

# leaflet

PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA

## Why do the Feds want the HST?

These taxes will make BC and Canadian exporters more “competitive”

AS THE DEBATE rages in BC about the Harmonized Sales Tax, one curious dimension I’ve been puzzling over is this: why do the Feds want the HST implemented so badly they are willing to fork over \$1.6 billion to the province as an enticement?

And it isn’t just the federal Conservatives. Ever since the introduction of the GST, successive Conservative and Liberal federal governments have been pressuring the provinces to harmonize their provincial sales taxes with the GST. Why?

At one level, there is the explanation that harmonization will simplify the sales tax system, allowing businesses to submit only one set of remittances. But I think the real reason is more substantial.

Ever since the original Free Trade Agreement with the US was instituted, the federal government has really had only one core economic develop-

ment strategy: boosting exports. We have no meaningful industrial strategy. Our federal governments have not had a real vision for the role of government in economic development, strategic procurement, or the nurturing of new sectors. Rather, all the economic eggs have been in one basket: free trade and export promotion.

Understood through this lens, pushing both the GST and the HST make perfect sense. These moves towards a value-added sales tax mean that Canadian exporters are spared these taxes (at the expense of Canadian consumers), as exporters can get rebates for any sales tax they pay on inputs. So, these taxes will make Canadian and BC exporters more “competitive”.

All of which raises a much more fundamental question: do we really want to hinge all our economic development goals on exports? As we seek to get serious about confronting the climate challenge (and if Jeff Rubin is correct that rising oil prices mean “our world is about to get a whole lot smaller”), does it really make sense to structure

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# “In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, ‘We must become the change we want to see.’ I believe this is true.”

## WORKERS AT ERCO AND LANDMARK AVIATION RATIFY CONTRACTS

Here are the highlights of Erco’s new agreement:

- Improved and stronger contract language.
- 3-year contract
- Wage increases: 2%, 2.25%, 2.25%
- Increase of \$7.00 over 3 years to pension plan, topping out at \$84.50 per month per year of service
- Increase in bridging from \$15 to \$18 for those retiring between age 60 and 65
- Increase in Sunday and shift premiums.
- New senior relief premium: \$1.00 for multi-skill and \$2.00 for dual trades
- Increase in vision care, chiropractor and physio massage

These are highlights of the new agreement with Landmark Aviation:

- Strongly-improved contract language
- 5-year contract
- Average wage increase of 20% in the first year. Thereafter, 5% per year increases for duration of the contract.
- Leadhand premium: 8%
- Quality-control/trainer premium: 5%
- Longevity premium: after 7 years \$1.00 per hour; after 14 years \$1.50 per hour
- Graveyard premium: \$1.50
- Safety footwear: \$250 per year
- Signing bonus: \$2,000 for full-time employees and \$1,000 for part timers

*John Folkers  
Local 5*



Local 5 member Dave Johnson re-fuels helicopter at Landmark Aviation



PPWC National President Chris Elias presents bursary to Stephanie De Anna

## MEMORIAL BURSARY RECIPIENT HOPES TO BECOME TEACHER

The recipient of 2009’s Angus Macphee Memorial Bursary is Stephanie DeAnna, the daughter of Jon DeAnna, a member of Local 16.

The following is an excerpt from Stephanie’s submission.

I believe I am a worthy candidate for this bursary for a variety of reasons, one being that it has been my goal, since I was in grade seven, to become a social studies teacher.

Throughout my schooling I have had some amazing teachers who taught me a lot. They taught me more than just the curriculum; they gave me life lessons that have helped me become who I

am today. I now feel I need to give back to others.

I want to have the same impression on people as my teachers had on me. In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, “We must become the change we want to see.” I believe this is true. I want to be that change in the lives of children, and to be able to help them learn about the world.

This bursary would be greatly beneficial and would be put to good use.

I have chosen to become a teacher because I want to share my passion for physical fitness and history with our future generations. It is going to be an expensive but a worthwhile journey in pursuing this career.

I know I will be a dedicated teacher.

# President reports on union activities

BY CHRIS ELIAS PRESIDENT

**I**would like to begin by thanking Bonnie Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer, for taking on the role of *Leaflet* editor in producing this issue of the *Leaflet* for the new year. As always, thanks to Amy and Louise for all their dedication to our organization.

Our union, like many others, is facing difficult times. With the downturn in the economy and industry, we all have to do more with less. We are working hard to be fiscally responsible and, at the same time, are providing the continued service and leadership our Locals and memberships deserve and expect.

We have been asked by other unions: "What is the PPWC up to?" Our reply is: "We are doing what we have always done. We don't raid unless we have a clear group of people who want what we have: local autonomy and the desire to control their own destiny without interference from a top-heavy union." We will continue to protect the rights and privileges the PPWC stands for and welcome anyone with a like mind to join us. We are an alternative to workers who want true local representation.

Over the last few months, we have lost two certifications: Local 29, College of New Caledonia in Prince George and Servisair/GlobeGround in Vancouver. Respectively, Local 29's Local executive and Servisair/Globe Ground's plant committee convinced their memberships they would be better served giving up their local autonomy to a big box union. Time will tell. However, we wish our friends in these Locals well.

On a more positive note, we welcome two new certifications into our union: Ainsworth OSB Mill in 100 Mile House, and Esther's Inn in Prince George. Both groups, under Local 9's certification, are currently working on their first contract with our new First Vice-President, Frank Robertson, and Chuck LeBlanc, Second Vice-President of Local 9.

