

# TWO'S NEWS

AUGUST 2021

Editor: Duane Gale

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# PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



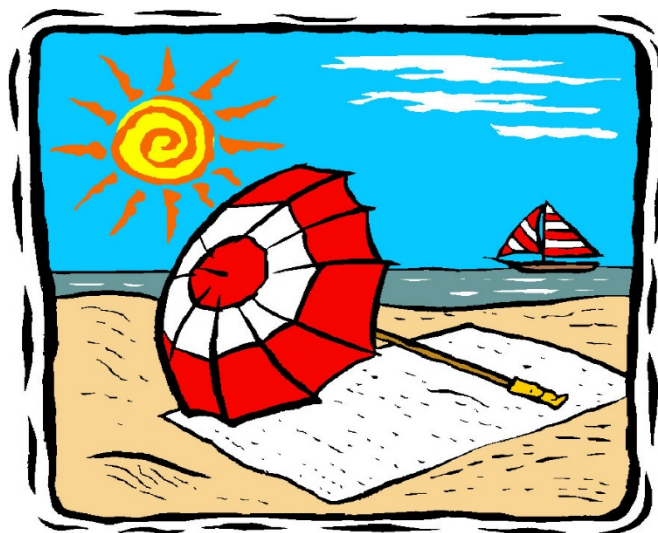
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[twosnews@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:twosnews@ppwclocal2.com) or

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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**



**HAPPY BC DAY!**

**August 2nd**

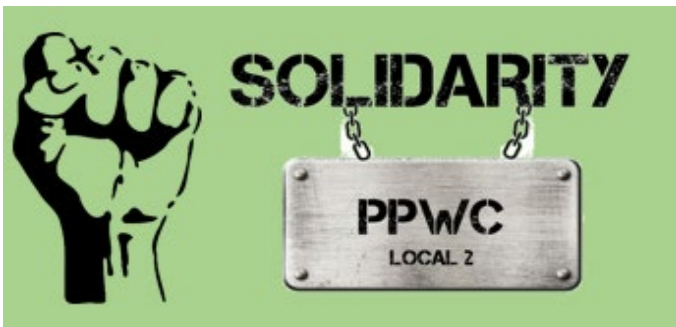
There are claims by the English to have explored this area in the 16th century, but it was Spanish navigator Juan José Pérez Hernández who had the first documented visit in 1774. In 1778, English explorer James Cook reached Nootka Sound and set foot on British Columbian soil.

There were several gold finds in British Columbia in the 1850s. The British colonial office responded to this situation by establishing British Columbia's mainland as a crown colony in 1858, naming it the Colony of British Columbia. In 1871 British Columbia became the sixth province of the Dominion of Canada.

The BC Day Act was first introduced to the Legislative Assembly in 1974, and it gained royal assent in the same year. The aim of the Bill was to create a statutory holiday on the first Monday in August to recognize the pioneers in the province.

## IN THIS EDITION

- ★ **EXCLUSIVE** - Paper Excellence shows off new logo – pg. 7
- ★ Info Picket coverage
- ★ Abbreviated Presidents Page
- ★ History of the PPWC Chapter 12
- ★ August Anniversaries etc.
- ★ Executive & Committee lists
- ★ Monthly Humor
- ★ Opinion – Richmond payroll, the turd that won't flush
- ★ AUGUST Emoji Winner
- ★ Important Paper Excellence news article



## INFO PICKET



Thumbs up for the Info picket, this was a well-placed, collective boot up the company's ass. Kudos to the exec. Hopefully more of these to come.



### **KITIMAT– NOTICE SERVED - Unifor Serves Rio Tinto with 72 Hour Strike Notice** (Note the similarities - Ed)

After achieving a historic 100% strike vote result and nearly seven weeks of unproductive negotiations with Rio Tinto, Unifor Local 2301 has served the company with a 72-hour strike notice.

“Unifor members’ historic, unanimous, strike vote speaks volumes to the culture of disrespect and unfair treatment Rio Tinto has created over many years,” said Jerry Dias, Unifor National President. “What is surprising is how, despite record-setting profits, Rio Tinto appears so unwilling to work with us and treat our members fairly.”

Unifor Local 2301 represents approximately 900 workers at the company’s aluminum smelting plant in Kitimat and power generating facility in Kemano. Despite a global drop in aluminum prices from April to June of last year, 2020 was Rio Tinto’s third most profitable in two decades with net revenues exceeding \$9.8 billion (USD).

