training opportunities electronically by National officer.
- Review government policies
- Local and regional activism on issues that matter to our members

These are a few suggested goals I have come up with and are open for discussion.

I am looking to have our first meeting in mid-January, so let's get the ball rolling and we can set up a cyber-meeting to share ideas!

In Solidarity,

**Cam Shiell**

National Environmental and Sustainability Officer  
Public and Private Workers of Canada

201-1184 W 6th Ave - Vancouver, BC V6H 1A4

[environmentalsustainability@ppwc.ca](mailto:environmentalsustainability@ppwc.ca)

### Environmental & Forestry Discussion Group

Calling all environmental reps, forestry reps, plant chairpersons, and all those who are members of the PPWC who have an interest in environmental and forestry issues!

National Environmental Sustainability Officer Cam Shiell invites you to sign up to join an environmental and forestry discussion group.

Goals of the group include opening communication for like-minded individuals in the industry within the PPWC, generate policies and position for the PPWC, create press statements and opinion pieces for local medias, include quarterly presentations and training opportunities electronically by National officer, and local and regional activism on issues that matter to our members to name a few.

Please contact local 2 with name and email address for all those who are interested. Further information will follow.

**PPWC Wage Caucus Health and Welfare Report  
March, 2021**

The trust met on Thursday February 25th via Zoom.

- ✳ There was discussion on bringing new smaller groups into the plan, the discussion centered on it really being on a case-by-case basis with the main principle being not to endanger the trust as it exists now. More discussion will be needed on this.
- ✳ Our WI claim payments are out stripping our contributions even though the contribution rates were raised twice last year; we are beginning to see an improvement in the number of new claims as we enter 2021. Short term mental health claims have stayed steady over the last year while LTD mental health claims have risen 10 % from last year.
- ✳ WI cases that transition into LTD cases are on the increase, this may result in a very substantial rate increase in July. Any rate increase is shared 70/30 like our regular contributions for WI and LTD.
- ✳ There are more bio-similar drugs entering the market place to compete with the much pricier

biologic drugs. Pacific Blue Cross is following BC PharmaCare guidelines on changing our members over to bio-similar drugs. Changing from biological drugs to bio-similars may not affect the amount our members have to pay yearly, but the hit to their lifetime max is the difference between a possible \$40,000 per year charge as opposed to \$2,500.

- ✳ The Trust has gone to market to investigate if the Trust could save money on its audit while retaining the same service. A decision will be made by the end of March.
- ✳ Even with the pandemic, the Trust's investment portfolio has remained fine.

The next Trust meetings are set for June 14th and October 19th at this time via Zoom.

In Solidarity,



Lynn Lindeman

On behalf of all the Union Trustees

**Pension Report - March 1<sup>st</sup>/2021**

Return to end of September of 11.6%

Covid impact on returns have been negligible to this point. There is however about 35% of our portfolio that is of a medium to high concern that are being monitored weekly

The plan has created a new target benefit division within the Diversified Division to bring in a new entrant to our plan. Local 780G with Unifor is bringing their present Target Benefit pension plan into this new division. This is a multi-employer plan with approx. 84 active members and assets of \$35 million.

Funding levels have increased YOY on a going concern and stand at 110% funded.

Benefit increases were approved for 3 categories. Final 5 average, retiree increase of .125% and the pre 97 flat benefit went from \$64.57 to \$65.86.

Pension newsletter should be out shortly.

11,217 pensioners and beneficiaries receiving monthly benefit payments of \$15,330,000.

Total assets under the plan \$4.8 billion (Sept 30, 2020) up from Dec 2019 of \$4.4 billion

The trustees continue to monitor the plan on a regular basis and continue to take a conservative approach when investing our member's pension contributions. Our goal is to ensure a stable retirement income for our members for the duration of their retirement.

In Solidarity,

Pension Trustees



## APRIL 2021 EMOJI AWARD



And the winner is ....

**PAPER EXCELLENCE** – for maintaining a solid attitude of uncaring neglect towards the membership. A complete unwillingness to address or examine key issues that plague us – It's almost as if the incompetence is intentional – probably to distress the union etc.

**Runner up:** SC at Richmond Payroll – Never-ending merry-go-round of excuses.



## THE LAST WORD

With our contract expiring at the end of this month (Midnight, April 30<sup>th</sup>), your very first priority should be to ensure and maintain our strength and unity. Every single one of us needs to lock arms and unite against this Paper Excellence regime.

They are becoming more adept at withholding insurance and employee benefit payments – more proficient at suppressing timely payments for equipment repairs, parts & service. And certainly quite clever at hiding, disguising and stalling the forwarding of pension monies etc.

These guys are greasy and sneaky – what other surprises are in store for us?

They literally lie, cheat and steal – they simply cannot be trusted.

Duane Gale – Editor

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# PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada

