

# TWO'S NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022

# PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada

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## IN THIS EDITION

- History of the PPWC Chapter 27
- Monthly Humor
- Opinion
- November Emoji Award winner
- Article "Going Green"
- Article "Paper Ex secretly controlled by Indonesian giant"

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN NOVEMBER

### NOV 11 - A Day of Remembrance...

Every year on November 11, Canadians pause in a silent moment of remembrance for the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict and peace.

### NOV 6 – TIME CHANGE

Clocks 'fall' back 1 hr. 2 am Sunday.

## IMPORTANT UPDATE:

The Retirees are meeting again on the first Wednesday of the month but at Cedricks Coffee on Joan Ave instead of the union hall.



# November



The 11<sup>th</sup> month, 11<sup>th</sup> day, 11<sup>th</sup> hour... we have the opportunity to remember those who responded to their country's needs. we pause for two minutes of silent tribute.

## NOW HEAR THIS

**Results from the Strike Vote on October 17 and 18, 2022:**

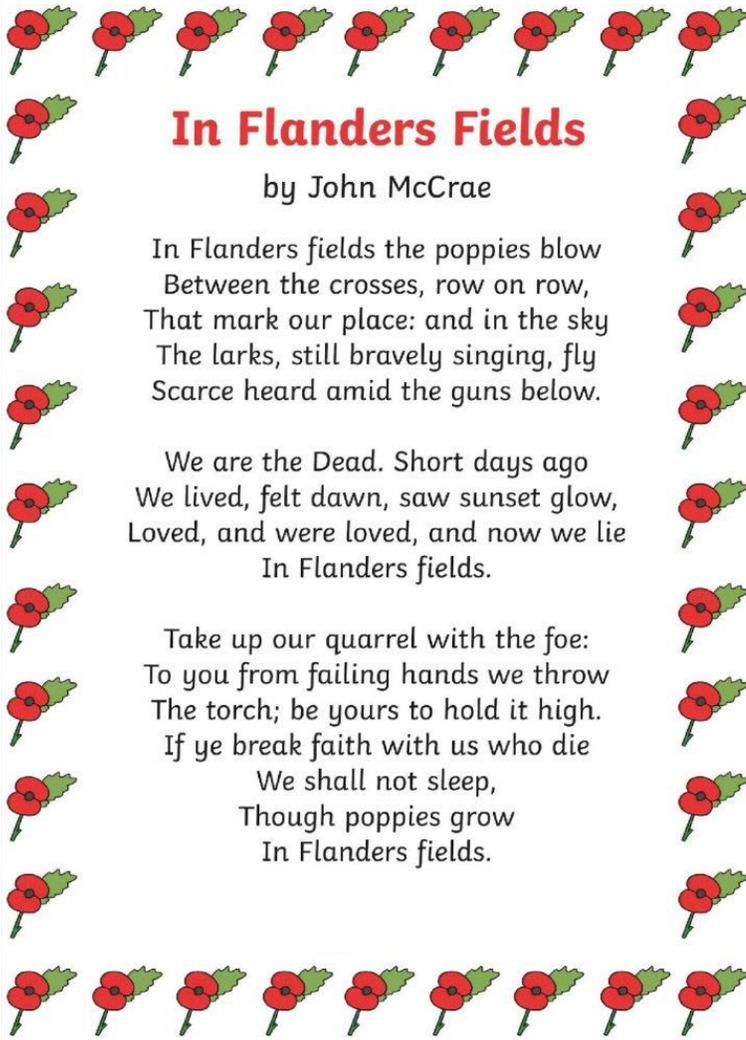
**99.71% YES in favour of a strike**

**87% of the membership voted**

## WOW !

Our membership spoke loud and clear when they delivered a near 100% in favour of strike vote. This sent a very powerful message to the company of our collective resolve that not only were we solid and unified, but we meant business as well. Our strong strike vote rippled throughout the industry and spoke volumes.

**The membership should be proud for our inspiring unified position. - ED**



## In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place: and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
Though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### WE ARE ...

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Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday  
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**FOLLOW PPWC Local 2 ON FACEBOOK**

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**Port Alberni:** [250-723-7001](tel:250-723-7001)

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### LABOUR NEWS

#### OTTAWA MOVES TO BAN SCAB WORKERS

Ottawa will introduce legislation to prohibit the use of replacement workers in federally regulated workplaces during a strike or lockout. Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan Jr. also announced the launch of consultations to hear from Canadians and stakeholders on this commitment.