In talks with the company, the union has proposed reasonable and long-overdue changes to workers’ retirement income and benefit levels, all of which have remained unchanged for more than a decade. Notably, the union is seeking better retirement security for younger workers by moving newer employees from the company’s Defined Contribution plan to a Defined Benefit plan.

Negotiations are also focused on a backlog of more than 300 grievances, some dating back more than four years, created by the company’s unfair and unsafe use of contractors to perform union members’ work and its refusal to hire full-time workers leading to an overreliance on temporary employees. Rio Tinto has been unwilling to address their aggressive, expanding use of contractors, making the issue a focal point in negotiations. - **LABOURSTART**



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Brothers and Sisters,

As you are well aware by now, PPWC local 2 president Chris Wipplinger has resigned his post citing personal reasons.

Wage delegate Geoff Dawe has stepped in on a temporary basis until a solution/replacement is found. Much appreciation and thanks to Chris for his sacrifice and his difficult, diligent work.

Considerable gratitude to Geoff for stepping up and assuming the role.

### DID YOU NOTICE ...?

On or about July 21st, the company circulated an email, proudly announcing a bevy of new employees. Two much needed VTRs and an Inst Mech... and six new staff personnel. That's a 2 to 1 ratio of staff over union.

Send your hate mail to: [twosnews@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:twosnews@ppwclocal2.com)



### The right to refuse unsafe work

The refusal of unsafe work is both a fundamental right and a responsibility held by workers. A worker's refusal of unsafe work is an integral element in ensuring work is carried out safely. Workers who reasonably believe work is unsafe must refuse to perform that work and are entitled to have their employer investigate and, where necessary, correct the hazard.

## United We Stand

The Catalyst ATM machine was finally located – and in keeping in line with company policy, it's also NFG.



Uncredited photo

### THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

22 August 1950

More than **100,000** railway workers go on strike, shutting down the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway lines. A week later an emergency session of Parliament passes a law to end the strike, *the first use of back-to-work legislation in Canada*.



## OVERTIME MYTHS

**MYTH** Members won't give up overtime.

**FACT** our members will give up overtime to create more jobs.

**MYTH** If I don't work OT, there will be more contractors at the mill.

**FACT** While OT has increased dramatically, so has contracting out. Companies use OT and contracting out for the same end – smaller mill crews. OT is not a solution to contracting out.

**MYTH** Members need the additional money from overtime.

**FACT** Only 17% of our members say they work overtime because they need the money. Most work OT for the banked time or because co-workers need time off.

**MYTH** if we cut OT, management will push harder on flex.

**FACT** Management will push the flex agenda regardless of OT rates. Flex and OT are also about the same end – less jobs.

**MYTH** OT is necessary to deal with emergencies and to keep the mill running.

**FACT** Most OT is not due to emergencies, but for relief to cover earned time off.

**MYTH** People have always worked OT because that's what mill towns are about. You earn as much as you can, as fast as you can, and then move on.

**FACT** if that was true in the 1960s, it isn't today. The average mill worker has a lot of seniority. Most of us have lived in our town for years and we aren't going anywhere.

**MYTH** The mill can't run without OT.

**FACT** Mills used to run with much less overtime and a few still do operate with lower levels of OT. OT has doubled over the past 15 years. Fewer regular workers means more OT.

**MYTH** if we don't work OT, we won't get our days off when we need them. That's how the system works.

**FACT** that's exactly how the system works, and why we have to change it. When the company hires more full time relief workers, it will be possible to get our earned time off without working OT.

**MYTH** OT is cheaper. Cutting OT will increase labour costs and make the mill less competitive.

**FACT** hiring new workers is cheaper than OT. When all costs are included, OT costs double time. Managers prefer OT because it results in fewer workers, not because it's cheaper.

**MYTH** Cutting OT won't create jobs.

Management won't hire more workers, no matter what we do.

**FACT** Jobs have been created by BC mills by reducing OT. The key is to negotiate clear provisions to create jobs when OT is reduced.



