

# TWO'S NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

# PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



Editor: Duane Gale



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

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

Duane Gale - Twos News editor

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

## LABOUR DAY IN CANADA

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada **since 1894**. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

## IN THIS EDITION

- ✳ Guest commentary from the Master Shop Steward
- ✳ Northern Pulp (Nova Scotia) article
- ✳ History of the PPWC Chapter 13
- ✳ September Anniversaries etc.
- ✳ **REVISED** Executive & Committee lists
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- ✳ September Emoji Winner



# HAPPY LABOUR DAY



## THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



## THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

3 September 1894 Canada Labour Day is observed for the first time as a statutory public holiday, under a law introduced that year by the Conservative Prime Minister Sir John Thompson.

The U.S. federal government also recognized the holiday in 1894.



We've been picking on accountants lately, and because some of us are married to or actually know an accountant, we're going to lighten up just a bit... here are some well-known accountants you may know.

**Chuck Liddell:** Credited with helping bring mixed martial arts (MMA) to a mass audience, Chuck Liddell is also a trained accountant. He earned a BA in Business and Accounting from California Polytechnic University in 1995.

**Bob Newhart:** Comedy icon Bob Newhart worked as an accountant at the United States Gypsum Corporation. He said his motto "That's close enough" revealed that he wasn't well-suited to accountancy as a profession.

**John Grisham:** Prolific novelist John Grisham earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Mississippi State University in 1977. He planned to become a tax lawyer, but later practiced civil litigation, the basis for many of his best-selling novels.

## UNIONS BEGIN WITH YOU

When workers unite, they make things better for everyone. That's why unions were created to stand up together for fair wages, safe workplaces and decent work hours. There are millions of union members in Canada who know that by standing together, they can accomplish great things for themselves and all workers.

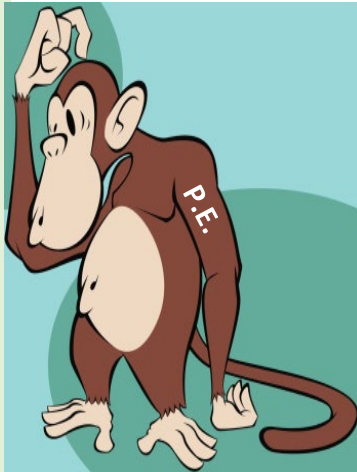
**Canadian Labour Congress**

### Did you know ...?

C.E.O is the most common profession among psychopaths.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> most common profession?  
Lawyers.

This should clear things up a bit.



## FYI

From National president Gary Fiege:

We conducted our strike vote for the HSPP Supervisors group. I am pleased to announce they supported their wage delegates and gave us a strong sign of support in our efforts to achieve a fair collective agreement.

Of the 34 eligible members 33 voted (one abstaining for religious reasons).

The mandate given to us was huge, 97% of the members voted in favour of strike action should it be needed.

The mediator has written her report and has allowed us the option of taking strike action. The company had wanted and asked for arbitration. This report goes to the associate chair who will take submissions for the next 5-7 business days. She will then write her report.

This puts us in a late August time frame to file our 72 hour notice.

We have great support from our sisters and brothers in Unifor. We thank them for that.

This is not an easy time but we are committed to get to where our members need to be.

In solidarity  
Gary Fiege

## HISTORY OF THE PPWC

### CHAPTER 13

#### CANADIANIZATION KEEPS ROLLING

Tactics varied from mill to mill, depending on the amount of hostility that had developed between the parties. At Harmac, for example, old friendships fell by the wayside as union allegiances formed. The International, bolstered by the belief of eventual victory, remained vocal. Pictures of Ken Warde, Local 695 president, removing a typewriter from upstart Local 8's office remind us of the day-to-day events of the times.

On another memorable day, the photo of none other than Larry Foglietta carrying a picket sign proclaiming, "Local 8 in bed with management," graced the daily rag. Foglietta claims a Guinness Book of Records kind of fame, saying he is the only one-man picket line that ever shut a pulp mill down in BC. Incidentally, the mill did not shut. His sign was largely ignored by Local 8 members and their International counterparts. No one else had the convictions he had, so his one day stands as the greatest thing that almost happened. Later, while riding to Damascus, he saw a different light. Local 8 became the rally point for Foglietta and the others who were at odds in the beginning.

