

### **BUSINESS MANAGER & FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT**



A.D. AL PHILLIPS, RSE BUSINESS MANAGER/ FINANCIAL SECRETARY

# UA LOCAL 170 **HEAD OFFICE**

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**UALOCAL170.COM** 

### Dear Members:

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and had some great times with your families and friends. It has been a busy summer at Local 170 with ongoing negotiations and other initiatives at both a national and local level. Here is an update of what's been going on:

### **NEGOTIATIONS**

### **ICI Standard (Industrial-Commercial)**

The summer started on a very disappointing and frustrating note with the imposed settlement of the ICI Standard Agreement for both Commercial and Industrial. The members of the Conference Board and I started negotiating back in September 2018 and faced several proposals from CLR which contemplated deep cuts to our agreement. We continued challenging and pushing CLR away from their starting positions, walking away twice to recommend a strike vote to our membership. We were mandated back to the bargaining table each time.

All the Building Trades unions negotiated under a Bargaining Protocol Agreement which had strict timelines and rules for bargaining. The Bargaining Protocol Agreement was mandated by the Labour Relations Board for all Building Trades unions back in 2015 in order to ensure industry stability and thwart lengthy negotiations (prior rounds of bargaining carried on over several years). When we reached a stalemate with CLR in March 2019, a mediator was appointed and the continued refusal of CLR to negotiate in good faith pushed the process to the next step which was interest arbitration or a Labour Board decision on how bargaining was to conclude. Here is a short summary of the main points of negotiations. For more details, I encourage you to visit the Special Messages section of the Members database where you will find all the related documents and the mediated settlement. Finally, I want to thank the members of the Conference Board for their hard work and determination throughout this entire process. They showed up to our meetings with great ideas and energy, eager to battle through all the details in order to the get the best outcome for our members.

## ICI STANDARD AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS TIMELINE

In 2015 the Labour Board made a decision requiring a Protocol Agreement for each future round of bargaining.

> Protocol Agreement Mandated

With a Bargaining Protocol deadline of January 31, 2019 approaching and still no agreement, the Labour Board extended the deadline to February 15/2019

> Bargaining Timeline Extended

CLR breaks off bargaining once again CLR submission to LRB requests interest arbitration

BCBT Barg Council requests that LRB should direct further bargaining

LRB directs further bargaining with Mediator with no strike vote permitted until next LRB decision

Stalemate

Arbitrator issues non-binding recommended settlement and two options to conclude bargaining:

- Put recommended settlement to a vote - but only if both sides agreed and would recommend the settlement to their members - CLR would not agree - OPTION OUT
- 2. LRB to decide between (a) Have Arbitrator select CLR's or BCBT's final offer (one or the other) - CLR's final offer much worse than recommended settlement or (b) Impose the Arbitrator's recommended settlement. Bo

LRB Chair imposes recommended settlement

Sept-Dec 2018

Feb-March 2019

May 2019

2015

January 2019

April 2019

May 31-2019

Bargaining Begins

Bargaining began with the exchange of proposals. CLR came with deep cuts to the agreement – the most contentious was the "Favoured Nations" clause and other cuts to wages and benefits. Meetings and bargaining continued at both Trade and Main Table but no agreement was reached.

#### Talks Stall

CLR breaks off bargaining

BC Building Trades Bargaining Council passes a motion to hold a strike vote.

Labour Board extended timelines and instructed that bargaining resume with a mediator.

### Still no Agreement

Bargaining continued with mediator - still no agreement

LRB Chair directs bargaining to continue with mediator to issue non-binding recommendation if no agreement reached also directs there be no strike/no lockout until next LRB decision

Bargaining continues with no agreement

\*Favoured Nations would allow allow the employer to get the lowest cost CA terms from among all the collective agreements and/or PLAs which Local 170 is signed to - essentially gutting the collective agreement to the lowest common denominator for each CA term.

# LOOKING AHEAD

WE, ALONG WITH ALL THE BUILDING TRADES UNIONS ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE LAST ROUND OF BARGAINING AND ARE COMMITTED TO DEMONSTRATE OUR OPPOSITION, NOT ONLY TO THE OUTCOME (PARTICULARLY THE DOUBLE TIME SUNSET CLAUSE) BUT ALSO TO THE PROCESS.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE INITIATIVES WE ARE WORKING ON:

## OVERTIME REQUESTS

On June 20, 2019, I sent a letter to CLR requiring all signatory contractors submit Overtime requests for sanction, as per Section 1.1 of the ICI Collective Agreement. A dedicated email address has been set up along with an online form for contractors to submit as soon as they require any of our members to work overtime. By implementing this process, we are able to monitor the amount of overtime requested of our members and can better challenge claims of our contractors of overtime costs' effect on market share. In order to assist us in this initiative, we are requesting that all members report their overtime to the Local Union office. If and when you are asked to work overtime, or if you work an overtime shift, please send an email as soon as possible to: my0T@ualocal170.com, listing your name, UA Card Number, Employer Name/Job and overtime requested or worked (date, start and end time). Any overtime worked by our members which has not been sanctioned by Local 170, is a breach of the collective agreement and is grievable. CLR has objected to this request and has filed a policy grievance.