## MEDIA STATEMENT JULY 2021

The purpose of this statement is to bring to light the continued issues that have plagued the membership of this Mill. And to inform the public that PPWC Local 2 has reached a stalemate with the current Management (HR) regarding a path forward. Our union has worked hard to find compromises to improve conditions at the mill. Members recently had a payday where half of the payroll period was missed. The payroll program has left members shorthanded on a regular basis for the last 18 months.

It is unusual for a union to be so public about these issues. However, this situation has expanded beyond what an employee should expect in a normal workplace. Outstanding concerns at the Mill include safety, payroll, lack of manning, and replacing the workforce with contractors. We are informing our members to please continue to show up to work and do their job to the best of their ability. The grievance process continues to be broken at the mill as most grievances are denied. The payroll system is still broken leaving members short-handed after payday. Safety continues to be an ongoing concern throughout the Mill. Lack of manning puts additional stress on members, having vacation denied, working excessive hours, and exacerbating safety concerns.

PPWC Local 2 takes these issues seriously and will be taking the necessary steps to try to resolve them. We feel like these concerns are negatively affecting our basic quality of life. Please stand with us as we try to continue to work through these issues in the hope of achieving reasonable working conditions for the membership.

## **INFORMATION PICKET FLYER**

To the PPWC local 2 membership:

The purpose of this flyer is to bring to light the continued issues that have plagued the membership of this Mill. And to inform the membership that the Executive has reached a stalemate with the current Management (HR) regarding a path forward.

Outstanding concerns at the Mill:

### **1. Safety**

- a. Maintenance not being performed on failing equipment.
- b. No safety meetings in some departments and on some crews.
- c. No investigations performed following incidents to prevent future events.
- d. Regular clean up not being performed to prevent fires.
- e. Personnel being expected to stay beyond their 12-hour shift.

### **2. Payroll**

- a. Many union members not being paid properly, missing days, wrong rate etc.
- b. New payroll system implemented that continues to have serious shortcomings 17 months after implementation.
- c. Many members missing substantial portions of their cheque following payday putting them in a difficult position financially.
- d. Placing the onus on the employee to identify and correct their pay.

### **3. Lack of Manning**

- a. Not replacing employees that have left due to a variety of reasons.
- b. Insufficient relief structure to accommodate time off for members throughout the mill.
- c. Inability to train union members to fill the many positions that have been vacated due to attrition.
- d. Threats of cancelling members holidays if we do not allow temps/contractors in the mill.

### **4. Replacing the workforce**

- a. Continued reliance on contractors to perform work that had traditionally been done by union members.
- b. Not notifying the union of potential work, and using contractors.
- c. Not replacing maintenance workers that leave for a variety of reasons.

In closing, please continue to show up to work, do your job to the best of your ability. The grievance process continues to be broken as most grievances are denied. The payroll system is still broken leaving members short-handed after payday. Safety continues to be an ongoing concern throughout the Mill. Lack of manning puts additional stress on members, having vacation denied, working excessive hours, and exacerbating safety concerns.

The Executive takes these issues seriously and will be taking the necessary steps to try to resolve them. We feel like these concerns are negatively affecting our basic quality of life. Please stand with us as we try to continue to work through these issues in the hope of negotiating a fair contract, and reasonable working conditions for the membership.

In Solidarity,  
PPWC Local 2 Exec.

## HISTORY OF THE PPWC

### CHAPTER 12

#### O'NEAL SEES "REDS" BEHIND EVERY TREE

It's mid-1966. We see the PPWC poised to become one union in pulp and paper in BC. If Campbell River, Nanaimo, Prince George, and Port Mellon go, then the balance of power is firmly in the hands of the PPWC. The remaining International certifications will not be able to resist the demands of their members. But, then, with the stroke of an absolutely unbelievable pen, the provincial Labour Board declares the PPWC is not a "union under the meaning of the Act." Never mind that they have five certifications in the province. Put aside the reality they have bargained several collective agreements already. Instead, believe that somebody somewhere got to somebody else somewhere else.

A digression here for a moment: those of us who have grown into adulthood and are now in the golden (or is that iron pyrite?) years, or close to, in BC know that the Victoria government has always been pretty much of the "Banana Republic" variety. Gunboat diplomacy, or a reasonable facsimile of this approach, has been the virtue rather than the vice in most events witnessed in this province, especially in labour, over the many years. The wing-nut conspiracy has been entrenched in this province for a long time.