The island members of the new union pulled all the stops. A motorcade beginning in Gold River, picking up momentum as it passed through Campbell River, then Nanaimo and, finally, Duncan had members from all PPWC locals on the island. Local 2 was the only certified one; the other three were aspiring at the time. They marched through the streets of downtown Victoria, causing disruption, to be sure, ending on the legislature lawn, where they demanded to be heard. The reasons for being were clearly spelled out. Do politicians ever hear protests of this kind? It's hard to say. But if sufficient numbers are out, a smart politician will pay some heed. Certainly, they heard clearly Gordie Wickham's parting words: "We will be PPWC forever no matter what the LRB says."

The issue at Local 8 is important because it marked a pull into a long siding for the PPWC. Local 8 was derailed for a year, as were Locals 6, 7 and 9.

While Locals 8 and 9 came through in flying colours, attempts at Locals 6 and 7 failed, changing the complexion of the union's future.

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*Duncan had members from all PPWC locals on the island. Local 2 was the only certified one; the other three were aspiring at the time.*

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A mill had been established in Gold River. The Tahsis Co. held vast logging rights in the area and determined a pulp mill was a very viable enterprise, indeed. The International Woodworkers of America (IWA), with sawmills and loggers in the area, applied in late 1966 for certification. Their application was based on varying their present Local 1-85 certification of saw-millers and loggers to include the pulp mill. The IWA hoped to obtain a voluntary recognition of what they believed was their territorial rights. They did not have any workers at the Gold River pulp mill signed up. This was their first attempt to sign up a pulp mill. One can accept the fact they wanted pulp mills in their union. Or, perhaps, one can believe they were in the business of trying to stop the PPWC at all costs, offering themselves as an alternative to the International Union that appeared to be losing the battle with the PPWC at the time.

For some unknown reason, the IWA re-applied on April 14, 1967, for essentially the same certification. Also appearing in April was a joint application from the IWA and the International Pulp Sulphite, another new innovation attempting to quell the PPWC.

While all this was happening, the Canadian union was not in party mode, making light of their time. In fact, they had a decent majority signed up in Gold River and had made their own application on January 19, 1967. Art Smith, a member who had seen the Canadian union in action in Prince Rupert and knew something about its democratic approach to unionism, was a strong supporter. He had also worked for four years in Port Alberni and had seen firsthand how power at the top looked. He, along with the majority in Gold River, signed Canadian. Knowing this, the International filed a further application that included all office workers in the mill. Another new tact as office workers were not generally union members and certainly not members so forced into a union. **CONT PG 3**

## HISTORY OF THE PPWC - Chapter 13

### CONT from PG 2

The LRB deliberated at length. Its findings cleared the air somewhat. It rejected both IWA applications on the basis of no membership sign-up. It also rejected the joint application, as there was no legal entity of that type anywhere. It did, however, accept the PPWC application and the International's all-employees application. Further, it ruled that office workers were, in fact, included in the upcoming proposed vote.

The vote was held. Local 11 emerged victorious, by a comfortable margin. The International's ploy of including the office and technical workers didn't work. Local 11 was certified in May of 1967, containing office and technical workers. It was a one-of-a-kind local continuing to represent staff and hourly paid down through the years.

Back in Nanaimo, Wickham, Stan Shewaga, et al., were facing the wiles of Pat O'Neal in his fight to win to hell with principles mode. There would be no rest at Harmac.

The International filed an injunction to have all PPWC supporters fired for refusing to pay dues to Local 695. They claimed by not paying dues they ceased to be members of the chartered local. The company sat on the edge of an abyss. No less than 823 of their workers fit this description, while well under 100 were still paying dues to Local 695. Firing this number would

likely cause severe disruption in the work place, to say the least. Local 8, through their lawyer, Mary Southin, appealed the injunction, claiming that non-payment of dues did not necessarily make one a non-member, only not a member in good standing. Perhaps a stall tactic, but one that, nevertheless, kept the wolf from the door. Harmac was, at the time, in small hiring mode. Eight new hires were brought into the plant. The International, as expected, insisted they sign cards with them. Seven of the eight re-refused. They were all staunch Local 8ers. Local 695 immediately demanded their termination. Local 8, stalling for time, again resisted the new injunction. However, in court down the road a bit, they did agree to pay the back dues and instructed the new hires to sit tight for a while, until May 1967 came around. This date represented the new raiding time.

