

leaflet

PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA

Convention in the Kootenays

Delegates meet to conduct business of the National Union and network socially

PPWC CONVENTIONS have traditionally been filled with opportunities for education sharing, spirited debate, re-invigoration, and social networking. Tradition was upheld and honoured by the officers, delegates and guests in attendance at this year's convention. The memberships of Local 1 and Local 26 are to be commended for their accomplishments in orchestrating a very successful convention. The local organizing committee deserves to be singled out for its sterling job performance, ensuring that events went off without a hitch.

The 48th annual convention of the PPWC was officially called to order by National President Chris Elias at 10 a.m. the morning of March 24. After the Credentials Committee's report and roll call of those in attendance, we adopted the convention rules of order and the convention agenda.

Before moving on to officers' reports, delegates were treated to a presentation by Brenda Robinson, a con-

sultant and trainer for the Robcan Group out of Alberta. She congratulated us on being around for 48 years and urged us, for the sake of continued success, to be "agents" and not "victims" of change.

PRESIDENT Officers' reports were kicked off by National President Chris Elias (Local 26). She reported on the fluctuations in numbers we had experienced over the previous year. While we had taken hits at the college in Prince George and at a refueling company at the airport, we also had some gains at Local 5 with the addition of members at Landmark Aviation and at Local 9 with the addition of members at Pacific BioEnergy, Ainsworth OSB, and Esther's Inn.

Chris attended the CCU convention, labour school and NEB in Vancouver. She urged us to reconnect with and consider rejoining the CCU in order to have a balanced voice from east to west.

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“Degradation of the health-care system and elimination of good-paying jobs will continue, unless we do something about it.”

MEMBERS WHO WORK PAST AGE OF 65 NEED TO KNOW LIMITATIONS OF BENEFIT PLANS

At Chemtrade, we have had the new experience of having two of our members work past the “normal” retirement age of 65. While age is a common thread, their circumstances are quite different.

One member was a 30-year veteran and, when he reached 65, opted to defer his pension until his retirement commenced. The other member had only worked at the plant for 2 years and, at 65, opted to take his pension and continue to work.

There was some confusion generated when this member found out that, after receiving some dental care, he was denied coverage under our dental plan because he was receiving his pension and therefore considered retired, even though he was a regular full-time employee. (Our retiree benefit plan doesn’t include dental benefits.)

The confusion was resolved in his favour, and it has been determined that he is eligible for all contractual benefits, save any programs specifically limited by age (WI, LTD).

It is extremely important to communicate to all your members planning to work past 65 exactly what their rights and limitations are under your own contract.

Al Sahlen
Local 9
PRINCE GEORGE

SPEAK UP NOW ABOUT DEGRADATION OF THE HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM

I recently attended a rally to protest the replacement of all union personnel with cheaper non-union people at The Lodge on 4th, in Ladysmith. The Lodge is a seniors’ care facility. Vancouver Island Health Authority, in league with the government of BC, is continuing its systematic destruction of unionized health care in this province.

This is not the first care facility that this has happened to, and it will not be the last. Wages are cut, benefits are cut, workers are either forced to work for less or seek work elsewhere. News reports abound on unclean and uncared for seniors in other care facilities where this has already happened.

Have no doubts, this is coming to a facility near you. Your aged loved ones



Supporters rally to protest replacement of union workers at The Lodge on 4th in Ladysmith

could be the next to be sacrificed on the government’s chopping block. Funds are provided for sports complexes, stadium roofs, etc., while our seniors are suffering due to lack of funding.

“All that is needed for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.”

I do not know who said it first, or what situation he was talking about, but it is very true.

About seventy people attended the rally on the last day of unionized operation. Most were displaced workers and their families.

That’s right, only about seventy. Pretty dismal for Ladysmith, a town that prides itself on being a “union” town. At one time Ladysmith was a “union” town. A town that remembered the death of union martyrs. A town that believed that a disser-

vice to one is a disservice to all. What happened? Have we decided that the minds and direction of government cannot be changed? If a strong town like this has lost the will to fight the profit mongers, is it too late for the rest of us?

Degradation of the health-care system and the elimination of good-paying jobs will continue, unless we do something about it. Do not leave it up to “someone else”. You or your loved ones may need health care at some point in life. Do something to make sure it is there when it is needed.

Write letters to the sitting government. Write to the opposition as well. Push for your rights to professional, accessible, affordable health care. Do it before it is too late.

Lance Reese
Local 2
CROFTON

President reports on year's activities

BY CHRIS ELIAS PRESIDENT

WE HAVE COME through this past year with a renewed sense of whom and what we stand for. We can look to the future with the confidence that we are moving forward with the positive message of solidarity.

I would like to share some of the things we have been doing this year from the National Office.

Recently, one of Local 5's certifications, BC Shippers, was given 60 days notice that they will be closing their door, which will leave 30 members out of work. This is the same company that owns the Local 16 facility which is currently under CCAA protection in Canada and Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Protection in the US. Local 16 has had major layoffs at their plant, and after agreeing with some concessions they are now back with almost a full component of staff. Hopefully they will be able to continue working well after they get out of CCAA this summer.

On a brighter note, Local 9, Prince George, has organized three new certifications in the past year: Pacific BioEnergy and Esther's Inn in Prince George and Ainsworth OSB Mill in 100 Mile House. I was pleased to be able to help with the certification process.