So back to the matter at hand: votes are denied at Nanaimo, Campbell River, and Prince George. At Port Mellon, the membership is split down the middle, so no application is made at this time. Had it been, the finding would not have varied with the findings for the other three. The Board offers little by way of rationalization for its action. Presumably, irrational actions have no rationale. It is clear, however, that Pat O'Neal, member extraordinaire of the International Union, presented a much-revised vision of the past. He used the "red," as in "commie," thing to his advantage. He made issue of the fact PPWC officers had entered the workplace to sign up new members without the permission of the companies. He talked of late-night phone calls to wives of mill workers featuring heavy breathing or sexual innuendo. He pulled all the stops. While he was reviled in the eyes of most PPWC activists, they all admit he was very good at what he did. This didn't make him better, just more formidable.

In any case, the LRB ruling denying the vote was based on a technicality, worse yet, an undisclosed technicality, making acceptance of the ruling impossible for any trade unionist. Pat O'Neal sang its praises, saying the decision spoke for itself: clearly, the PPWC had met its demise, the good old boys in the International had won, the upstart was on the ropes, soon to go through them into oblivion. What O'Neal didn't count on was the determination of the new PPWC members, their wives and, in some cases, even the communities they lived in.

While Angus Macphee and Orville Braaten kept up the pressure by writing of the wrongs at every opportunity, the rank and file in all three locations took to the streets in protest. They wrote letters to local newspapers, protested in Victoria, and set up a protest tent in front of the Labour Board offices in Vancouver. Anne Royal, wife of a Harmac

welder, set up a residence in front of Board offices, featuring a coffin containing the body of the trade unionist denied the right to a union of his choice. Writing from Nanaimo, Gordie Wickham advises the rest of the world that Harmac is in the hands of a Canadian union, PPWC Local 8. Of the 870 or so employees at the plant, some 850 are Local 8 members, paying dues to Local 8 on the honor system. That's willingly bringing your \$5 or whatever it was to the union hall or to a recognized union activist in Local 8's ranks, getting your receipt, and refusing to pay the International or recognize it in any way.

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*He talked of late-night phone calls to wives of mill workers featuring heavy breathing or sexual innuendo.*

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In Prince George, PPWC Local 9 is doing similar to Local 8: keeping the faith, increasing its membership, and remaining steadfast in its belief that the LRB will rule soon and, what's more, its ruling will reflect the principle of democracy (majority rule) our country is founded on. Port Mellon, after a hard-fought battle, does determine that PPWC Local 6 is, in fact, the winner, and an application for certification is made there.

Campbell River awaits the Board's decision.

Meanwhile, O'Neal, along with his following, tours the province, discrediting the PPWC where he can, saying he knows the LRB delay is proper, suggesting that it may take years to conclude, in fact, it may never conclude. In an especially costly approach, O'Neal has established an open-line radio talk show that he parades around the province, as well. He hosts the show, of course, and answers questions relative to the state of events as he sees them. His big push is to destroy the PPWC and bolster the International, his most common theme being the desperate need we have for international unions in order to combat the International companies. Only in the halls of the mighty with the mighty warriors within the International can we hope to survive. In late 1966, with Canada's 100th birthday still looming, things have changed a bit. The desire to be Canadian has remained as strong or is stronger, and the re-solve is similar. The ability through the LRB certification is, however, in some doubt.

A further explanation on how certifications are changed helps explain the process here. In an attempt to induce labour peace, the BC Labour Board has determined that certifications can only be changed during certain time frames of the contract year. In 1966, those time frames were the 11th and 12th month (yearly) of the contract's longevity. Once the LRB declared Locals 7, 8, and 9 non-eligible in 1966, they delayed re-application until 1967. This, of course, gave the International lots of time to wreak lots of havoc in the ranks of the new Canadian union. Charges and counter charges continued. However, it seemed apparent the International held more sway than the new Canadian union.

**CONT PG 7**

**CONT from PG 6**

They held all the funds. For example, in Nanaimo, \$40,000 held in a bank account belonging to the workers at Harmac was deemed the property of International Local 695, no matter only a small percentage remained in Local 695. There, Local 8 held the day but not the money.

The government of the day (Social Credit), while claiming neutrality, belied this by acting in favor of the International in all matters of importance. Big labour in the province and in the country supported the International Union. One could say the International had everything except the members in their control.