In October, I attended my first Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU) convention and Labour School in Vancouver. The CCU was established to unite all workers in one independent national labour

movement, and to protect its members from illegal and unjust treatment. It also promotes the study, defence, and development of the economic, social, and moral interests of all workers. The exchange of ideas with delegates and guest speakers from around the world and across Canada broadens a person's perspective on labour activism.

The CCU's main focus is to expand our resources to help others who are not as fortunate as we are. John Hanrahan, Vice President of the CCU, will be a guest speaker at our convention. He will be able to answer questions about the CCU and inform us as to its current involvements.

I encourage all Locals that have not joined the CCU or have let their membership lapse to reconsider and join forces with the CCU. As a whole we could provide a balanced voice from west to east.

Greg Hall had to resign his position six months early and return to his home plant, Erco. He has been an integral part of this organization for many years and to say he will be missed would be an understatement. Greg will be teaching a grievance handling course at our Labour

School in March prior to convention, so we will all have a chance to wish him well at that time.

Our 48th annual convention is being hosted by Local 1 with help from Local 26, and is being held in Castlegar at the Fireside Inn. Please ensure you keep informed by checking the web site and your Local mail for details. I am sure Locals 1 and 26 will show us a great time. Let's just hope we have clear flying weather!

As this new year unfolds, I ask for your continued involvement in supporting your local union activities. Together we can move forward in solidarity.

**WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT  
THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES  
THE PPWC STANDS FOR AND  
WELCOME ANYONE WITH A LIKE  
MIND TO JOIN US.**



**LOCALS** • National executive board members report on Local activities at December meeting • Local 8 seeks government support in moving Ladysmith sawmill **6**

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## Group proposes new plan to protect forests and jobs

### Unions and environmentalists join forces to say BC must lead by example

FOREST INDUSTRY unions and leading environmental groups have united behind a plan that calls on the BC government to conserve more forest, halt rampant wood waste, and promote wise use of forest products, all as part of a concerted effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We have joined forces, post Copenhagen, to say BC must lead by example with innovations that fully promote carbon storage in our forests and forest products,” says Ben Parfitt, the plan’s author and resource policy analyst with the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. “The report represents an entirely new approach to managing BC’s forests, rethinking what we do through the lens of maximizing carbon capture.”

“Woodworkers and environmentalists alike understand we have a golden opportunity to move in a new direction that makes our forests more resilient in the face of climate change and that better positions our forest industry and rural resource towns for the new,

green economy,” Parfitt adds.

*Managing BC’s Forests for a Cooler Planet: Carbon Storage, Sustainable Jobs and Conservation* was released jointly by the CCPA; BC Government and Service Employees’ Union; Communications, Energy and Paperworkers of Canada; David Suzuki Foundation; Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada; Sierra Club BC; United Steelworkers District 3, Western Canada; and Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

The report calls for:

- Increased forest conservation.
- Longer timeframes between logging.
- Replacing the current calculation of how much forest is logged (Allowable Annual Cut) with an entirely new approach based on the carbon stored in trees and known as the Carbon Cut Calculation or CCC.
- Accounting for all the carbon stored in forest products.
- Ending unacceptably high wood waste at logging operations.
- New tree plantations that are

planted specifically to store carbon.

- Promoting wood as the most climate-friendly building material.
- A focused, but cautious approach to wood-fired energy or “bio-energy”.
- A true no-net deforestation policy.
- Accounting for all forest carbon credits and debits.

In the absence of such efforts, the report warns of more devastation ahead as forest insect attacks increase in severity and more forest fires burn.

“We are happy to support this action plan that recognizes the invaluable role of forest conservation in addressing the climate crisis,” says Ben West, Healthy Communities campaigner with the Wilderness Committee. “Environmentalists are now on the same side as forestry workers. We all want sustainable jobs and real world solutions that respect the realities of the challenges we face. This innovative plan is a real opportunity for BC to play a leadership role in finding the equitable and sustainable solutions we needed at the failed Copenhagen climate negotiations.”

*Managing BC’s Forests for a Cooler Planet: Carbon Storage, Sustainable Jobs and Conservation* is available at [www.policyalternatives.ca/coolforests](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/coolforests).

# Food bank benefits from union elves

Santa's elves were in town in late November, delivering a load of handmade toys to the 100 Mile House Food Bank.

The charitable organization was presented with about 50 brightly painted wooden pull toys, cars and buses courtesy of Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada Local 9 in Prince George.



PPWC reps (l to r) Doug Friesen, Chuck LeBlanc and Steve Wares present Kathy Haveman of 100 Mile House Food Bank Society with boxes of handmade wooden toys

The toys were made by retired members of the Local and just a portion of about 1,600 they craft each year for similar charities.

According to Chuck LeBlanc, PPWC Local 9 second vice-president, they call themselves the Coffee Club, and each September they turn into elves and get busy at their woodworking benches. "They're a great bunch of about 15 or 20 guys."

LeBlanc delivered the toys in combination with a visit to Ainsworth Lumber 100 Mile, whose employees are PPWC members.

The food bank will distribute the toys to local children in need during the holidays.