## PROTOCOL AGREEMENT

We are working with the BC Building Trades unions and legal counsel in a joint effort to lobby against the use of the "Protocol Agreement" and/or using all legal means to ensure our members are given an opportunity to vote for their collective agreement.

## **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT**

With changes to the Employment Standards Act, see page 4 for more details, legal counsel has been asked to scrutinize our current collective agreement to ensure its terms meet or exceed the corresponding parts of the Employment Standards Act.

## MECHANICAL TRADES COUNCIL OF BC

This last round of bargaining highlighted some of the challenges we face as a mechanical trade union, bargaining with various construction trades unions and with CLR. We have been working with the Bricklayers, Ironworkers, Millwrights, and Boilermakers and have formed the Mechanical Trades Council of BC, a joint bargaining agent for the members of all the five mechanical trades and we have penned our own standalone collective agreement which we will begin to offer contractors in the new year.



We intend to keep this issue at the forefront with our T-shirt and sticker campaign. As this is a sunset clause, we want to make it clear that double time Saturdays are worth fighting for. Working on the weekend is valuable time away from our families.

IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!

### **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AND LABOUR CODE**

On May 30, 2019, the British Columbia government gave royal assent to an amended/updated:

- 1. Employment Standards Act, and
- 2. Labour Relations Code

This is a significant step for workers in our province as the Employment Standards Act had not been updated for 15 years and the Labour Code hadn't been reviewed since 1992.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHANGES:

#### **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT:**

Better protection for children and youth from dangerous work;

- raised the age a child may work from 12 to 16 years,
- 14 and 15 year olds may perform light work with parent permission
- restrictions to the types of work 16 to 18 year olds can perform
- 2. Expanded reasons for job protected leaves to include people dealing with difficult personal circumstances including critical illness leave, and leaves for those experiencing domestic violence.
- 3. New regulations and restrictions regarding tips and gratuities for those in the service industry.
- 4. Collective agreements

Prior to the May 2019 amendment, large parts of the Employment Standards Act did not apply to collective agreements if they had any provision dealing with these specific parts of the ESA: hours of work or overtime, statutory holidays, annual vacation and seniority retention recall, termination of employment and lay-off. With the recent amendments, if parts of the collective agreement terms do not meet or exceed the corresponding part of the ESA, that part of the ESA will apply and establishes the minimum requirement. As mentioned earlier, the Bargaining Council has engaged legal counsel to determine the effect, if any, on our Collective Agreement. For example, do the ESA minimum notice requirements for layoff apply to our members working under the ICI standard agreement?

### **LABOUR CODE**

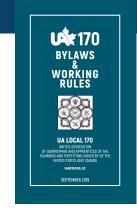
The Labour Code changes are based on the 29 recommendations made by the Review Panel appointed in 2018 to review the Labour Code. Local 170 along with several other labour organizations actively participated in the review process by submitting recommendations to the Panel. Not all of our recommendations were incorporated but is was a good first step.

### SOME OF THE CHANGES:

- Union certification. Where an employer improperly interferes with a union certification process (for example by intimidation or threats) the Labour Relations Board has a broader authority to impose union certification.
- The time requirements between an application for certification and an employee vote has been shortened from ten days to five business days.

### **BYLAWS SEPTEMBER 2019**

Local 170's Bylaws have been updated with the 2019 adopted Notices of Motions, and in accordance with UA International recommendations. The September 2019 publication (booklet) is available at our office. Please contact the office if you would like one mailed to you. A pdf version of the bylaws is also available on the Special Messages section of the Member's website.







### workhealthlife.com

### MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

UA Canada has introduced a National Parental Wellness Program which launched September 1, 2019. The National plan will provide members with the following additional benefits:

PARENTAL WELLNESS BENEFIT: the equivalent of the current EI amount for up to 24 weeks during pregnancy (without having to exhaust Federal EI maternity/parental benefits).

MATERNITY EI SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT: top up for a maximum of 15 weeks while receiving El Maternity Benefits.

PARENTAL EI SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT: top up for mothers or father to a maximum of 35 weeks while receiving EI Parental Benefits.

UA Canada will be officially launching the program at the Canadian Conference September 16-20/2019. ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT UA CANADA IN THE COMING WEEKS.

### SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR WORK, HEALTH AND LIFE

ACHIEVE WELL-BEING ⋅ Stress ⋅ Mental health concerns ⋅ Grief and loss⋅ Crisis situations

MANAGE RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY · Communication · Separation/divorce · Parenting

TACKLE ADDICTIONS · Alcohol · Drugs · Tobacco · Gambling

FIND CHILD AND ELDER CARE RESOURCES · Child care · Schooling · Nursing/retirement homes

IMPROVE NUTRITION · Weight management · High cholesterol and blood pressure · Diabetes

GET LEGAL ADVICE · Family law · Separation/divorce · Custody

**RECEIVE FINANCIAL GUIDANCE** • Debt management • Bankruptcy • Retirement

FOCUS ON YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH · Understand symptoms · Identify conditions · Improve sleep

### **LET US HELP**

Your Member Assistance Program (MAP) offered through the UA Canada National Wellness Program provides you with immediate and confidential help for any work, health or life concern. We're available anytime and anywhere. Let us help.

workhealthlife.com

Access your MAP 24/7 by phone, web or mobile app. 1.833.778.2627 (UAMAP) TTY: 1.877.338.0275 workhealthlife.com

Download My EAP app now at your device app store

### **JOB READY DISPATCH**

In the last round of ICI Standard Agreement bargaining, before the arbitrated settlement, we were able to successfully negotiate a Trade Level Memorandum of Agreement for Commercial only. The TLMOA included an employer-paid (\$0.20 per hour) contribution towards a Job Ready Dispatch program which would be used to fund Job Ready training for members working under a Commercial agreement. In order to be dispatched to a Commercial job, members will be required to hold the following certifications, which will be paid for through the program.

Certified Fall Arrest or equivalent Confined Space Awareness or equivalent, as needed Area Work Platform (AWP) WHMIS 2015 or equivalent

The following Job Ready requirements will also be funded through this program:

**Hearing Test** 

Respirator Fit Test, as needed

We are in the process of developing a process and a schedule for the above programs and will be providing more information through our website and UAPICBC's website in the next few months.

### CHANGES TO PLUMBER, STEAMFITTER, SPRINKLERFITTER AND WELDER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

In an effort to harmonize apprenticeship programs on a national level, there have been several changes to the apprenticeship training programs in our trades. The new program requirements will affect all new apprentices starting after April 1, 2019. The changes will also affect existing apprentices depending on which level you have completed at April 1, 2019. Please visit the ITA website and contact the Apprenticeship office if you have any questions as to how these changes might affect you.

### WHAT HAS CHANGED?

There have been several changes to the course content and durations. A major change new apprentices will see is to the Gasfitter program. Previously, Plumbing and Steamfitter apprentices were able to get a Gas B certification in Level 4. For new apprenticeships started after April 1, 2019, this will no longer be an option. Apprentices will have to wait until they complete their Plumber or Steamfitter apprenticeship (and get their Certificate of Qualification) and then start a Gasfitter B apprenticeship, at which time, they will get credit for Level 1 of the Gasfitter B and 1500 work based hours towards their Gas B apprenticeship.

ado B appromisosimp.	Sprinklerfitter		Steamfitter		Plumber	
	Previous	New Harmonized	Previous	New Harmonized	Previous	New Harmonized
Trade Name	Sprinkler System Installer	Sprinkler Fitter	Steamfitter Pipefitter	Steamfitter Pipefitter	Plumber	Plumber
Technical Training Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4	6 wks 6 wks 6 wks 6 wks	8 wks 8 wks 8 wks	6 wks 6 wks 6 wks 8 wks	7 wks 7 wks 8 wks 8 wks	6 wks 6 wks 6 wks 8 wks	7 wks 8 wks 7 wks 8 wks
Hours* (Technical + WBT** = Total)	720 + 5680 = 6400	720 + 6480 = 7200	780 + 5620 = 6400	900 + 6300 = 7200	780 + 6420 = 7200	900 + 6300 = 7200
GAS B	n/a	n/a	Gasfitter Class B certification part of Level 4	Partial credits towards completion of Gasfitter B apprenticeship: Credit for Level 1 & 1500 WBT	Gasfitter Class B certification part of Level 4	Partial credits towards completion of Gasfitter B apprenticeship: Credit for Level 1 & 1500 WBT

<sup>\*</sup> Hours required to become a UA Local 170 journeyperson in all trades was and continues to be 7,200 = ITA Red Seal standard now equivalent to UA standard for all trades

### ICI STANDARD AGREEMENT BALLOT RESULTS

A ballot was issued to the membership in July to vote on the allocation of the imposed settlement increase. The Conference Board recommended the following allocation:

- 1. Allocate all monetary increases to wages
- 2. Re-allocate \$0.05 of the Employer Health & Welfare contribution of \$2.72 to UA Canada's Parental Wellness program (see below)
- 3. Invoke a Helmets to Hardhats member deduction of \$0.01/hour

The results of the vote: IN FAVOUR: 74% OPPOSED 26%

THANK YOU TO ALL THE MEMBERS WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SUBMIT THEIR BALLOT.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Work Based Training

### **NEW PRESSURE WELDER PROGRAM**

A new Pressure Welder Program will be coming into effect in BC on December 3, 2019. Pressure welders working in BC will need a certificate of qualification to perform welding work. I met with Technical Safety BC and UAPICBC staff for a consultation meeting in August and we provided them with our recommendations as the details are being finalized.