"This government will always protect free and fair collective bargaining, and we're going to keep working with unions and employers to make the process better," he said. "It's about what workers deserve in return for their labour, and how employers can profit from a healthy and happy workforce. And with the climbing cost of living, the right of workers to bargain for better wages is now important than ever."

When unionized workers exercise their right to strike, they sacrifice their pay and benefits to try to improve their working conditions by putting pressure on their employer, said the government. However, this right is undermined when an employer brings in replacement workers to keep the business going while workers are on strike or locked out.

The legislation will be introduced by the end of 2023.  
**SARAH DOBSON – HRR REPORTER**

### CANADA'S SOARING INFLATION LIKELY TO RESULT IN MORE RATE HIKES

The federal agency said the rapidly rising grocery prices are due to weather conditions, higher prices for fertilizer and natural gas and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Canada's latest reading on inflation came in hotter than expected as the cost of groceries continued to climb at the fastest pace in decades, setting the stage for more sizeable interest rate hikes.

Grocery prices rose at the fastest rate **since August 1981**, with prices up 11.4 per cent compared with a year ago. That's up from the previous month's annual rate of 10.8 per cent and the **10th straight month that food prices have outstripped the overall inflation rate.**

Wages continue to grow, though at a slower rate than prices, with average wages were up 5.2 per cent in September compared with a year ago. The interest rate hikes feed into higher borrowing costs for Canadians and businesses, which slow spending in the economy. -THE CANADIAN PRESS



## HISTORY of the PPWC Chapter 27

### NO COOKIES ARE HANDED TO PPWC

January of 1973 dawned with much promise for PPWC organizers. Five applications had already been filed, and two more were pending. Two locals, 23 and 24, were in Port Alberni: two IWA-certified sawmills, Somass Division of MacMillan Bloedel and another major MB sawmill, Alberni Division. The LRB ordered a representative in both locations. The vote was held. The IWA emerged victorious in both cases. Reg Ginn says the IWA did their homework well. They had a large contingent of reps in the Port Alberni area. Their prime duty was to deliver the vote. They did. They also had a good bargaining chip. The IWA had just negotiated a pension plan. While still in its infancy, the plan was in place. The PPWC had yet to do the same. To many workers, especially those over forty, a pension plan is an appealing part of one's pay package. This and other things, like seniority issues, within the local (IWA 1-85) convinced the majority to remain with the union they had. The granting of the vote for both applications, while pleasing, took the majority of activists by surprise. With all the delays and setbacks, they had viewed in the pulp mills, they expected more of the same. An observation at the time may conclude that the International had a better grip on the LRB than the IWA did. Actually, the IWA, in its own right, could boast of its "commie" supporters and rebel caucus. Likely the Board of the time was less interested in the affairs in the woods than in the affairs in the mills. At the end it didn't matter. Locals 23 and 24 were not to be. Meanwhile, the International Pulp Sulphite across the line wasn't sitting still. In fact, in name at least, it had disappeared from sight. The United Pulp and Paper Union (UPPU), of Castlegar fame, had merged with the pulp union, and now both unions were known by the name United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU). The resident powers of both unions believed they could hide behind a new identity, or perhaps they just wanted the name gone, as no less than 25,000 members had left to form two new unions: the PPWC, and its counterpart, the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers in the western US. All former International locals were now UPIU. The same leadership prevailed. Tonelli was still the head honcho, and all his deputies were firmly in place. Truth of the matter, however, this was the beginning of the end for International unions in pulp and paper in this country. The UPIU lasted but two years. We will see its demise in short order. On