ARLENE JONGBLOETS  
- 100 Mile House Free Press

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## WHY DO THE FEDS

*continued from page 1*

our economic and taxation policies around the goal of export promotion? My guess: The era of ever-increasing trade and tourism will soon be coming to a close. We need a new economic plan.

*For analysis of the HST by CCPA-BC senior economist Marc Lee, see [www.policynote.ca/2009/09/24/droppin-some-hst/](http://www.policynote.ca/2009/09/24/droppin-some-hst/).*

*Seth Klein is the director of the BC Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.*

## Humour quotes

"Sometimes a scream is better than a thesis."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before."

- Mae West

"Ask her to wait a moment. I am almost done."

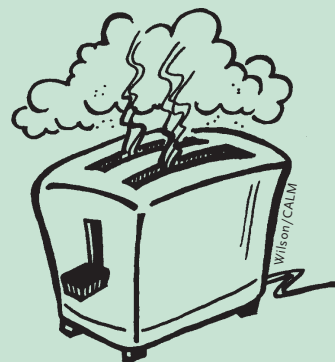
- Carl Friedrich Gauss, when informed that his wife is dying

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."

- Abraham Lincoln

"If you want a guarantee, buy a toaster."

- Clint Eastwood



"If you think that something small cannot make a difference, try going to sleep with a mosquito in the room."

- Unknown

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

- Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC

"Early to rise, Early to bed, Makes a man healthy but socially dead."

- The Warner Brothers ("Animaniacs")

"To understand a man you should walk a mile in his shoes. If what he says still bothers you, that's ok because you'll be a mile away from him and you'll have his shoes."

- Unknown

- Internet

What's new in your local? Write to your union. Keep us all in the know. Contact [louise@ppwc.ca](mailto:louise@ppwc.ca).

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## LOCAL 26 CASTLEGAR

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### Local executive slate is full

Local 26 members are the support staff at Selkirk College. We have approximately 200 members but only about 115 are full time. We're spread over a number of different campuses/towns, but our main campus is in Castlegar, with the next largest campuses in Nelson, then Trail.

Our nominations for executive came and went, and we were able to get through them without an election. This is the first as far as I can remember. The upside is: all the positions were filled.

We had our first labour/management meeting of this season, and it appears we will be dealing with practically all new faces.

LARRY PEREPOLKIN, NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 9 PRINCE GEORGE

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### Local organizes two new units

Local 9 is currently in negotiations with Ainsworth management for the renewal of the collective agreement. We have agreed to contract language that changes references from USWA to PPWC. Agreement has been reached on new language for dispute resolution. We have agreed to a facilitated process to remanufacture contract language for spare board employees and relief training positions. The facilita-

tor has been chosen and will start next week.

Esther's Inn will be next up to the plate. We will start working on crafting a first contract for the workers as soon as possible.

Canfor Pulp (CPLP) is coming to terms with what it will do with \$122 million green energy money. A boiler/process rebuild is scheduled for Northwood, and a new precipitator and feed water treatment system are in the works for PG and IPCO. It is interesting to note that not a dime of the green or regular capital project money is being spent on the paper machine.

FRANK ROBERTSON, NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 18 MACKENZIE

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### Second shift starts in February

Things have gone pretty well these past three months. The members of our Local have worked extremely hard and have surpassed the numbers that the company set for us. There have been a large number of difficulties our members have overcome and they deserve a big thank you.

We have received an early Christmas present with the announcement of a second shift in both the sawmill and the planer, bringing our numbers to approximately 140 members. The second shifts are to begin around Feb. 22/10, with the indoctrination happening in early February.

The town of Mackenzie seems to be holding its own, with new

people moving into town and buying houses.

MIKE BROADBENT, NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 2 CROFTON

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### Members return to full employment

Local 2 wishes the best of the season to all and would like to thank Greg Hall for all the work he has done for the PPWC over the years.

Chris Elias toured our mill and attended the general membership meeting on Nov. 16 and was well received.

One line of the kraft mill has restarted successfully, returning roughly 80 to 100 members back to full-time employment. Our full-time membership is now around 300.

LYNN LINDEMAN, NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 1 CASTLEGAR

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### Mill waits for its share of the GEP

The mill's fall shutdown was Nov. 16-20. The critical job was the recovery boiler inspections. The evaporators were also found to be in poor shape, stalling the start-up date.

There is no word on our Green Energy Project (GEP). The company waits for its share of the black liquor money, which is \$40 million (\$20 million up front and \$20 million after bills are submitted).

NEIL BERMELE, NEB ALTERNATE

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**LOCAL 8**

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**NANAIMO**

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## Local seeks support for moving sawmill

**L**AST FALL WE had the Honourable Minister Stockwell Day come to Harmac to announce green initiative money for the pulp industry. He toured the mill site and then gave a press conference to announce the federal plan to help the pulp industry fight against the US black liquor subsidy.

Harmac is eligible to get \$27 million for its green energy initiatives.

We had a one-week maintenance shutdown in October. We got away with a one-week shutdown because we had a couple of mini shutdowns before that. We got a lot of work done ahead of time.

We have the second line up and running now and are getting our crews realigned and filling the empty jobs.

Because of the second line we needed to hire more people, which is always good. We have hired 25 new people so far. Some of them have been laid off and come from Crofton and Campbell River to start new futures at Harmac.