Paper Excellence  
unveils new  
accounting logo



**They said it**

She could never use a sperm donor to have a kid because she's not 100% sure that the baby would speak English.

-TexJester

**AUG 16th 6:30 PM**

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



**AUGUST HISTORY**

August 24, 79 A.D. - Vesuvius, an active volcano in southern Italy, erupted and destroyed the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

**THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY**

3 August 1961

The New Democratic Party is founded with the support of the Canadian Labor Congress.

**WHY DOES MENTAL HEALTH MATTER TO WORKERS  
AND UNIONS?**

Mental health matters to workers and unions because it affects our members and their families. Most people know someone with a mental health challenge.

Better mental health care, an end to discrimination against people with mental illness, and equitable work opportunities are human rights issues. Some mental illnesses also affect equity-seeking groups disproportionately—so mental health plays an important role in the fight for justice.

When it comes to the workplace, *mental illnesses account for about a third of all disability claims*. Fighting for better mental health care can help to keep workers in their jobs and prevent mental illnesses from occurring in the first place by challenging systemic issues in the workplace and the broader society.

There has been a lot of work in recent years to get people talking about mental illness. That's a good thing. But part of what is missing from that conversation – and part of what unions can bring – is the broader social collective context and how it affects workers and workplaces. *From CLC*

**Vancouver Island Counselling**

**Duncan 250 746 6900**

**Nanaimo 250 754 8222**

**Port Alberni 250 723 7001**

**Victoria / Gulf Islands / Lower Mainland  
1 877 746 6911**

## LABOUR BITS AND PIECES

- After leaving millions jobless in the spring of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic is once again upending the labour market. Some wages/salaries are up 'drastically' as Canada feels impact of labour shortages. There are more job postings available in the labour market than there are workers who are willing to fill those vacancies.
- Worker's 1-day suspension ruled too long for safety breach, back talk with manager. An Ontario worker who was suspended for a safety violation and talking back to his manager should have received a written warning instead, an arbitrator has ruled.
- Under an agreement with British Columbia, Ottawa will invest \$3.2 billion over the next five years to help improve regulated early learning and child care for children under six years of age in the province. Agreement will create 40,000 new spaces at \$10 per day.
- The Alberta government is proposing a 3 per cent rollback on salaries for nurses in the province. On average, nurses in Alberta make 5.6 per cent more than nurses in other comparator provinces.
- In Sudbury, Ontario, twenty-five hundred workers employed by the multinational mining corporation Vale are on strike. The industrial action comes after employees twice rejected a company offer that would significantly reduce the health benefits of younger workers. Vale has treated the pandemic as an opportunity to launch an attack on an already insecure workforce.
- July 13, 2021 - five people lost their lives, and more were injured due to the tragic crane collapse in Kelowna, incident still under investigation.

## LOCAL BITS & PIECES

- Jun 30 - Five workers were treated for smoke inhalation and one N.C. firefighter was treated for heat stress following a fire that started in the mechanical pulp mill area (TMP), the cause of the blaze is still being investigated.
- A water pump in power & Recovery literally disintegrated upon failure – luckily, no one was injured or killed. No more info available at this time – it is known however that proper manning may have prevented this catastrophic event.
- July 20/21 – Information picket set up at Hay Rd entrance. Major issues requiring attention: payroll debacle, safety concerns, manning shortfall, workforce replacements.

## INFLATION VS NEW CONTRACT

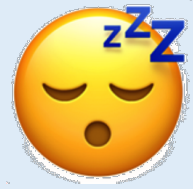
As of June 16/2021, ***inflation was at 3.6% for the year and rising*** – Highest in over 10 years. Will our next contract reflect the changes we need?

Year	Rate
2020	0.72%
2019	1.95%
2018	2.27%
2017	1.6%



From the July general membership meeting:  
An exchange of agendas to take place late September.

Geesh...really?





## THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

10 August 1966

Nine workers die and 55 are injured when a span on the Heron Bridge in Ottawa collapses during construction. Fifty years later, the bridge is renamed the Heron Road Workers Memorial Bridge.

**TO THE MEMBERSHIP, EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

## THIS IS A PPWC LOCAL 2 NEWSLETTER!!

**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)

### They said it

"I feel like I'm the best, but you're not going to get me to say that."