Vancouver Island, the loss of Locals 23 and 24 did not deter the desire to organize further. Local 8's glorious pork choppers, as they were now billed, continued to spread the PPWC doctrine. The organizers, Tellier and Shewaga, signed up a majority in four coastal sawmills: the CIPA and Mayo sawmills in Nanaimo, along with the Ladysmith Forest Products and Saltair Lumber mills in Ladysmith. All these units were designated as part of Local 8 rather than stand-alone certifications. The Ladysmith Forest Products mill was considered the best bet by the organizers, so they applied for a vote in this mill first. The hope was that a decisive vote in Ladysmith would favorably affect the outcome of the other three. The LRB said, "no." It knew what the PPWC was up to, and in no way was it going to be a ploy in the union battles happening. The vote was held in unison. The PPWC was successful in all four. The IWA, as is common enough, refused to go away silently. No doubt any other union would do the same. They kept a presence in the four mills and, as soon as they could, reapplied for the lost certifications. On a particular dark and gloomy, typical, Vancouver Island night, Shewaga and Tellier were invited by Don Robertson, the Ladysmith plant chairman and foremost PPWC supporter, to speak to the graveyard shift crew. It seems they were the problematic group if, in fact, one existed. The two Local 8 organizers showed up at the stroke of midnight to find none other than Jack Munro and a handful of followers. A verbal battle ensued. Jack was good, but Tellier says Shewaga won hands down. The PPWC won the vote in a like fashion. It seems once Shewaga found his soapbox there were few better. Upon reapplying, the IWA put to the LRB essentially the same request the Canadian union had made the previous year. The IWA believed their best chance was the CIPA mill in Nanaimo, and they wanted the vote there first. This time the Board ruled "yes." The PPWC lost by four votes. Charged up, the IWA now demanded votes in the other plants. Mayo voted PPWC all the way. In Ladysmith, the IWA lacked the sign-up numbers, so the vote didn't happen. In Saltair, the IWA was successful. It's hard to say if the Board ruling and the subsequent early vote at CIPA affected the outcome. It can be said, however, that the IWA was favored by the Board, and their request was honored. Again, an observation may conclude that, while the PPWC was at least granted votes upon applying for certain IWA certifications, they were still at the short end of the stick when it came to any cookies being handed out.



### THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM A FACEBOOK DISCUSSION...

What is a battery? I think Tesla said it best when they called it an Energy Storage System. That's important. **They do not make electricity** – they store electricity produced elsewhere, primarily by coal, uranium, natural gas-powered plants, or diesel-fueled generators. So, to say an EV is a zero-emission vehicle is not at all valid.

Currently, approx. 61% of the electricity generated in the U.S. is from fossil fuels - it follows then, that 61% of the EVs on the road (in the U.S.) are coal-powered, oil powered, natural gas etc.

Einstein's formula,  $E=MC^2$ , tells us it takes the same amount of energy to move a five-thousand-pound gasoline-driven automobile a mile as it does an electric one. The only question again is what produces the power? To reiterate, it does not come from the battery; the battery **is only a storage device**, like a gas tank in a car.

There are two orders of batteries, rechargeable, and single-use. The most common single-use batteries are A, AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, and lantern types. Those dry-cell species use zinc, manganese, lithium, silver oxide, or zinc and carbon to store electricity chemically. Please note **they all contain toxic, heavy metals**.

Rechargeable batteries only differ in their internal materials, usually lithium-ion, nickel-metal oxide, and nickel-cadmium. The United States uses three billion of these two battery types a year, and most are not recycled; they end up in landfills. California is the only state which requires all batteries be recycled. If you throw your small, used batteries in the trash, here is what happens to them.

All batteries are self-discharging. That means even when not in use, they leak tiny amounts of energy. You

have likely ruined a flashlight or two from an old, ruptured battery. When a battery runs down and can no longer power a toy or light, you think of it as dead; well, it is not. It continues to leak small amounts of electricity. As the chemicals inside it run out, pressure builds inside the battery's metal casing, and eventually, it cracks. The metals left inside then ooze out. The ooze in your ruined flashlight is toxic, and so is the ooze that will inevitably leak from every battery in a landfill. All batteries eventually rupture; it just takes rechargeable batteries longer to end up in the landfill.

In addition to dry cell batteries, there are also wet cell ones used in automobiles, boats, and motorcycles. The good thing about those is ninety percent of them are recycled. Unfortunately, we do not yet know how to recycle single-use ones properly.

But that is not half of it. For those of you excited about electric cars and a green revolution, I want you to take a closer look at batteries and also windmills and solar panels. These three technologies share what we call environmentally destructive **embedded costs**."

Everything manufactured has two costs associated with it, embedded costs and operating costs. I will explain embedded costs using a can of baked beans as my subject.

In this scenario, baked beans are on sale, so you jump in your car and head for the grocery store. Sure enough, there they are on the shelf for \$1.75 a can. As you head to the checkout, you begin to think about the embedded costs in the can of beans.