They did exactly that. One of them is Local 8 president, Gerry Tellier. Looks like he kept the faith through the years.

In May of 1967, Local 8 applied for certification through the LRB. The Board, finally, came to its senses. Certification was issued without a vote on July 1, 1967, a very fitting date. Local 8 rocked Vancouver Island. Wickham, Shewaga and company played hosts to PPWC brothers and sisters from all over BC.

### They said it

"I love them. Love them. I think the more positive approach you have to smoking, the less harmful it is."

Sienna Miller

**SEP 20th 6:30 PM**

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



### THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

24 September 1963

The Canadian Union of Public Employees, now Canada's largest union, is founded in Winnipeg through a merger of two earlier organizations. The union goes on to break new ground in building the labour movement.

### 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**





**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**

"If everybody in the world dropped out of school, we would have a much more intelligent society."

Jaden Smith

**UNION  
STRONG  
UNION  
PROUD**

## THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

September 1991 Canada More than 100,000 members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada launch a general strike to defend job security for federal public service workers.

## MONTHLY HUMOUR

### THE SHREDDER

A young engineer was leaving the office late when he found the confused looking CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand.

"Listen, said the CEO, this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary is not here. Can you make this thing work?"

Certainly said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper and pressed the start button "Excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, "I just need two copies."

### Lesson:

Never assume that your boss knows what he's doing.



### WE ARE ...

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V0R 1R0 - 250.246.9272  
[info@ppwclocal2.com](mailto: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**

## A WORD FROM THE MASTER SHOP STEWARD

It's been a while since I last wrote an article for Twos News. And in that time, a lot has changed. There have been several suspensions, and terminations within the union ranks. Many staff and union members have retired as well. And a few executive members have stepped down. Suffice to say that in my limited time in the executive, it has been eventful! I like to think that I have tried my best to represent the membership, although the results of my efforts have been lacking. It seems that every step of the way, whether its grievances or discussions with management, resistance is there. I remain determined to ensure that rules are clear, and applied fairly. That the company does not discipline members without cause, and if they do discipline them, that it be fair. I can say that even holding the company to the framework of the collective agreement (which defines our working relationship) has been hard.

In light of this, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all of our past executive members. I would like to thank Chris who recently stepped down, who went above and beyond for this membership. Chris dedicated many hours outside of work to help members, and negotiate with the company for this local. I have spent many hours outside of work with my fellow executive members in an effort to see change. I hope that anyone out there reading this article; that is able to help this membership in some capacity, reach out and lend a hand where possible. We are only as strong as the membership we serve. I believe we all could make things better at the Mill if we put aside our differences and work together.

On a positive note, we have seen significant investment in the Mill infrastructure over the course of the last total mill outage. And some new members hired into the Mill with more to come in the near future. Progress has been made in negotiations with the company in some cases, and legal proceedings advancing. The executive has had discussions with the Labour Board and the Company in hopes of resolving the ongoing payroll issues. I have personally spent multiple hours trying to improve paystubs, and communicate needed improvements within PGI to the company. Many staff have turned over at the head office recently which has hindered this process. Existing staff have been overwhelmed with the lack of automated technology with spreadsheets, and paper time cards still being used.

Throughout all of the recent hardships within the Mill our membership has continued to work through it. It has been a crazy past few months with fires, and failing equipment in the Mill. Members have had vacation denied, and been short-handed due to a lack of manning in several departments. The Executive has recently held an information picket at the front of the Mill to bring to light some of these

frustrations. I remain hopeful that these issues can be resolved in a timely manner. We need solutions to the ongoing causes of these problems. A payroll system that works, additional members in most areas, and safe working conditions throughout the Mill.

All of these things are possible with the cooperation of the existing management. I will continue to work towards these goals. I hope that the future brings some more solutions, and that the Union can work with the company to achieve them. By removing these obstacles, surely the Mill can continue to remain viable for years to come.

Cory Redenbach,  
One Year Master  
Shop Steward



Don't know who needs to hear this.