Hall of Fame Wide Receiver Jerry Rice

### Workplace Health and Safety

Workers have the right to refuse unsafe work, the right to be informed about hazards in the workplace, and the right to participate in health and safety discussions.

**EMPLOYERS MUST FULFILL THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO KEEP WORKERS SAFE.**

BC government labour law

**UNION  
STRONG  
UNION  
PROUD**

## MONTHLY HUMOUR

A woman was 3 months Pregnant when she fell into a deep coma and woke up after 6 months. The woman asked the doctor about her babies. The doctor said "You had twins, a boy and a girl they're both fine and your brother named them for you" The woman replies with "No, no, no, NOT MY BROTHER, he's an idiot! What did he name the girl? "Denise" the doctor answered Oh, that's actually not that bad! What about the boy? The woman replied. The doctor sighed deeply "Denephew".



Got a better one than this? The funniest one you ever heard? Send it in to Twos News – make it clean and tasteful

### AUGUST HISTORY

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

August 16, 1977 - Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m., at age 42.

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

#	NAME	SENIORITY	JOB
259	BLITTERSWYK, D	AUG 02/16	ELECTRICIAN
260	MITCHELL, P	AUG 02/16	P&R
87	WHEELER, V.L.	AUG 03/90	MILLWRIGHT
237	MANCOR, J.W.	AUG 04/15	MILLWRIGHT
213	OSBORNE, D.C.	AUG 05/14	MILLSTORES
3	POWER, S.G.	AUG 05/76	TMP
161	EVANS, C.J.G.	AUG 07/12	ELECTRICIAN
329	WILKES, S	AUG 07/18	PIPEFITTER.
120	BERRY, A.J.	AUG 08/06	P & R
121	MEHMAL, T.A.	AUG 08/06	OILER
122	DOREY, A	AUG 08/06	FORESHORE
285	GULKA, L	AUG 08/17	P&R
286	DUNLOP, T	AUG 08/17	DIGESTER
287	COUND, T	AUG 08/17	DIGESTER
288	CARRIERE, C	AUG 08/17	MILLWRIGHT
289	MCKINLAY, A	AUG 08/17	SHIPPING
358	FRANSSEN, L	AUG 12/19	DIGESTERS
359	TUCKER, R	AUG 12/19	MILLWRIGHT
188	JOHNSON, J.J.	AUG 19/13	P & R
142	BLAQUIERE, A.	AUG 22/11	INSTRUMENTS
8	JAMES, R.E.	AUG 24/78	BLEACH PLANT
16	LAMB, J.E.	AUG 25/80	TMP
189	HOEK, M.C.	AUG 26/13	MILLWRIGHT
330	MARTIN, I	AUG 27/18	CHIP HAND
331	PUGH, D	AUG 27/18	MILLWRIGHT
332	WOOD, J	AUG 27/18	MECH PULP
333	CLAIRMONT, B	AUG 27/18	DIGESTER.
334	CONNELLY, C	AUG 27/18	CHIP HAND
335	MALVENA, R	AUG 27/18	PULP MACH.
38	FIEGE, G.W.	AUG 27/86	NATIONAL
53	WALDRON, M.C.	AUG 28/87	BLEACH PLANT

#### Retired

Andy Nash, 43 yrs. Shipping dept.  
Carlo Aquino, 41 Yrs. Millwright  
Barry Evans, 34 Yrs. Inst. Mech.  
Glenn Forge, 33 Yrs. Pipefitter/Planner  
Brian Hicks, 6 yrs. Millwright

#### They said it

"You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might not get there."

Yogi Berra

### THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

19 August 1998

The McDonald's in Squamish, BC is the first outlet of the fast-food giant in North America to be unionized. The union fails to win a contract and in 1999 workers vote to decertify.

31 August 2001

A McDonald's restaurant in Montreal closes after the workers there organize and before a first contract is negotiated.

#### 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



### AUGUST HISTORY

August 5, 1962 - Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 from an overdose of sleeping pills. She made 29 films during her career and came to symbolize Hollywood glamour.

August 31, 1997 - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers.

#### From the "Net"

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation...

50 years ago the owner's manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves.

Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

## 2021 PPWC Local 2 Executive

- 🍁 GEOFF DAWE - [president@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:president@ppwclocal2.com)  
**INTERIM PRESIDENT**
- 🍁 ROB CAGE - [vp1maint@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:vp1maint@ppwclocal2.com)  
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**2nd Vice President**  
 Electrician (Day)
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**Recording/Corresponding Secretary**
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**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
- 🍁 AARON MCKENZIE - [insideguard@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:insideguard@ppwclocal2.com)  
**Inside Guard/Trustee**
- 🍁 KEITH MALVENA - [outsideguard@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:outsideguard@ppwclocal2.com)  
**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**  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

### Rainless

No measurable precipitation at Vancouver International Airport since mid-June, Environment Canada says. They last saw rain on June 15. The current dry spell could go on in the Vancouver area for several more weeks. The all-time record for days without rain was set in 1951, when the city went rainless from June 14 to Aug. 10.

### On fire

In BC, the current 10-year average, taken from 2011 to 2020, is 1,352 wildfires from April 1st to March 31st the following year. On average, 42% of these are human-caused and 58% are lightning-caused. Currently, as of July 27<sup>th</sup>, there have been 1,232 fires. *In 2018 there were 2,117 fires consuming over 1.3 million hectares.*

### I don't feel well

Three of the deadliest pandemics in recorded history were caused by a single bacterium, Yersinia Pestis, a fatal infection otherwise known as the plague. The Plague of Justinian in 541 AD killed an estimated 30 to 50 million people, about half of the world's population. The plague never really went away, and when it returned 800 years later, it killed with reckless abandon. The Black Death, which hit Europe in 1347, claimed an astonishing 200 million lives in just four years. Caused by fleas living on rats.

## THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

31 August 2013

A merger of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers brings 300,000 members together in Unifor, now Canada's largest private sector union.

## OPINION



I told myself some time ago that I would let up on the Payroll Dept. I picked on them enough and it seemed like matters were actually clearing up anyway. Let it go, move on ... except ... they just can't, won't or don't get it. One of the worst frauds committed against us occurred July 9th payday. The company once again botched our payroll hugely, only to issue a correction that was equally fraudulent. Nobody cares that a local payroll clerk took a week off – not our fault nor should it be a concern of ours. And why wouldn't someone in Richmond pick up on this? They just arbitrarily withheld a week's pay?

The official company response stated a concern over accuracy was the culprit – yes, I said that correctly. **Since when have they been worried about accuracy?** Any NSF charges would be reimbursed, however... your credit rating is another story.

I have casually over time discussed our payroll issues with those who know, accountants, bookkeepers etc. – they all say something is wrong. Someone's stealing money or cooking the books. They say a real accountant would never let this pass, which begs the question regarding qualifications of the Payroll Dept. - *an accounting person with legitimate credentials would never do business this way, not a chance.*

As a certain former U.S. president once said: "It's time to drain the swamp". Agreed.

In unity,

Duane Gale – Editor

#1 Kraft Machine tender – B Crew, local 6328

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## H&W Tidbit

### Drug Supply Limits for Maintenance Medication

Maintenance drugs are used to control and manage a variety of chronic or long-term conditions such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes. The Trustees would like to remind you that PBC's standard supply for maintenance medication is 100 days, so that you do not have to visit the pharmacy frequently and incur additional dispensing fee charges. Please explain to your physician that your extended health plan allows a 100 day supply for maintenance medications, and to please adjust your prescription to the 100 day supply.

June 2021 H&W Bulletin



## AUGUST 2021 EMOJI AWARD



### And the winner is ....

The lummoX in Payroll that believes a half assed job is ok.

**Runner up:** The co-worker of the lummoX.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up:** The not so helpful Help Desk.

Want to nominate someone? Drop a line to the TWONEWS with who and why.



## Would you believe...?

Around the world, the workweek usually falls between 40–44 hours per week, but not everywhere. France's workweek average is around 35 hours per week, while in North Korea, those in labor camps work over 112 hours per week.

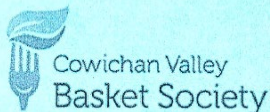
The Employment standards act states we are to be paid for time worked, **this is clearly not happening.**

### IT IS UNLAWFUL NOT TO PAY YOUR WORKERS!

The same entity states that we can apply a lien against the company for moneys owed – maybe we should exploit this option.