Two weeks ago Arnie Bercov and Gerald de Jong went to Victoria to see Minister Pat Bell about getting government support for moving the Ladysmith sawmill to the old IPD site and, hopefully, get some of our laid-off sawmill workers back to work. Pat Bell said they are supportive of the idea and will try to help where they can. We are moving forward to try and make this happen.

We are very close to getting a new collective agreement in place at Canexus.

At Doman's Value Added, we are still in negotiations with Western Forest Products. We are not moving very quickly because of the state of the lumber industry at this time. We are still trying to get a new collective agreement.

We are having Plant Committee elections at Long Hoh at this time. Two shifts are currently running.

LES HILLIER, NEB ALTERNATE

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**LOCAL 15**

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**KIMBERLEY**

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## Tembec finalizes deal with BC Hydro for energy sales

Our mill is running smoothly with good news lately rather than bad.

Skookumchuck generated about \$16 million worth of BLC. While there has been no firm commitment to spend any of that money here, there are several projects on the drawing board for future energy projects.

Tembec has finalized a new deal with BC Hydro for energy sales at long last, which in short means it makes lots of cash selling power, especially during the winter. This in turn significantly affects the viability of the operation.

One major concern has been chip supply. Some of the local (non Tembec) suppliers have shut down indefinitely. Earlier in the year Tembec approached Local 15 to bring one of its whole log chippers on site for six

to nine months (it normally works in the bush). This is now up and running and supplying about 20 per cent of our chips.

Several people took the latest government buyout, and the company is struggling to replace the tradesmen as it is required to do so. The hiring process here is slow beyond belief. It appears the company wants to hire prospective astronauts and not pulp mill workers.

Seniority and time limits in the steam plant continue to be a thorny issue compounded by the fact that the company has hired about eight operators off the street with third-class tickets. Fitting them into the line of progression is becoming a real headache in the case of move-ups.

On Oct. 1 "the tobacco-free zone" at the Skookumchuck site went into effect. Thankfully there have been no incidents or discipline of any kind for the Local to deal with, from which I conclude that, miraculously, the 29 per cent of people who work there and smoke have all quit smoking.

ROB SHELLEY, NEB MEMBER

## Telling the truth

“During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act.”

- George Orwell

“We won’t take forces around the world and try to take other people’s oil. That’s not how democracies work.”

- Donald Rumsfeld just prior to the Iraq invasion



## Our society

“More than anything in society—global, national and local societies—television separates us from one another. It isolates us, not only from our neighbors and communities, but from our families and friends. It creates a solitary world of viewing, a passive state of receiving images and opinions and a sprinkling of information. This receiving is done essentially alone and that is socially and politically lethal.”

- John Tirman, “100 Ways America is Screwing Up the World”

“If our society were truly to appreciate the significance of children’s emotional ties throughout the first years of life, it would no longer tolerate children growing up, or parents having to struggle, in situations that cannot possibly nourish healthy growth.”

- Stanley Greenspan, MD, former director, Clinical, Infant Development Program, US National Institute of Mental Health

- Internet

## Local 5 represents members in many certifications on Lower Mainland

Local 5 has about 600 members and consists of the following certifications:

- A-Z Sponge and Foam, Delta: production of foam for mattresses and furniture.
- BC’S Children’s Hospital, Vancouver: steam plant workers
- BC Shipper Supplies, Delta: box plant
- BC Women’s Health Centre, Vancouver: steam plant workers
- CAW Local 111, New Westminister: secretarial pool
- CEP Local 2000, Vancouver: secretarial pool
- CKF Inc., Langley: styrofoam and pulp food service manufacturing
- Erco Worldwide, North Vancouver: chemical plant
- Flexstar, Richmond: plastic bags manufacturing and printing
- Honda Canada, Richmond: Honda parts distribution
- Landmark Aviation, Richmond: south side Vancouver Airport fuelling and other services
- Layfield Plastics, Richmond: plastic bags and poly manufacturing and printing
- Squamish Credit Union, Squamish: banking
- Squamish Insurance Agencies, Squamish: insurance
- Supremex Inc., Delta: envelope manufacturing
- Urban Impact, New Westminister: recycling
- Vancouver Hospital, Vancouver: steam plant workers

Landmark Aviation and Erco Worldwide have ratified new agreements. BC Shipper Supplies has now come to the table after going into bankruptcy protection. A-Z Sponge and Foam’s contract will expire Dec. 31/09.

GLENN JACKSON, NEB MEMBER



Local 5 member sorts recyclables at Urban Impact

## Federal program attempts to level playing field

**W**HEN US lawmakers unveiled the new *Highway Act* of 2005, they probably weren't trying to ignite a global trade dispute in the forest products sector. The *Act* was intended to increase the use of alternative and renewable fuels in the massive truck transportation system that moves goods throughout the United States.

The legislation was fatally flawed in its vague eligibility criteria and instead translated into a huge subsidy for the American pulp industry to the tune of nearly \$8 billion. Because the legislation specified a fossil fuel/renewable blend in order to qualify, and black liquor is defined as renewable because it comes from trees, one company alone received \$1 billion by simply adding as little as 1 per cent raw diesel fuel to its black liquor stream.

Not only did this completely pervert the goal of the subsidy and actually increase greenhouse gas emissions, it virtually killed the recycled paper business as black liquor is only produced in virgin fibre pulping. The recycle industry could not qualify for any rebates, creating a huge competitive advantage for those making kraft pulp in the United States.