"Effective dec/3, 2019, There will be three classes of pressure welders: Class A, Class IT (In-Training), and Class R(Restricted) "

Class A Can perform registered pressure welds on any pressure equipment in BC

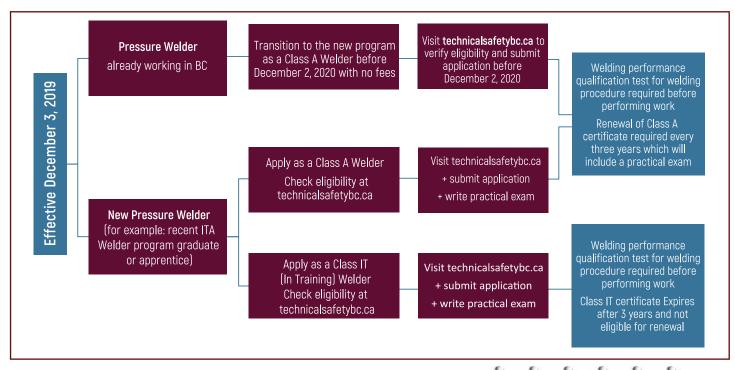
Class IT Can perform pressure welds as an apprentice under supervision

(note: this class aligns with ITA's harmonized apprenticeship program)

Class R Can perform a limited scope of pressure welding work on specific equipment or sites

for pressure welders from outside of BC

Requirements for obtaining a certificate of qualification under the new pressure welder program will depend on a few factors (see chart below). Visit **technicalsafetybc.ca** for more information and updates.



### TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

After several months of delays, it looks like Trans Mountain is restarting construction on its Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project. We have been in talks with contractors who were issued directives to mobilize equipment and hire workers after the National Energy Board gave Trans Mountain the green light in early August to resume construction.

Trans Mountain expects to have close to 4,200 workers on the job in various communities by year's end. We expect several jobs for our members on this project, which is expected to complete in 2022.



### **PIPELINE TIE-IN**

The UAPICBC delivered a five week "Pipeline Tie-In" course this past May. Ten welders and two helpers participated in the program, which is the first pipeline course put on by Local 170 in approx. 15 years. We have a strong and growing nucleus of young pipeline members in our Local who embrace the old traditions of hard work, perfection, camaraderie, and brotherhood. Through this program, we were able to give the students a thorough understanding of the process it takes to be a successful Tie-In Welder. The 42", 13.7 mm wall thickness and grade 483 pipe was donated by Bill Benhke at Banister Pipeline for which we are very grateful. Without the support of our contractors, courses like this would be very costly to make available to our membership. Thanks to instructors Glenn MacDonald and Al Appel for delivering a great program, Bernard Booth, Mark Glazier and Merv Kube for all their hard work in getting the program off the ground, and to UA Canada for financially supporting the program.







### **CASA NEGOTIATIONS**

CASA negotiations concluded in late April with members voting on the negotiated terms in May. The result of Local 170's recent vote for the proposed 2019-2022 CASA agreement was as follows:

In favour: 26% Opposed: 74%

Local 170's ballot results were submitted to the National office, along with the results of all locals across Canada who have members working under this agreement. On a Canada wide basis the 2019 UA Sprinkler Road Agreement has been **ratified with 79.5 % in favor to accept.** 

### **CLR- SERVICE & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

We are currently negotiating the CLR – Service & Maintenance Agreement. A meeting was held in July for members who are currently working under the Service Agreement in order to elect a bargaining committee and to discuss proposals. The elected Bargaining Committee members are: Gord Gunter, Brad Defieux, David Thompson and Todd Goldstone. We will be working over the coming months to develop a new re-worked and updated Agreement.





To our members working at the Molson's site in Chilliwack who started a fundraising campaign and raised over \$30,000 for Chilliwack Hospital – Fraser Valley Healthcare Foundation (Children's Hospital). Local 170 donated along with several other Building Trades Unions (Boilermakers 359, UA Local 516, IBEW Local 213, IUOE Local 115, Carpenters Local 1907) and site contractors. Great way to give back to the community!

### **EVOLVE COMMITTEE**

Out of the Leadership Forum held by UA Canada in Halifax last year, the UA has introduced the formation of the UA Canada EVOLVE Committee. The EVOLVE Committee consists of 1 member from each Local Union, either an Apprentice or Journeyperson under the age of 35. The Committee will be addressing the recommendations from the Forum and will ensure that UA Canada stays ahead of the industry, and provides our youth an opportunity to participate in the future direction of the UA. Will Schwarz, (Local 170 Steamfitter/Welder and UAPICBC Director of Operations) has been appointed by Local 170 to the Evolve Committee and he will be hosting Youth Committee meetings at our Hall on a regular basis. The first meeting was held on Thursday September 5, 2019.