The first cost is the diesel fuel the farmer used to plow the field, till the ground, harvest the beans, and transport them to the food processor. Not only is his diesel fuel an embedded cost, so are the costs to build the tractors, combines, and trucks. In addition, the farmer might use a nitrogen fertilizer made from natural gas.

Next is the energy costs of cooking the beans, heating the building, transporting the workers, and paying for the vast amounts of electricity used to run the plant. The steel can containing the beans is also an embedded cost. Making the steel can requires mining taconite, shipping it by boat, extracting the iron, placing it in a coal-fired blast furnace, and adding carbon. Then it's

back on another truck to take the beans to the grocery store. Finally, add in the cost of the gasoline for your car.

A typical EV battery weighs one thousand pounds, about the size of a travel trunk. It contains twenty-five pounds of lithium, sixty pounds of nickel, 44 pounds of manganese, 30 pounds cobalt, 200 pounds of copper, and 400 pounds of aluminum, steel, and plastic. Inside are over 6,000 individual lithium-ion cells.

It should concern you that all those toxic components come from mining. For instance, to manufacture each EV auto battery, you must process 25,000 pounds of brine for the lithium, 30,000 pounds of ore for the cobalt, 5,000 pounds of ore for the nickel, and 25,000 pounds of ore for copper. **All told, you dig up 500,000 pounds of the earth's crust for just - one - battery.**

Sixty-eight percent of the world's cobalt, a significant part of a battery, comes from the Congo. Their mines have no pollution controls, and they employ children who die from handling this toxic material. Should we factor in these diseased kids as part of the cost of driving an electric car?

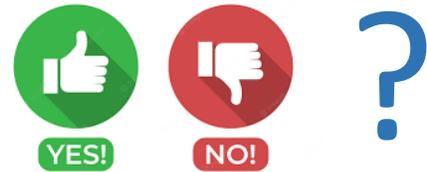
I'd like to leave you with these thoughts. California is building the largest battery in the world near San Francisco, and they intend to power it from solar panels and windmills. They claim this is the ultimate in being 'green,' but it is not! This construction project is creating an environmental disaster. Let me tell you why.

The main problem with solar arrays is the chemicals needed to process silicate into the silicon used in the panels. To make pure enough silicon requires processing it with hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, hydrogen fluoride, trichloroethane, and acetone. In addition, they also need gallium, arsenide, copper-indium-gallium- diselenide, and cadmium-telluride, which also are highly toxic. Silicon dust is a hazard to the workers, and the panels cannot be recycled.

Windmills are the ultimate in embedded costs and environmental destruction. Each weighs 1688 tons (the equivalent of 23 houses) and contains 1300 tons of concrete, 295 tons of steel, 48 tons of iron, 24 tons of fiberglass, and the hard to extract rare earths neodymium, praseodymium, and dysprosium. Each blade weighs 81,000 pounds and will last 15 to 20 years,

at which time it must be replaced. We cannot recycle used blades. Sadly, both solar arrays and windmills kill birds, bats, sea life, and migratory insects.

There may be a place for these technologies, but **you must look beyond the myth of zero emissions.** "Going Green" may sound like the Utopian ideal and are easily espoused, catchy buzz words, but when you look at the hidden and embedded costs realistically with an open mind, you can see that Going Green is more destructive to the Earth's environment than meets the eye, for sure.



#### DID YOU KNOW

If you sneeze too hard, you can fracture a rib. If you try to suppress a sneeze, you can rupture a blood vessel in your head or neck and die.

Yes, if you block the pressure of the sneeze, it can cause a rupture of the eardrums, irritation of the throat and in worst cases, rupture blood vessels in your brain or eyes.

#### THIS MONTH in LABOUR HISTORY

Nov. 10/1983

In British Columbia, *three months of protests to defend union rights and social services* reach a critical turning point as teachers prepare to join a massive mobilization led by Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition



## **B.C.-BASED PULP AND PAPER COMPANY MAY BE SECRETLY CONTROLLED BY INDONESIAN GIANT**

An investigation into the ownership of what could soon be Canada's largest forestry company has found "substantial evidence" the Indonesian multinational Sinar Mas Group — known for widespread deforestation and displacing a number of iconic species — secretly controls the firm.

In a report released by Greenpeace Monday, the environmental group says it analyzed hundreds of corporate registry documents and official filings across several countries, including Canada, Indonesia, France, Brazil and the United States.