The Canadian pulp industry demanded and received action to what they saw as an unfair economic advantage in the marketplace. This action came in the form of the Green Transformation Program being introduced in an attempt to level the playing field.

This past October \$1 billion was allotted, to be divided by 24 companies operating 38 mills in Canada producing kraft pulp. The awards range from \$2.6 million for Meadow Lake in Saskatchewan to \$147 million for Domtar. The companies are now scrambling to spend their windfall as all monies must be spent before March 2012. The subsidy funds must be directed to capital projects in Canada that result in "demonstrable improvements in environmental performance".

STUART BLUNDELL, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

The WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar will be held April 7-9/10 at the National Office. All participants will need laptops with wireless Internet capabilities.

The Claims Section of the Workers' Compensation Board is not medically investigating injuries as thoroughly as in the past. An example would be to accept a back injury for muscle strain without electronic imaging MRI or CAT scan that would show disk or narrowing passages. The member can end up with wrong diagnoses and treatment. Often this leads to early discharge with the member unable to work and with no WCB benefits except a possible 3 per cent pension for

**"The legislation was flawed in its vague eligibility criteria and translated into a subsidy for the pulp industry."**

pain. WCAT is the last level of appeal. When medical evidence we provide the tribunal changes the decision, WCAT can give relief of costs for the medical investigation and opinions.

I am recommending all Locals discuss this issue with the WCB representatives to explore establishing a fund for medical investigations and opinions.

I sent in a submission to the WCB Board of Governors regarding changing the Occupational Exposure Limit, or OEL, for SO<sub>2</sub>. In a nutshell, the ACGIH, an American regulation body that WCB mandated itself to use, dropped the Long-Term Exposure Limit (LTEL) and OEL from 5 ppm and 2 ppm to .25 ppm respectively. This was done after a review of 10-20 year old human effect studies. WCB put a variance on enforcing the new level as dictated in the *Regulations* until December 2010. Our submission said we don't like relying on American regulation, that we could do a better job. We do not support the variance as it puts workers in harm's way. Using the WCB *Regulations* regarding gas testing and safety protocols at 1 ppm for OEL and LTEL immediately would keep workers out of harm's way. Then, after a little digestion time and research into monitors, lower the limits to .25 ppm. Full submission will go to your safety committees.

WAYNE WARAWA, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

## A quiet tragedy

### New laws cut injured workers' compensation benefits

**F**or the love of “the bottom line” our brothers, sisters and families are suffering. It was money that made them do it! The Liberals and Corporate BC came up with the 2002 Bills 49 and 63, the Workers' Compensation Amended Act (No.1 and No.2). I will give details later, but these new laws administratively (legally) gutted WCB's loss of earnings pensions, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and vocational rehabilitation for the injured. We don't think of having a car accident when we buy insurance, but we feel we're covered signing the cheque. It is gut-wrenching to have to explain to an injured worker we will try to get compensation but do not count on it. Inevitably the explanation has to be repeated for awhile before it sinks in, and we prepare a plan “B”.

A common knee-jerk reaction to being educated on this subject is to get rid of all of it and sue the employers. The compensation system is an important benefit for injured workers: financial, vocational and medical. It is also an important part of the regulation of safety in the workplace. As such, it is worth understanding and defending. It is time for another re-write of the Act, directing WCB towards a principled and effective compensation system responsive to the needs of the injured.

Repeat something often enough and it becomes believable. The Workers' Compensation Board is trying very hard to re-label itself as WorkSafe BC, hoping in time compensation will be forgotten. The focus of the 2002 changes is towards a cost-savings organization. The reality of the cost-saving numbers leads one to believe a culture of denial must exist. This culture is not representative of the people working at WorkSafe BC but the tools (regulations) they have to work with.

In part the 2002 legislative changes resulted in these decreases to workers' benefits:

- Reduction of the benefit rates from 75 per cent of gross income to 90 per cent of net income, resulting

in a net reduction of benefits by 13 per cent (everyone).

- Loss of earnings pensions declined by over 90 per cent (most severely injured workers).
- Vocational rehabilitation expenditure (used for re-education, and physical and psychological rehabilitation) reduced 97.2 per cent of 2002 levels (seriously injured).
- Chronic pain is assessed at 2.5 per cent of a worker's wage rate. This condition is not accepted as a barrier to work. Pain can prevent you from walking but you are considered employable.

**“We don't think of having a car accident when we buy insurance, but we feel we're covered signing the cheque.”**

- Decisions and appeals have become too technical and difficult to understand (smoke and mirrors denial technique).

Two of the fiscal changes that have occurred are advantageous to WCB and the employers:

- The WCB assessments employers pay have declined dramatically (BC rate is 33 per cent lower than Ontario).
- WCB surpluses are going up dramatically; 2005 had \$474 million, 2006 had \$987 million surpluses.

My observation is: as the severity of the injury goes up, the larger the negative financial impact on the workers and their families. Keeping the majority of injured workers “sort of okay” with the system has created a quiet tragedy. What makes this tragedy quiet is the great distance between the sounds.