Take your lunch breaks. Take your evenings and weekends. Take your sick day, time off and mental health days. You agreed to do a job, offer a service or offer goods in exchange for being paid for your time and talents. You did not agree to sell every moment of your personal time, sacrifice your health or sacrifice your quality of life.

Read that again.

Submitted by S Beam



## THIS MONTH IN LABOR HISTORY

25 September 1995

Unions supporting the Liverpool Dockers Solidarity Campaign participate in national actions using the internet. This is believed to be the first time the internet was used to organize an international labour solidarity action.

### They said it

"I was on the phone giving someone directions and my cousin was nearby. I said, 'Go north on X street, etc.' My cousin overheard me and said that I didn't make any sense because whatever direction you're facing is north, thus **north changes depending on which way you are facing.**

The Net

## THE SURVEY SAYS...

The company actually had the audacity to commission another internal survey.



The purpose of the survey was to collect our thoughts on the company's current performance level. The 2019 survey results apparently created a baseline and now these new results will help identify areas of focus and improvement. Um...ok. That's company-speak for "there must be some kind of mistake, let's try again."

I would have thought that after the 2019 assessment, it would spell the end of all surveys for good. However, they were new owners and perhaps the hatred and distrust had not quite set in yet.

How about statement #10 – "I am proud to work for Paper Excellence". Are they serious? Well...I wanted to check-mark the box "go f\*\*k yourself"...but it wasn't there so I went with the 'strongly disagree' – which I checked for all the others as well.

Paper Excellence...It is in our name (yes), our vision (don't think so) and our values (absolutely not).

DG

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	BURNSIDE, S.W.	SEP 18/74	P&R
4	FETCHKO, A.R.	SEP 15/77	LTD
9	DAVIS, L.G.	SEP 16/78	BLEACH PLANT
12	BERNASKY, L.W.	SEP 08/79	MACHINE ROOM
36	EVANS, B.D.	SEP 03/86	INSTRUMENTS
37	SMITH, N.J.	SEP 03/86	MATERIAL.H
38	HUBER, D.W.	SEP 10/86	MILLSTORES
55	COURT, M.J.	SEP 06/88	MILLSTORES
56	ZUREK, K.D.	SEP 19/88	MACHINIST
57	LUNDBERG, B.F.	SEP 28/88	OILER
74	MICHEL, G.A.	SEP 01/89	MACHINE ROOM
75	BUJOLD, G.R.	SEP 05/89	SHIPPING
83	McLEOD, D.L.	SEP 05/90	CHIP SUPPLY
84	GENIS, G.P.	SEP 10/90	MILLWRIGHT
107	MESSIER, P.G.	SEP 14/05	P&R
108	JOHNSON, M.A.	SEP 26/05	MACHINE ROOM
109	LOOS, D.T.	SEP 26/05	INSTRUMENTS
137	O'BRIEN, M.T.	SEP 06/11	PIPEFITTER
138	SHEPPARD, M.J.	SEP 22/11	MILL STORES
139	MICHAUD, K	SEP 22/11	P&R
140	GEIGER, A.R.	SEP 30/11	P&R
156	HATCHER, W.R.	SEP 10/12	SHIPPING
157	PRENDERGAST, P.D.	SEP 10/12	SHIPPING
158	HILL, B.R.	SEP 24/12	DIGESTER
183	LAROSE-MURRAY, B.N.	SEP 23/13	FORESHORE
206	SMITH, J.	SEP 02/14	SHIPPING
207	RAMWELL, G	SEP 15/14	SHIPPING
208	HARTSHORN, B.D.	SEP 15/14	CHIP SUPPLY
229	MALTBY, A.N	SEP 8/15	PIPEFITTER
252	GUNDERSON, C	SEP 06/16	MILLWRIGHT
253	MCKINNON, R	SEP 26/16	PIPEFITTER
325	COLLISON, R.B	SEP 14/18	LTD

### In Memorium:

Harry Vossberg (past President '83 - '87) Passed away Aug 4th/2021

## BURSARIES

The 2021 CCU/CSC Bursary application for the John St-Amand Bursary and Madeleine Parent Bursary is now available online!