Those documents pointed to a complex nexus of family ties, shell companies, and overlapping management positions linking Sinar Mas and the B.C.-based company Paper Excellence.

"The Sinar Mas Group has been one of the most destructive companies that Greenpeace and many of other organizations have come across," said Shane Moffatt, head of nature and food with Greenpeace Canada.

"The question that we're asking: is that the kind of behavior that we're seeing going to be replicated right here in Canada?"

Between 1984 and 2010, one report found Sinar Mas's subsidiary Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) was responsible for cutting down two million hectares of forest — equivalent in size to the country of Israel. That has meant the destruction of huge swaths of critical habitat for Sumatran elephants, orangutans and tigers.

Excavators work to clear logs in 2012 on an APP supplier in the Kerumutan peat swamp forest

Today, forest and peat land destruction continues, despite APP's promises to commit to "zero deforestation" in its pulp and paper supply chain, found the Greenpeace report.

Such pulp and paper plantations, meanwhile, have led to some of the biggest wildfires in recent years. In 2015, widespread fires covered Southeast Asia in smoke, releasing 1.75 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide, and over the long-term, possibly triggering the premature death of more than 100,000 people.

APP operations have also led to a number of conflicts with nearby communities. A 2019 report found Indonesian pulpwood plantations were in conflict with over 100 communities — many of them Indigenous. APP said it would be more transparent, and in 2021, said more than half of the conflicts had been resolved.

*Sinar Mas Group — known for widespread deforestation and displacing a number of iconic species — secretly controls the firm.*

### **B.C.-based company growing fast**

On the other side of the world, the rise of another pulp and paper behemoth began in 2006, when Paper Excellence was founded in Richmond, B.C.

At least, that's the story it tells the public, according to Greenpeace.

The company has massively expanded in the years since, with B.C. operations in Crofton, Port Alberni, Howe Sound, Powell River, Surrey and the community of Skookumchuck, just north of Cranbrook.

By the end of 2020, Paper Excellence had bought out nine mills in Canada — across B.C., Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec — as well as one in Brazil and two in France.

In 2021, it announced a \$3-billion acquisition of the Domtar Corporation, which has 13 pulp and paper mills and 10 manufacturing facilities across North America. And this summer, the company said it was purchasing Resolute Forest Products, which would give the company several more pulp, paper and lumber mills across the southeast U.S., Ontario, and Quebec. It would also take over the management of 20 million hectares of Canada's boreal forest.

If that last deal goes through in 2023, Paper Excellence will become the largest forestry company in Canada, and one of the largest pulp and paper operators on the continent.

As the company has expanded over the years, Greenpeace says there is a growing body of evidence the company isn't as homegrown as its image would suggest.

"When local communities or Indigenous peoples are looking to kind of hold a company like Paper Excellence to account for its long-term commitments, they need to know who they're dealing with," said Moffatt.

The report outlines a vast network of family connections, cross-posting between related companies, and several shell companies that obscure the true beneficiaries of Paper Excellence.

### **Paper Excellence – web of control**

Corporate structure of Paper Excellence and links to Asia Pulp & Paper. The data comes from a number of national corporate databases. Moffatt says Greenpeace's team of investigators reached out to

Paper Excellence for a response to its findings. The report includes a number of comments from Graham Kissack, Paper Excellence's vice-president of corporate communication. In one instance, Kissack described the evidence linking cross-ownership and family connections as not relevant. "Trusted advisers, former colleagues, even friends are sometimes asked to play a role. But this has nothing to do with the ultimate ownership and control of any company," Kissack is quoted in the report. He is later quoted: "There are no ownership or control links with APP/Sinar Mas or anybody else."

### **B.C. lobbying documents reveal connection to Indonesian company**

The report also points to Paper Excellence's lobbying activities in British Columbia, in one case involving former NDP president Moe Sihota. In 2020, documents show Sihota registered with the B.C. government as a lobbyist for Paper Excellence Canada Holdings Corporation. Those documents, submitted to B.C.'s Officer of the Registrar of Lobbyists, also show a list of Paper Excellence's affiliates, including five of the company's B.C. mills and the Sinar Mas Group. Sihota's lobbying activities indicate that while lobbying on behalf of Paper Excellence Canada Holdings Corporation, the Sinar Mas Group — headquartered in the heart of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta — has been an "affiliate with direct interest in the outcome." Sihota has been registered as a lobbyist for the company from August 2020 to October 2022.