*The information in this article is taken from “Injury to Insult”, a report written by Stan Guenther, Janet Patterson and Sarah O'Leary with assistance from Jim Sayre and Jim Parker and the support of their firms and employers (including Health Sciences Association, Rush Crane Guenther, BC Nurses Union, Community and Legal Assistance Society.) “Insult to Injury” was commissioned by BC Federation of Labour and is available on its web site: [www.bcfed.ca](http://www.bcfed.ca).*

WAYNE WARAWA, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

# Frank Robertson takes over as first vice-president

IT SEEMS LIKE it has been longer than three weeks since I officially took over from Greg Hall, but that is the reality. Taking over from Greg is not the best descriptor of the position I now find myself in. Greg did an outstanding job during his tenure here at the



**Greg Hall (front) leads group of PPWC protesters at Parliament Buildings in Victoria**

National. His knowledge of all matters pertaining to organizing and first contracts will be missed. I just wish he had paid more attention to detail as he went about his daily duties; just kidding, Greg! I urge all interested to attend his training course at the Labour School prior to this year's convention. You will definitely walk away knowing a lot more than before!

I have been actively involved in negotiations with Local 9 at

Ainsworth OSB. The talks are progressing. At this point in time, most of the contract language issues have been resolved. The tough parts of the negotiations are set to begin the second week of February when we meet to discuss wages and term.

We are currently finalizing an agenda for bargaining a first collective agreement for our members at Esther's Inn in Prince George. I will be working with Local 9's Second Vice-President Chuck Leblanc, as well as the wage committee from Esther's. Negotiations with the employer group should start late February or early March.

Local 5 Union Counsellor John Folkers and I are pursuing a couple of organizing opportunities here in the Lower Mainland. Hopefully we will be able to report on our successes by the time we get to convention.

A recent conversation I had with a Local president from one of the larger forestry unions in BC has me convinced the big guys on the block are convinced we can't survive on our own. This opinion exists out there in spite of the CEP raid/merger failure at Local 9 last fall. All of the worn out, tired old reasons for us to join another group were used during the course of the campaign in Prince George. The PPWC will continue to provide service to those we represent with all of the expertise and dedication that are our hallmarks. As long as workers require the democratic structure, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with all the other unions across Canada.

FRANK ROBERTSON, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



**(Left to right) Local 9's Second Vice-President Chuck LeBlanc and Debbie Leckie and Cheryl Baker, negotiating committee members from Esther's Inn, prepare agenda for bargaining their first collective agreement**

## Flawed analysis props up BC public-private partnerships

**M**ANY WILL have heard Premier Gordon Campbell and his cabinet colleagues talk in glowing terms about public-private partnerships (P3s) for major projects like hospitals, highways, bridges, and sewage treatment.

Traditionally, governments borrow money for things like hospitals and bridges. They use that money to pay the private sector to design and build the projects. Once built, the facility or infrastructure is wholly owned, operated, and maintained by government on behalf of the public.

In P3 projects, however, the government typically enters into multi-decade contracts with private corporations to design, build, finance, and operate facilities, whether that be hospitals, toll highways, or sewage treatment systems. Rather than financing and operating these facilities, the government effectively leases them from the private partner, paying for the right to use them over the life of the contracts.

How does government decide when to stay public and when to do a P3? In August 2009, after more than six years in the business of assessing and promoting P3s, Partnerships BC finally released the methodology it uses to decide whether to build something publicly in the traditional way or to use a P3. Sadly for BC taxpayers, who are locked into \$10 billion worth of spending on P3 projects over the next 30 to 40 years, the methodology is fundamentally flawed.

In its methodology document, Partnership BC explains how it calculates value for the “risk transfer” to the private partner and the benefits from long-term performance guarantees it achieves with P3s. Partnerships BC doesn’t explain why risks can’t be transferred under traditional fixed-price, design-build contracts, and why long-term performance can’t be guaranteed with bonds or similar mechanisms as is commonly done in traditional (non-P3) contracts. That is problematic in itself.

However, the major and most obvious failing of

Partnerships BC’s methodology is that it only focuses on the benefits of P3s and completely ignores the cost side of the equation. When private companies finance public projects, they pay higher interest rates on what they borrow and require a high rate of return on what they invest. The higher costs of private financing for P3s are built into the lease rates taxpayers ultimately pay, and are much higher than the debt service costs government would pay if it financed the projects itself. For large, expensive public infrastructure, that can add hundreds of millions of dollars to the total expenditures government incurs over the life of the project.

Partnerships BC pretends the financing costs are the same. Its methodology looks at the potential benefits of P3s without considering the costs. It compounds

**“It only focuses on the benefits and completely ignores the cost side of the equation.”**

that problem by giving very little weight in its analysis to the future tax burdens the P3s impose.

No wonder all of Partnerships BC’s so-called “Value for Money” assessments find P3s are preferred to the more-traditionally-procured, publicly-financed approach. Its methodology, which provides estimates of benefits and which assumes incorrectly there are no costs, guarantees the result.

All of this would be rather amusing if it were just a silly error on the part of an over-exuberant Partnerships BC. But it isn’t just that. This is the methodology government is relying on to justify the many P3s it is entering into. And the fact of the matter is: Partnerships BC’s assessment methodology provides no justification for selecting P3s over more-traditionally-procured, publicly-financed projects. In fact, evidence suggests taxpayers will pay more in the long run.

In very simple terms Partnerships BC’s analysis is flawed and short-sighted, doing a disservice to future taxpayers who must pay the extra costs of the P3 for the full length of the contract.

With \$10 billion tied up in P3 projects, the questions raised by Partnerships BC’s methodology should raise the alarm about any real value for money for taxpayers.