The CCU/CSC will provide annual bursaries of \$1,000 for dependent children of members of unions belonging to the CCU/CSC for the purpose of furthering their post-secondary education. The draw to select recipients will occur at the Executive Board meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. The deadline for submitting the Bursary application is October 1, 2021.

## 2021 PPWC Local 2 Executive

- ✳️ GEOFF DAWE - [president@ppwclocal2.com](mailto:president@ppwclocal2.com)  
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**UNION  
STRONG!**



## LETTERS

To the members of PPWC Local 2

I would imagine a number of you are eagerly anticipating the day you retire after many years of working hard to provide a decent life for your families. Thoughts turn to finally being able to throw away the alarm clock, leisurely morning coffees, maybe a bit of travelling and enjoying a well-earned rest.

In my case, I was looking at that scenario a few years ago and had to postpone my retirement for two years after my wife was diagnosed with a terminal illness. I had to take a lengthy leave of absence to care for her. Her disease not only robbed me of my wife but cleaned out our life savings as well.

Finally I decided that June 30 of this year would be the day and I started my countdown. I contacted the

PPWC pension administrator to give them a six month heads up, thinking that I would do what I could to ensure a seamless transition into retirement. The person who took my call informed me that I was calling way too soon and to call back when I was two months away from retirement. I continued my countdown and on April 30, I called again to request my documents. I was informed that it would take

10 days to process and then mail so I should expect my documents in a month. Long story short, the documents did not arrive and after five weeks I had to resort to asking Steve Landygo our local trustee on the PPWC pension board of trustees for assistance. With Steve's intervention I finally received my documents and quickly filled them out, returning them via Express post less than two weeks before my last day of work. My first pension payment was due on July 1st and is supposed to be paid on the first of each month. As of August 6, I am still waiting for a payment. Again with Steve's help I have been informed that I should expect a payment sometime this month. Sometime this month? How about that for a seamless transition into retirement?

There were a number of us who retired on or about the same time and I know that at least one other member is having the same problem with the pension plan. I would suspect the same for the others as well. Now for the other shoe to drop.

Instead of burning up all my accumulated vacations and floaters and leaving early like many members have done I elected to work to my retirement date and take a buyout of the unused time. This should have been paid out by the company on July 9th. As of August 6, this money has not been paid. None of the retirees have been paid what they are owed. When I called our payroll department last payday, I was told that she had no idea when the money would be paid, and her messages to Richmond were unanswered. Our

Local executive has been raising the issue with the company to no avail. Personal assurances from Richard Demchuk to me last week have not been fulfilled. All I can say is WTF?????

Now I understand that things have gone from bad to worse with the payroll department in Richmond and most of you are experiencing unprecedented problems with your pay. I must say that in almost fifty years of working in heavy industry for various companies both good and bad I have never seen a situation this bad. Ever.

I am writing this because I believe it is important for you to see in addition to your woes, just how shoddy the recent retirees have been treated not only by the company but the union pension administrator. I believe that the company hired to administer our pension is completely incompetent and have so many systemic problems in their processing of pension claims that they should not be allowed to continue in this role. They seem not to care that they are paid to provide a service to our members and I have found reviews online going back a few years from people from not only PPWC but other unions to support this claim.

In conclusion I wish to state that I have nothing but the utmost respect for our Union executive members who have been shouldering the thankless task of trying to hold this company accountable and I urge you to continue to show your support to these volunteers. I would also like to thank Steve Landygo for his efforts on our behalf with the pension plan administrator.

I look forward to a timely resolution to these issues for all of us and I want to wish you all the best going forward.

In Solidarity,  
Brian Hicks

## UPDATE:

Thanks to the efforts of PPWC Local 2 executive members the final buyout from Catalyst was made on Monday August 9th. Thanks to the efforts of PPWC Local 2 trustee to the PPWC pension board of directors Steve Landygo, my first pension payment was made on Wednesday August 11th.

**Without the assistance of these volunteers I am convinced that the money that was owed would still be unpaid.** I am unsure if all the recently retired members are now on track with the pension plan but I know that the deficiencies in processing claims has been brought to light and hopefully future retirees will not have to endure the problems that we did. Again I wish to thank those volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the recently retired members.

In solidarity,  
Brian

### **Liberal, NDP, Tory leaders all oppose government funding for Northern Pulp.**

The company has not said how it would finance its proposed \$350M reopening plan.