## **AGM & SHOW 'N SHINE**

A big thank you to all who attended our AGM and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show n Shine. We had a great turnout this year with over 30 amazing cars/bikes/trucks.











We had a great day on Saturday, September 7, 2019 hosting our annual Local 170 Jim Brady Memorial Golf Tournament. We sold out again this year with many of our players "dressing up" for the occasion. Thank you to all our generous sponsors and to all who came out to join in the fun!









### **GPS & PRIVACY**

Some of our members have recently been asked to install a tracking software on employer provided phones. After consulting with our lawyers, we have sent a letter to the employer requesting further information so we can determine whether the use of the Tracker and collection and use of the Information is compliant with Privacy legislation (PIPA). Until we receive and review this information, we have informed the employer that our members do not consent to the use, collection or disclosure of the information.

### UTIP

UA Local 170 has been successful in all four of their applications to Employment Social Development Canada for training grants for equipment for UAPICBC. There has been a lot of activity going on in the school with the purchase of new welding equipment, orbital training equipment and other trainers. Inside the welding shop we have added three one-ton cranes, a CNC multi-axis plasma pipe-cutter, a CNC plasma plate-cutter, and have repositioned existing equipment. This equipment, combined with our new end prep machines, will help produce welding coupons faster and more accurately and will give our trainees and members an introduction to CAD (computer-based design) and toolpaths.

One of the grants received is for the construction of an Industrial Interactive Trainer. The trainer will be a two level steel structure erected inside Lab One of the school. It will give students and members an area which has an industrial feel, with rigging points and nozzles throughout with additional space to complete exercises and practical projects. The trainer will be useful in many different specialty areas and will be used in all our welding and piping trades programs.



### JTIP - JOURNEYMAN TRAINING AND GENERAL INDUSTRY PROMOTION FUND

UA Piping Industry College has recently taken over the administration of the JTIP program. As a reminder to members, the JTIP fund is used to pay for the cost of annual ticket renewals for our members including:

**CWB** 

PWP 7&10

Gas A

Gas B

**Cross Connection Control** 

The fund also provides Welding jackets every two years to welders in good standing and currently working for a signatory contractor. Please contact the UA Piping Industry College of BC at 604-540-1945 or by email at admin@uapicbc.ca if you have any questions as to what is eligible for reimbursement or to submit your receipts.



JEFF
CHAPMAN
ASSISTANT BUSINESS
MANAGER
Central Interior
& Northwest BC

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a most enjoyable summer. The last few months have remained busy with the commercial sector still strong and our contractors still actively bidding projects throughout the Province. The industrial sector has been somewhat slower, which is typical in the summer months.

Sinco Engineering along with many members and a few travel cards, were at Molson's new brewery in Chilliwack since Spring 2018, it is pretty much complete. The last few members were laid off on the Brewhouse side in late July and a few remaining on the packaging line. By all accounts both Sinco and Molson's themselves were extremely happy with the professionalism and quality of workmanship that was performed there throughout the project. Job well done! Sinco is also bidding packages for Saputos new \$250 Million dairy processing plant in Port Coquitlam. Modern Niagara was awarded the underground on this project. The process piping side would start around March 2020.

Lockerbie and Hole continues at the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant which has been ongoing since July 2017. There are approximately 95 members on site which should continue throughout 2020. The biggest issue on this site is the turnover rate and absenteeism which has also been an issue on many other commercial sites as well. Some contractors are reporting as high as a 15-25% absenteeism rate on Mondays and Fridays which makes it very difficult for planning and meeting deadlines. I understand life happens and people need time off, however we need to call in and inform the employer if you will be late or away. Client/owners see this and will factor that in when awarding future projects.

CIMS at the Swiss Water Plant in the Tilbury area is coming along now that the calls are being filled. We struggled early on especially filling the welder calls as Molson's and shutdowns were more attractive to our membership. Currently there are approximately 35 members on site, with a scheduled completion date at the end of October. This project also saw a few travel cards as well. CIMS is also at Domtar in Kamloops doing prep work for the shutdown scheduled for October 16, 2019 right after Thanksgiving. They also have had members at Taylor and Parkland Refinery throughout the summer.