Paper Excellence's lobbying records also reveal how the company has viewed the future of B.C.'s forests, particularly how to harvest old-growth stands. Seven months before Sihota registered as a lobbyist for Paper Excellence, the company's chief forester Quinton Hayward sent a letter to the B.C. government lobbying it to maintain old-growth harvesting practices "in their current form." The letter, sent as a submission during the province's Old Growth Strategic Review process, was made public as a filing with B.C.'s lobbyist registry. The lobbying efforts came as protests against logging B.C.'s old-growth trees reached levels not seen in decades. Last year, logging blockades at Fairy Creek on Vancouver Island led to over 1,000 arrests in the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history. Since then, activists have turned to a number of tactics to keep pressure on governments to take action on climate change and a growing biodiversity crisis — from

blocking highways, to staging a hunger strike and deflating tires.

At the provincial level, the B.C. government initiated a deferral on old-growth logging in 2021 and has since moved to negotiate with First Nations one on one to decide how to manage their forested territories going forward. "If a company is going to maintain that position [on old-growth logging], if that's what they're going to be advocating for, at least be transparent about it, at least be public about it," said Moffatt. "They're clearly going to be one of the biggest operators if not the biggest operator on the landscape for many years to come. So, the decisions that they take, and who they are is going to have a profound effect on forests for generations." - STEFAN LABBÉ



### **OKAY PEOPLE, LISTEN UP...**

Commonly Confused Words  
Parody/Parity

**THEY'RE DIFFERENT**, but when these words are said out loud it's hard to tell them apart. A **parody** is a silly spoof and **parity is equality**, and that's no joke.



On October 24th 2022, Tony was sent to the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria BC by ambulance with serious, life-threatening cardiac problems. His recovery and rehab time is going to take months if not over a year. We are asking anyone who knows Tony to help him with a donation. Everyone who knows him knows how great of a guy he is. Please help if you can.



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**TO ALL MAINTENANCE SUPERVISORS**



**IF YOU DON'T SCHEDULE  
TIME FOR  
MAINTENANCE, YOUR  
EQUIPMENT WILL  
SCHEDULE IT FOR YOU**

READER SUBMITTED



A **recession** is a downward trend in the business cycle, one that is characterized by a decline in production and employment.



This trend lowers household income and spending, which consequently causes many businesses and households to delay making large investments or purchases.



A recession can be limited geographically, like in a single country.

A depression is when wages are cut so low no one makes enough to live on and a recession is when the price of everything goes up so high no one makes enough to live on.

— The Atlanta Constitution, 23 Jan. 1938

**WHAT IS MOVEMBER?**

Movember is a month-long event in which people are encouraged to grow mustaches in order to raise (grow) awareness of and funding for research related to men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.



**MOVEMBER**

**THIS MONTH in HISTORY**

Nov. 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200-ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to Oregon.



**DID YOU KNOW ?**

The 1918 influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. Although there is no universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide during 1918-1919. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in spring 1918.



It is estimated that about 500 million people or one-third of the world's population became infected with this virus. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million and possibly 100 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States. Mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, 20-40 years old, and 65 years and older. The high mortality in healthy people, including those in the 20-40-year age group, was a unique feature of this pandemic.



## NOVEMBER 21st

### THIS MONTH in LABOUR HISTORY

Nov. 11 1975

An iron ore carrier sinks in a storm on Lake Superior, with the loss of all 29 hands. Although the freighter and crew of the Edmund Fitzgerald are American, the Canadian songwriter Gordon Lightfoot a year later memorializes the disaster



## OPINION



The time has come for me to step aside and let someone else enjoy piecing together TWOSNEWS. It's a learning experience for sure and I had a lot of fun. At the end of the day, I wish we had more union involvement in the form of letters, reports etc. It is what it is however and I hope everybody enjoyed my attempt to put a new spin on TWOSNEWS. I will be signing off after the December/2022 edition.

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### OCTOBER 2022 EMOJI AWARD



And the winner is ....

**Paper Excellence executives** – causing more labour strife by announcing yet another curtailment in their favorite month of December.

### THIS MONTH in HISTORY

Nov.2, 1936 - The world's first regular TV service was started by the British Broadcasting Corporation, an estimated 100 TV owners tuned in.