NOTE: The mill ceased production in January 2020. In June the company — represented by **Paper Excellence Canada** — was granted creditor protection by the B.C. Supreme Court.

The company owes around \$85 million to the Nova Scotia government plus \$213 million to Paper Excellence. (That's no typo: Paper Excellence says its subsidiary, Northern Pulp, owes money to the parent company.)

Despite its financial troubles, Northern Pulp wants to reopen its embattled mill in Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia's three main political party leaders might not agree on much, but there's one issue on which they share the same view: if the owners of the Northern Pulp mill in Pictou County get approval to reopen the beleaguered site, they should not count on financial assistance from the next provincial government.

Officials with the mill recently announced details of their proposal to restart the mill, which has been closed since February 2020. The \$350-million project will eventually be submitted to the province for environmental consideration, however ownership has yet to detail how it would finance the plan if they get the green light.

Evidently, the people of Nova Scotia won't be chipping in. "Proponents and companies that want to do business here should be putting their own capital into it," said Liberal Leader Iain Rankin, who added that he's opposed to the type of forgivable loans given to mills in the past, most recently by the former NDP government.

"We support business; we do that by reducing regulatory burden and we continue to support our traditional sectors like forestry, but they'll have to put their own [money] forward."

Tory Leader Tim Houston has a similar view.

"If a company wants to put up a plant, then the company should be able to finance that," he said. Houston said his party's platform is focused on support for companies rooted and growing here. "I think there's lots of ways we can invest in economic development and I'm very focused on investing at the level of the working family," he said.

NDP Leader Gary Burrill said Northern Pulp has "a long ways to go and an awful lot of work to do to get itself in the place of public confidence where the government of the province should give any consideration to a financial application from that company."

And while Burrill isn't keen on the idea of financial support for the mill, he is even more emphatic on what is apt to be

the most controversial part of the company's proposal: sending treated effluent into Pictou Harbour.

"No, nay, never," Burrill said.

While effluent from a restarted mill would need to go somewhere, Burrill said much work remains to be done by the company to show it's prepared to be a good corporate citizen.

"That is up to the company to bring forward a proposal that both meets a scientific standard and meets — generates the confidence of the public," he said. "I think the company has a long, long road to go before they can meet that second standard."

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*Evidently, the people of Nova Scotia won't be chipping in.*

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Houston said he's pleased the project is being subjected to the most stringent environmental assessment process possible by the province. He's not prepared to outright dismiss the idea of any flow into the harbour, although he said it causes him concern.

"Anytime we're talking about discharge from a manufacturing facility of any type, we need to make sure that we understand what's in that, we need to understand the ramifications and the interactions with the environment it's going into," he said.

"These are all very detailed scientific questions that are well beyond my pay grade, but certainly I understand and feel the same anxiety that somebody has to understand this and be able to give us all confidence that it's safe."

Rankin said the environmental assessment process needs to be fair but rigorous, something he's confident the Class 2 evaluation will achieve. That process can take several years to complete and is more thorough than a Class 1 assessment.

Houston, who has represented Pictou East for two terms, said the mill has always been a polarizing issue and, if anything, it's become more so since it was closed following the company's failure to get environmental approval for a previously proposed effluent treatment facility.

The replacement site was required after the Liberal government legislated the closure of Boat Harbour. The former tidal estuary served as the destination for the mill's effluent for decades before finally closing at the end of January 2020. Local residents have since remarked on the improvement of air and water quality since the mill shut down, while members of the forestry industry have pointed to the loss of a major market for pulp wood.

"Those people that were against it have what they would see as a body of evidence to support their position, and those that, you know, were still in favour of it are probably still in favour of it and are pointing to the scale of the investment that is being contemplated," said Houston. **Michael Gorman · CBC News**

## AUGUST 2021 EMOJI AWARD



### And the winner is ....

Senior mgmt. – imposing impossible deadlines and unreasonable work expectations – despite the usual manning shortages and training concerns. Oblivious to safety concerns.

### Runner up:

“Dicky D” in HR ... misguided attempt to silence a well-deserved critique of the ongoing payroll debacle.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner up:** HR Dept. – Failure to communicate to the union updated personal info, such as retirees, seniority list etc.