Parkland Refinery has also brought on Melloy Industrial Services and Lorneville Mechanical, with small crews in preparation for the outage in February 2020. They will continue to hire in the fall in preparation of this outage. Melloy is expected to take approximately 20 welders and 40 Steamfitters for the shutdown. Lorneville's numbers will be somewhat higher with around 60-80 UA members on both days and nights. Carber Testing, which is owned by PowerChem and was also expected to be on site with a 15-20-person crew for the outage has unexpectedly made the decision to revaluate their business in Canada. The Carber training course which was scheduled has been cancelled and it is unclear at this time what that means in the future. Their company statement was "I would like to personally assure you that Carber is not going away, but simply getting back to basics while we launch the 2.0 version of what this company will become early next year"

The Site C "Clean Energy Project" originally had projections that we would be onsite in the 4th quarter of 2019. I recently had communication with the construction Manager of Voith who is managing the project. He states that BC Hydro has pushed the timeline back 6 months, so it is now expected that we will be there around 2nd quarter of 2020. This project has had many delays and housing problems in the past year. Voith will also be subcontracting the work out to one of our signatory contractors and we should know who this will be sometime in early 2020.

LNG Canada is still moving forward on the facility. I had a meeting with Fluor Constructors in June and they say they wish to go after as much as possible, provided that the Joint Venture releases packages to them. The underground work portion will not commence until the pilings for the project are completed, which is some time in 2020. There will be many opportunities for our members on this project.

Cascade Mechanical is currently at the RTA Kemano Powerhouse. They have been there with a small crew since the start of summer and is expected to wrap-up at the end of September. Although this project is relatively small in numbers, it has provided steady employment here each summer for years.

### JEFF CHAPMAN CONT. —

As mentioned earlier this year the Provincial Government had announced a long overdue review of the WCB. The Government had chosen a well-respected individual named Janet Patterson who is exceptionally qualified to investigate and forward recommendations to make it fairer for BC Workers. When the Liberals decimated WCB in 2002 and 2003 under Bills 49 and 63 it hurt British Columbian workers. Some of the cuts were:

- Pensions for life changed to age 65
- Benefits reduced from 75% of gross to 90% of net (13% loss)
- Only hours earned in last 12 months, instead of other factors
- · Vocational Rehab severely limited on consultation
- Chronic pain pension capped at 2.5% and harder to get compared to when it was decided on degree of pain and discretion of the case worker and subject to appeal
- Liberals made a mockery of the appeal process making it to difficult for most.
- Extensions for deadlines once were easier to receive
- Reconsideration of new medical evidence or information was once available, whereas now only 75 days after a decision is made
- And finally, individuals used to get interest on awards if won. This is one of the very first cuts the Liberals made, however the employers still get interest!

The WCB made these cuts after the employer groups hired lawyers to re-write the Act in 2002, and that is the system we have today. They had no qualms about whether it was a fair process for workers. Fast forward today and all the big business Employers' Association have pulled out of the current process of the WCB review stating that they are not being listened to and it will not be fair process. I'm not sure why more employers do not have as their primary interest, the health and well-being of their employees. There are some that do. Many of the big employers have been so used to having complete control, as they did during the Liberal tenure, that they are not prepared to even engage with a process of review if there is an appearance of concern for workers welfare. It's "my way or the highway" as far as these employer groups are concerned.

Shame on them! The protection and welfare of workers should be a shared concern to all in the realm of Workers Compensation. The fact that they aren't willing to engage in a fair and impartial review reflects exactly where they stand. They aren't interested in any revisions of the WCB unless it is dictated entirely by their interests. **DISGRACEFUL!** 







GORDON FORBES BUSINESS AGENT Okanagan East/West Kootenays

Sunday June 16<sup>th</sup> UA Local 170 held the Annual Family/Friends Picnic at Ryall Park in Queensborough, New Westminster. It was a beautiful day the sun was shinning, and all the participants were in good spirits. For the children there was a Water Park, Jungle Gym, Slides and Swings. Also, on hand to help entertain the children was Smartee Pants the Clown and she kept the children entertained with balloon animals and magic tricks. The Local 170 Annual "tug-of-war" saw the steamfitters up against the plumbers and 2019 saw the "steamfitters" take the title.



#### **KOOTENAYS**

- CIMS Rossland currently has 25 members working at Mercer Celgar in Castlegar working on the 540 Lite Project in preparation for the October 4 shutdown.
- · Fall Turn Around in the Kootenays
  - Mercer Celgar October 9th
  - Mid West Mechanical and TVE will have a portion of the shutdown
- Equity Plumbing has a small crew at Kootenay Boundary Hospital.
- Both CIMS Rossland and West Kootenay Mechanical continue to have crews in Teck Cominco Trail.
- Mid-West Mechanical had a portion of the shutdown at Skookumchuk Pulp Mill this Spring along with TVE. It is great day for building trades when our contractors secure work on these shutdowns.

#### **BUILDERS WITHOUT BORDERS FOUNDATION**

This is a non-profit society made up of retired engineers, architects, planners, etc. who volunteer their time to projects in developing countries, and recently in indigenous communities in British Columbia.