Date: 2021



Cowichan Valley Basket Society  
5810 Garden Street,  
Duncan, B.C. V9L 3V9  
CVBS@Shaw.ca  
Fax: 778-422-3566



"They came to share what they had - and none went hungry"

Dear *Public & Private Workers of Canada Local 2*

On behalf of our patrons, the Board of Directors, the staff and our many amazing volunteers at the Cowichan Valley Basket Society, I want to thank you for your donation to help those in need in our Valley.

The support that we receive enables us to ensure "no individual or family goes hungry; physically, spiritually or emotionally." (Our mission statement) Every donation goes a long way to ensure that we are able to fulfill our mandate.

In this time of health and economic uncertainty, our demands are higher, and we understand each donation is ever more precious. Your valuable contribution allows us to continue to feed those less fortunate.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. I am always open to questions Monday through Friday and when it becomes safe to do so, you are welcome to come and see the many ways your donation works.

Respectfully,

## MORE LABOUR BITS N PIECES

A Maple Ridge, B.C. recycling worker was punished after leaving his job site during overtime. The shift was originally refused, then accepted. **The arbitrator ruled the employer wrongly disciplined the worker who was denied his right to refuse overtime and then left after working some overtime.**

A BC nurses' two-day suspension for taking breaks that were too long *was not excessive*, despite the fact the investigative interview was conducted over the telephone while the worker was sick with COVID-19 symptoms, an arbitrator has ruled.

The union representing about 9,000 Canadian Border Service Agency workers says its members have voted in favor of striking, jeopardizing the federal government's reopening plans.



# TAX THE RICH

FORGING A FUTURE FOR THE MANY, NOT THE FEW

Regardless of one's income or wealth—is everyone in Canada paying their fair share?

Canada has a progressive tax system. The more income you earn from employment, the more taxes you pay. Sounds pretty fair, right?

The current tax system is mostly fair, so long as we only talk about income from employment, which is how most of us regular folks generate our wealth. However, when we look at income from investments, we start to see unfairness in the tax system. Capital gains, for example, is taxed at 50% less than employment income. Capital gains is the profit achieved by selling or transferring property, shares or other securities. You need to have significant wealth in order to gain a significant portion of your income through profit on capital holdings such as these, and when you do you pay less tax.

Not only are wealthy Canadians paying lower taxes, they are also well-oiled on evading and dodging taxes by stashing money in offshore tax havens. According to one CRA estimate from 2018, super rich Canadians have hidden up to \$240.5 billion in foreign accounts, dodging up to \$3 billion a year in federal tax on those funds. A new 2021 report called Silver Spoon Oligarchs found that wealthy people actually teach their children how to hoard wealth and avoid taxation.

The best way to restore fairness to Canada's tax system, currently set up to advantage the wealthiest Canadians is through the following measures:

- Employ a policy plan to close regressive tax loopholes and tackle offshore tax evasion.
- Tax income from investments at the same rate as employment income
- Employ a policy plan to close regressive tax loopholes and tackle offshore tax evasion.

-The Broadbent Institute

## AN IMPORTANT READ

The following is an extract from the Halifax Examiner Newspaper. The Membership is strongly advised to read the article in its entirety.

### **Paper Excellence's very big deal.**

Northern Pulp's parent company is set to acquire the North American pulp and paper giant Domtar. While the acquisition is getting very little media attention in Canada, around the world many people are worried about it — for many good reasons.

Paper Excellence is part of the gargantuan and opaque corporate empire of the multi-billionaire Widjaja family of Indonesia.

...the transaction according to the global organization Natural Resources Defense Council “would put at its helm a family that's internationally notorious for both human rights abuses and deforestation.”

Paper Excellence goes to great lengths to obscure its family ties with the Widjaja family's Asia Pulp & Paper / Sinar Mas conglomerate, perhaps in an effort to distance itself from APP's dismal environmental and social record. As well, APP is noted for setting a record for “Asia's worst corporate default” when it stiffed creditors for \$13.9 billion worth of “bonds, loans and trade payables” in 2001.

On June 24, 2021, 68 organizations from around the world signed a letter to Domtar shareholders, financiers, and customers. It urged them “to oppose the proposed acquisition by Paper Excellence.”

...it's not out of the question that fiber or pulp from North America, including Domtar mills Paper Excellence will own if the deal goes through, will make its way to APP mills in Indonesia, hungry for fiber and strong pulp from northern softwoods. Joan Baxter/Halifax Examiner