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



## OPINION



### VACCINE RESEARCH



### ANTI-VAX RESEARCH



In unity,  
Duane Gale – Editor, B Crew, local 6328  
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## LABOUR BITS

Two-thirds of employers support mandatory vaccinations.

62% of small and medium-sized employers in Canada are making or plan to make COVID-19 vaccinations mandatory for all employees, finds a new poll by KPMG in Canada.

84% say that vaccines are key to avoiding another lockdown and should be mandatory.

Long working hours linked to heart disease & stroke.

Are people dying from working long hours? Yes, according to a recent study.

As further proof that long working hours are not a good thing, a new study finds there are higher risks of ischemic heart disease and stroke amongst people working more than 55 hours per week.

Workers protested at Metro Vancouver hotel over layoffs, pressuring province to intervene. B.C. hotel workers have been in a labour dispute since last year, fighting to keep their jobs, benefits and wages. The demonstration was supported by some of the province's largest labour unions, *Unite Here Local 40* and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, which estimate 42,500 hotel workers in B.C. are out of work.

Rio Tinto and Unifor Local 2301 have agreed to resume negotiations to end a month-long strike. The news has come as a relief to businesses in Kitimat, which have suffered as a result of the strike. Around 950 workers at the Kitimat aluminum smelter and Kemano hydroelectric power plant have been walking picket lines since negotiations broke down in July over hundreds of outstanding grievances and a process to resolve complaints.

Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), which represents 9,000 border service workers, was threatening work-to-rule measures, which could have caused delays and disruption to travelers going through customs. After three years without a contract, the union reached a tentative agreement with the Treasury Board and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) including wage increases with back pay to 2018 and various benefits.

Repeated incidents of yelling and swearing warrants termination. An Alberta arbitrator has upheld the suspension of a worker who swore at and threatened a co-worker. The Calgary worker denied making threatening statements.

BC makes COVID-19 vaccines mandatory for long-term care workers. Health officials announced that a new public health order will make vaccination mandatory and is a condition of employment for those working in those settings. They will need to be fully vaccinated by Oct.12.

## EVOLUTION OF OUR OWNERSHIP



Submitted by W Bissett

## Election Day will be Sept. 20

### Can I take time off work to vote?

#### EVERY VOTER MUST HAVE 3 CONSECUTIVE HOURS OFF WORK TO VOTE.

If you have 3 consecutive hours of your own time available during polling hours, (normally 7am-7pm) your employer does not need to give you additional time for voting. However, if you do not have this time available, you must request this time from your employer.

Your employer **must** give you time off **with** pay, but your employer can choose when the time will be given.

**Important:** Employers who reduce pay or fail to satisfy the voting time requirements may be liable for a fine and/or imprisonment for violation of the Canada Elections Act.

## YOU THINK YOU GOT IT BAD...



Frontline health-care workers across B.C. are painting a dire picture of hospitals struggling to function amidst serious staffing shortages, with nurses facing the biggest crunch as COVID-19 hospitalizations once again surge.

CTV News Vancouver has spoken with hospital workers at various levels and job descriptions, who say after 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifts are going unfilled across departments -- from operating rooms to labs to janitorial personnel. It's affecting morale and sometimes jeopardizing patient safety, the workers say.

Some workers have quit in what the Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions describes as a crisis. The federation has called for a national day of action next month to highlight the fact that "nurses and health-care staff are overworked, underpaid, burnt out, and suffering moral distress because there are not enough staff to provide the care patients deserve."

In B.C., the provincial nurses' union says years of dealing with the challenges of the opioid epidemic, more than a year of labouring under sweaty and restrictive personal protective equipment while worrying for their families' safety, and now struggling to care for patients suffering from heat waves, wildfire smoke and the fourth wave of COVID-19, have nurses at a breaking point.

"I heard just the other day that some nurses are being mandated to work 24 hours," said British Columbia Nurses Union vice-president Aman Grewal of the shifting required to cover vacant positions or unfilled shifts.

"For some, when they thought they'd have a break, they didn't get that break. They're now being told their vacation is being cancelled and they have to come back to work."

Nurses in Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan told CTV News some shifts are so short-staffed - particularly as hospitals try to catch up on cancelled surgeries -- they fear for patient safety. **CTV NEWS**