In early February of 2019 Brian Boone, P. Eng who is a volunteer with Builders Without Borders Foundation contacted me regarding plumbing volunteers to help with their project to build eight "Tiny Homes" in Bella Bella, using local tradespeople to do most of the work. Brian Boone emailed me again on April 15th and informed me that Brother Steve Moore volunteered his time and expertise and he was total amazing. He also took the time to teach the crew more than the basics of plumbing and he didn't just install the pipe but taught them.

I would like to thank Brother Steve Moore for volunteering and helping out at Bella Bella with the plumbing for the "tiny homes". This is paying forward to our fellow brothers and sisters and helping communities become independent and self-sufficient.

WE STILL HAVE OPEN CALLS FOR OUR COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS IN THE LOWER MAINLAND. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE UNION HAVE THEM CONTACT ME.



MARK GLAZIER BUSINESS AGENT Vancouver Island Sunshine Coast Whistler

#### **COMMERCIAL**

## Professional Mechanical Limited (PML)- these are all ongoing with a total of 92 members

Hawthorne – 7-story Condo King Edward – 7-story Condo Cardero – High end Condos Davie – 2 Towers and Safeway Sussex – 40-story Condo Amazon – Vancouver Post Office site

#### Fred Welsh

- · Riverview Youth Centre Coquitlam
- · YVR renovation work

\*\*NOTE: All our commercial contractors are extremely busy in the Lower Mainland, with no end in sight. We can use the help of the membership to help fill the void, anyone with any contact with apprentice or journeyperson plumbers, please get them to contact the Organizing Department.

#### **INDUSTRIAL**

### **Brymark Installations**

- · Fortis Coquitlam Compressor Station
- · Michel's Pitt Stations & Hydro testing
- · YVR
- · Ridley Terminal Prince Rupert
- · Westshore Terminal

#### Mitchell Installations

- · Parkland Mitchell Installation onsite with 26 members
- · Members at the Dam at Hudson Hope
- · Several Run of the River projects upcoming

#### **SUNSHINE COAST**

#### Port Mellon-Howe Sound

Shutdown slated for October 14 - November 4th, 2019.

#### **Powell River**

There is a 65-million-dollar sewage treatment facility coming out for tender.

#### **VANCOUVER ISLAND**

#### Campbell River

John Hart Dam - Co-Gen continues to have a crew onsite.

#### Fanny Bay

 Co-Gen fabrication shop is extremely busy due to the many water and sewage treatment facilities being constructed on Vancouver Island and surrounding Islands.

#### Nanaimo

**Brymark** 

Harmac – Black & McDonald from Alberta completed an Oxygen Plant onsite. The Superintendent couldn't say enough about the high quality and performance of 170 members.

#### **SHIPYARDS**

### Vancouver Shipyard

The yard continues to be busy working on the OFSV#3 and the JSS modules.

The repair side has also been doing very well with a constant flow of vessels coming into the yard.

### Vancouver Dry Docks

The OFSV #2 is currently in the yard, the vessel is being completed before leaving for Victoria for sea trials.

The Cruise Ship Regatta will be coming into the drydock for approximately 12-14 days, from extensive work in early September.

### **PIPELINE**

Michels continues with the Fortis LNG project, with 8 welders onsite. The line is now moving east from Burnaby, to the end of Como Lake at Mariner Way.

Coastal Gaslink from Dawson Creek to Kitimat is slated to start in 2020. The two UA contractors on the project are Somerville and Pacific Alliance Pipeline Constructors (PAPC).

Somerville is starting spread one (1) of the TMX Project. This spread is slated to kickoff late October or early November.

It appears once again the TMC Project will be returning to the Court of Appeals. It is yet to be seen if this will delay the start of Spread one [1].

Just a heads up that any diesel truck and/or welder that will be working on any spread of the TMX pipeline, will require a positive air shut off on any diesel equipment. There are no exceptions.

Also, welding machines will need a CV module for wire applications.

LOCAL 488 HAVE REACHED OUT TO DTI INDUSTRIES AND THEY WILL GIVE A 15% DISCOUNT TO ALL UA MEMBERS WHO CHOOSE TO INSTALL POSITIVE AIR SHUT-OFF.

\*\* NOTE: Any member requiring WHMIS, PCST or Hearing tests please contact the UAPIC School at 604.540.1945.



SAM GREAVES DISPATCHER

I will take this opportunity to remind the membership of the Dispatcher's day to day activities in the dispatch office. I will start with some general information that some new members may not be aware of,

1. DISPATCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Closed for Lunch: 12 noon to 12:30 pm Closed All: Statutory Holidays

2 DISPATCH CONTACT NUMBER: **604.527.3220** 

3. www.ualocal170.com: "Members Only" there are seven tabs across the top of the page.