*Marvin Shaffer is an economist for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.*

# Canada creates list of persons banned from flying

**A** NO - FLY LIST is a list of persons banned from flying on commercial airplanes. This measure was implemented in the United States after the Sept. 11/01 terrorist attacks in New York City. US security services draw up a list of people considered to be threats to air transportation. People on the list are prevented from boarding an aircraft. Approximately 44,000 people are on the US no-fly list.

The criteria used for placing someone on the list are not publicly known. When a mistake is made, it is very hard to have a name removed from the list. The names of passengers on all flights flying over US territory are compared with the names on the no-fly list, regardless of whether the flight is actually going to a destination in the United States. There are 3,000 Canadian domestic flights and 1,000 international flights which fly over the United States each week on the way to destinations outside the US!

## Did you know that...

- Evo Morales (president of Bolivia), Nabih Berri (speaker of the Lebanese parliament), and the singer Yusuf Islam (formerly known as Cat Stevens) are on the US no-fly list.
- The list contains names as common as “R. Johnson” and “T. Kennedy”, which correspond to dozens of individuals of the same name.
- In January 2006 an Air Transat flight to Mexico was intercepted by US fighter planes because it was carrying a Canadian citizen of Lebanese origin who was on the US no-fly list.

## How will the Canadian list be established?

The Specified Persons List (SPL) will be drawn up by an Advisory Group composed of a senior officer of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), a senior officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Transport Canada officials (if needed), and representatives from any relevant Canadian government department or agency. The list will include the name, gender, and birth date of the specified persons. A

person’s name will be added to the SPL if there is information suggesting the person may pose an immediate threat to aviation security. This is less stringent than the reasonable grounds now required by the Criminal Code for arresting someone.

The information used by CSIS and the RCMP can come from a foreign or multilateral intelligence or law enforcement agency, such as INTERPOL or the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), which operates the no-fly list in the United States.

## Criteria for specifying an individual are vague, disturbing, and not reasonable

The first criterion, “An individual who is or has been involved in a terrorist group, and who, it can reasonably be suspected, will endanger...” is disturbing. The definition of terrorist activity in the Criminal Code is the one introduced by the Anti-Terrorism Act. This definition is so vague it can include forms of dissent having nothing to do with what is normally understood to be related to terrorism. The criterion does not require that an individual has been found guilty of having committed a terrorist act. It is enough that intelligence services believe a person “is or has been involved in a terrorist group” and in their opinion “can reasonably be suspected, [he or she] will endanger...”

## The no-fly list is only the first step

The no-fly list is only a preliminary step towards the implementation of even more sweeping plans announced by Transport Canada. These plans call for the name of each traveller to be checked against a computerized system which contains all available information about the traveler (travel habits, consumption patterns, knowledge, etc.). Based on this information, each person will be assigned a risk assessment: green, orange or red. A traveller who is given an orange or red rating would be subjected to additional searches and questioning, following which he or she might be banned from boarding.

## What you can do

- Talk about this to people around you. We have to oppose it in large numbers.
- Contact your federal MP: send a letter, e-mail, or fax. Tell our elected representatives you are opposed to the introduction of a no-fly list.
- Stay informed about further developments.

# Alberta tar sands

## Mining “gigaproject” is likely most destructive industrial project in human history

**T**HE TAR SANDS “Gigaproject” is the largest industrial project in human history and likely also the most destructive. The tar sands mining procedure releases at least three times the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as regular oil production and is slated to become the single largest industrial contributor in North America to climate change.

The tar sands are already slated to be the cause of up to the second fastest rate of deforestation on the planet behind the Amazon Rainforest Basin. Currently, approved projects will see 3 million barrels of tar sands mock crude produced daily by 2018. For each barrel of oil up to as high as five barrels of water are used.

Human health in many communities has seriously taken a turn for the worse with many causes alleged to be from tar sands production. Tar sands production has led to many serious social issues throughout Alberta, from housing crises to the vast expansion of temporary foreign worker programs that racialize and exploit so-called non-citizens. Infrastructure from pipelines to refineries to super-tanker oil traffic on the seas crosses the continent in all directions to all three major oceans and the Gulf of Mexico.

The mock oil produced primarily is consumed in the United States and helps to subsidize continued wars of aggression against other oil-producing nations such as Iraq, Venezuela, and Iran.

**E N E R G Y** Energy and how it is captured and consumed is barely viable in tar sands production. While the amount of oil in places such as the tar sands in Alberta or the Orinoco Belt in Venezuela may have deposits of similar size to the reserves of countries such as Saudi Arabia or Iraq, the return of new energy after expending energy in production is not even close. In Iraq, the process of using one barrel of oil generates 100 new barrels. In the tar sands, estimates of 3 to 1 and even as low as 1.5 to 1 have been made.

**F O R E S T S** Forests lose more trees and habitat to pipeline “right-of-way” cuts and tar-pit building than to clear cuts. With minor variation, pipelines go the direct route. Through the strip mining of the land that contains tar sand petroleum and through pipeline construction to accommodate, only the Amazon Basin in Brazil would see larger rates of deforestation than the Boreal forest cover surrendered to the tar sands. Roads often accompany pipelines, as do various other developments.

**H E A L T H** The health implications in terms of these projects are vast, and not just the deadly explosions and industrial accidents that happen in production, from reported increases in rare forms of cancer down-

**“The tar sands are slated to be the cause of up to the second fastest rate of deforestation on the planet.”**

stream from tar sands production to the pollution of fresh water leading to poisoned diets (fish, moose and plant toxicity). Direct links are hard to establish but impossible to either rule out or ignore, especially where tar sand operations constitute overwhelmingly the greatest change to the environment in most corners of the continent affected directly by tar sand infrastructure.

**L A B O U R A N D M I G R A T I O N** It is falsely assumed that big projects equal lots of jobs and, by extension, labour peace if not outright satisfaction. The size and scope of the tar sands means incredibly dangerous work conditions. Some fatalities at the plants have already occurred. The products seldom get their “value added” in union-run locations, instead the heavy bitumen can be shipped to many different locations across North America for refining, denying benefits to the union. However, the union does not represent the “guest worker”, now being imported in increasing numbers as legislation is changed to make access easier, the term of exploitation last longer, without any new efforts or pathways to deciding to stay after helping tear up the earth.

- Adapted from Oil Sands Truth web site (<http://oilsandstruth.org>)

## BRAATEN BLASTS

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Western Canada. He calls on them to be big enough to own up and rectify the mistake.

Again, in mid '56, word spread of a possible merger between the International and the International Woodworkers of America (IWA). While the IWA was also an international union claiming membership across North America, its roots and strengths were in the Pacific Northwest. For that matter, BC was often the heart of the IWA. A merger of this nature much interested the pulp and paper locals in BC.

No information, however, was forthcoming from International headquarters, no invitation to participate or anything else to make the BC locals feel they belonged. Orville made his position well-known in the pages of his newspaper: "If merger between our International and any other union is to happen, then all our locals must be kept informed right from the start." The fact a merger fact-finding meeting was held in Chicago in July '56 only added to the displeasure, as, again, International locals were not informed.

A jurisdictional dispute arose in mid '57 that further irked BC pulp and paper workers, particularly Local 433, the converting local, and especially Orville, its business agent. The whole issue of where converting locals belonged was being discussed under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in Ottawa. Four unions were lined up to organize box and bag plants in Canada. The biggest box and bag plant local, by far, was Local 433, Vancouver. It, of course, was an International local. In spite of this, when discussions ended in Ottawa, it was very obvious that the International was about to relinquish what, in the opinion of Local 433, was a constitutional right. Orville argued that only the International convention, held every three years, had the power to change the constitution.

The International president and the many vice-presidents differed with that opinion and cut loose their CLC chartered rights.



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## Upcoming events

March 2	PPWC wage caucus meets
March 21-22	National executive board meets
March 22-23	PPWC labour school
March 23	Resolutions committee meets
March 24-26	48th annual PPWC convention
April 7-9	WCB claims and appeals seminar
May 4-5	Environmental seminar
May 6-7	Forestry seminar
May 10-11	Joint industry safety conference
May 12-14	PPWC safety conference

# Braaten blasts union executive

BY JIM WHITE

**T**HE LAST TWO ISSUES of the *Leaflet* briefly traced the beginnings of unions: how they motivated socialistic ideals, and when and why American unions broke with the world model, becoming, in the sense of the American Federation of Labour (AFL) at least, more or less an extension of the companies they were certified to.

It's time now to introduce a founding father of our union, the PPWC. His name is Orville Braaten. While Orville is not the only founding father and, as time evolved, due to circumstance, perhaps not the most important one, Orville was the first to question the direction of the International Pulp Sulphite Union. He was the first to demand alternatives, the first to talk of Canadian ideals.

Orville was a member of Local 433 in Vancouver, known as the converter local. A larger portion of Local 433 was a prede-

cessor to the present PPWC Local 5. Its make-up was similar. Orville was the full-time business agent for Local 433. He also was a member of the Western Pulp and Paper Council. The council was a regional affiliate of pulp and paper mills in BC. Canada was divided into three councils: Eastern (Quebec and the Atlantic provinces), Central (Ontario and Manitoba), and Western (BC only, as Alberta and Saskatchewan didn't have any mills).

The Western Council published a monthly newspaper called the *Western Pulp and Paper Worker*. Orville was the editor of that paper. Its first edition was January 1956.

The first stirrings of discontent appear in mid-1956. As stated before, Alberta and Saskatchewan were without mills, but that was about to change. A mill in Hinton, Alberta, and another in northern Saskatchewan were in the offing. The Western Council believed both these mills would fall under its stewardship. In the initial discussions, it appeared as though that notion would carry the day. However, at the International Union convention in Milwaukee in May '56, resolutions brought forth by the Western Council to establish that fact failed badly.

In an editorial, titled "Where is Western Canada", Orville blasts the International executive, advising them an error of great magnitude has been made. Clearly, he says, Alberta and Saskatchewan are in

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IT'S TIME NOW TO INTRODUCE A FOUNDING FATHER OF OUR UNION, THE PPWC. HIS NAME IS ORVILLE BRAATEN. WHILE ORVILLE IS NOT THE ONLY FOUNDING FATHER AND, AS TIME EVOLVED, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCE, PERHAPS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE, ORVILLE WAS THE FIRST TO QUESTION THE DIRECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PULP SULPHITE UNION. HE WAS THE FIRST TO DEMAND ALTERNATIVES, THE FIRST TO TALK OF CANADIAN IDEALS.