Home: View your personal information and update your address, phone and email address

My Balances Due: Total dues owing for rest of year and your SUB account balance

My List Position: it will show you your position on the board

Referral Lists: find your dispatch board and then find yourself and see your position

Available Jobs: this is the information for open jobs as read out at the end of each day on the dispatch hot line Special Messages: this is where you can find information about contracts or information about upcoming special meetings etc.

Open Job Listing Report: list of open jobs and includes any jobs filled within the last 2 days.

Now, on with a typical day in the local 170 dispatch office. The office opens at 7:30 am and if you want to apply for a daily job posting you can come (in person) between 7:30 am to 2:00 pm and bid for job.

If you are phoning dispatch to apply call between 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Between 7:30 – 8:30 am, I am checking all voice messages left from the previous day and responding to emails from members and contractors. Also, I am dealing with any members who have came in person to the dispatch office to apply for work or report being laid off and signing onto the board.

At 2:00 pm sharp the dispatch phone is placed on DND and goes directly to voice message. This is the deadline for most job applications, and this gives the dispatcher time to review those brothers and sister's seniority board positions that have applied to the open daily jobs that day. The dispatcher then starts phoning applicants by their board #. If

you have applied to any open calls earlier in the day then you should have your phone close by to answer the call back and accept the job.

I would remind the members that they should also be ready to take any instructions or job specific requirements about this posting when the dispatcher calls. Be prepared have a paper and pen available as the dispatcher will give the job location and contact numbers for supervisors. If you do not answer your phone (several attempts are made to contact you) I assume you are not available and a pass meaning you are not interested anymore and I go to the next 170 member waiting for said job. I contact that person and dispatch him/her out and continue this process until the call out is filled. I do not phone those that did not make the list on the call out with too high of a seniority board number.

You have been laid of and you are now reporting out of work, this is simple call dispatch 604-527-3220, any time day or night and leave a message, be sure to say your name and your UA Card # or SIN. If you are registering out of work be sure to name, the contractor and job site and the exact day you were laid off. I check the dispatch voice mail box first thing in the morning, and many times throughout the day and at the end of shift. If leaving a voice message, please speak slowly and clearly. If you mention the contractor name and job site that you were laid off from, that is a big help. Please say if you are wanting to use your short so I can check if you are entitled to one. Upon receiving your message, I will register you on the out of work board. All phone messages are date and time stamped through the phone system, and you are registered on the board at the time of your message.

Technology is great and Local 170 is trying to use it to their advantage, but sometimes if you are driving and using a hands free or blue tooth connection the messages are not clear and I do my best to decipher them.

### DISPATCH HOT LINE

Around 4:00 pm every day I prepare the "Dispatch Hot Line" recording the available jobs. You can hear this message by calling 604-527-3223. If you go to www.ualocal170.com you can listen to this message which is recorded under the "members only" tab. This information is about applications for the next day.

Local 170 members who want their travel cards sent to a sister local must remember they have to be paid to the month you want to travel e.g., send my travel card on July 11, 2019, then your monthly membership dues should be paid through July 2019. Also, when you have completed your job through a sister local you should call them and ask them to return your travel card to your home local and confirm that there is no outstanding money owed.

If you need to speak with a Business Agent call the Local 170 main number 604-526-0441. Or if you need information about your monthly dues or travel card call the Local 170 office direct.

I hope that all my fellow members of Local 170 had a happy, safe and relaxing summer holiday.



BILL QUALLY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

## SENIOR'S **REPAIR SERVICE**



### **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

We need 1-2 dispatchers for 2-3 days per week. The hours would be Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 12 noon.

For more information call 604.529.1100 and talk to either Phyllis or Philip or leave message and we will contact you.

It has been a very busy year so far in the Commercial/Institutional, Service, Sprinkler and Industrial sectors. Many of the requests for manpower going several days before our signatory contractors are getting the manpower that they have been requesting from the dispatch office. The unfilled jobs after 48 hours are now open to travel cards and new members to Local 170. The Business Development Department has been going out to several open shop sites to recruit new members and re-initiates. The result of our efforts has resulted in a number of new members each month that have joined and have been dispatched out to our signatory contractors immediately. The Trades Opportunity Group, with Business Development representatives from all the Building Trades affiliates have been going out to various sites in the Greater Vancouver area to hand out pamphlets to all workers as a recruiting tactic. This has had good results in finding new members for all the Building Trades affiliates so far.

We would like to thank the members that have assisted us in contacting open shop workers and having them join Local 170. We are still looking for the membership to notify us if they know of any of their friends or acquaintances that maybe working for open shop contractors to contact the Business Development Representatives so that we can approach them and show these potential new members the benefits of to joining Local 170.

I was asked to attend the Western Canadian Pipe Conference this year. There were many different presentations from given at the Conference. Some of them were from industrial contractor Fluor Constructors Canada and commercial/institutional contractor Modern Niagara.

I would hope all the Brothers and Sisters and their families have a safe and enjoyable summer.