Local 5 has added another certification, Landmark Aviation, to its composite. There are 30 members, and it is located at the Vancouver Airport (YVR). They have completed their negotiations. Congratulations to John Folkers, Greg Hall, and the Plant Committee team on their advancements.

Local 8 continues to work with their partners and are now turning a profit. It is a credit to the members of Local 8 that there is even a viable mill on that site. If they continue along this path there could even be more good news from Harmac.

I have visited with most Locals since taking office. I have been to Locals 1, 2, 5, 9, 15, 16, 18 and 26. I hope to visit all our locations in the coming months.

In October the CEP attempted to raid Local 9. I spent several days in Prince George as did Gerald de

Jong and Greg Hall. Local 9 did a great job of deflecting the attack. It was abundantly clear that the CEP was not welcome, and it was more than obvious they were wasting their time.

This spring I attended the conferences put on by our par-time officers. I again was reminded of the caliber of officers we have in this union. These officers, Arnold Bercov, Forest Resource Officer, Stuart Blundell, Environmental Officer, and Wayne Warwara, Health and Safety Officer, are well known and respected in their fields of expertise and we should be proud of the commitment and level of knowledge they bring to this organization.

Since elected I have attended the Pension Trust meetings as an Alternate Trustee. The pulp members should be pleased with the ongoing dedication and commitment of their Trustees to keep the fund fully-funded to look after past and future members.

I have attended the last two wage caucus meetings. Elections were held and new Pension and Health and Welfare Trustees were elected. The Pension Trustees are: Chuck LeBlanc, Wayne London, and Bob Smiley. The Health and Welfare Trustees are: Lynn

Lindeman and Bob Smiley.

I would like to thank the executive and membership for their continued support over the past year. We have endured big changes and challenges. We will, I believe, come out stronger as we continue to work together in solidarity.

Working together, our union will remain strong. We will continue to do what we have always done: protect the rights and privileges the PPWC stands for, local autonomy, and controlling our own destiny. We are and we will continue to be the true alternative to workers who want local representation.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE HAVE ALWAYS DONE: PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THE PPWC STANDS FOR, LOCAL AUTONOMY, AND CONTROLLING OUR OWN DESTINY.



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Lessons are learned from the BP disaster

Moratorium in the Arctic is needed

PASSAGE OF the Climate Change Accountability Act (Bill C-311) is a step in the right direction, but much more is needed, warns the Council of Canadians.

“The passage of C-311 has been a long time coming, and it is certainly good to see Parliament support it,” says Andrea Harden-Donahue, climate justice campaigner with the Council of Canadians. “While the Council of Canadians is celebrating the passage of C-311 and we want to see it pass the Senate, we believe this is just a starting point.”

“We are faced not only with the challenge of ensuring our government puts in place plans that will effectively achieve these emissions reduction targets,” says Harden-Donahue in reference to the Harper government’s track record of ignoring the will of Parliament. “The Council of Canadians is marking 50 days since the disastrous BP oil spill by urging Canadians to support a moratorium on oil and gas development in the Arctic.

“While oil continues to spew into the Gulf of Mexico, the Cana-

dian government is hosting an active bidding process for offshore exploration licenses in the Beaufort Sea and Mackenzie Delta. There is a perfect storm brewing for a similar disaster in the Arctic.”

With the discovery of 90 billion barrels of oil and 1,670 trillion cubic feet of natural gas under melting ice, the Arctic is increasingly being viewed as a final frontier for fossil fuel development. More than 80 per cent of the oil and gas is found offshore.

In the wake of the failure of American regulations to prevent the BP disaster, Canadian regulations have come under increased scrutiny. “Not only was there a shift to increased self or industry regulation last December,” adds Harden-Donahue, “hidden in Bill C-9, the Budget Implementation Act, which passed the House recently, is a provision that gives the environment minister capacity to decide whether or not an environmental assessment for oil and gas developments is even necessary.”

Responding both to the devastation off the Gulf of Mexico and

the Canadian disaster in the making, the Council of Canadians has released an action alert urging Canadians to send a clear message to our government. The alert calls for a moratorium, an end to the current exploratory license bidding process, and a reversal of provisions under Bill C-9 that will weaken environmental safeguards.

In the lead-up to the recent Arctic Summit in Chelsea, PQ, the Council of Canadians, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and REDOIL Network issued an open letter urging Arctic Ocean foreign ministers to use the meeting for pursuing a moratorium on all new exploration for fossil fuel resources in the Arctic region.

“It is no small irony that increased access to exploit reserves in the fragile Arctic Ocean ecosystem is largely the result of melting sea ice,” says Harden-Donahue. “Pursuing a moratorium is a logical first step in the transition off of fossil fuels to sustainable jobs, energy, and an improved environment for everyone.”

The Council of Canadians urges Canadians to write the prime minister and opposition leaders, as well as the ministers and critics for foreign affairs, natural resources, Indian affairs and northern development, and fisheries and oceans at: www.canadians.org/arctic.

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Pension Trust as well as wage caucus meetings were also a part of presidential duties over the course of the preceding year.

FIRST VICE - PRESIDENT Frank Robertson (Local 9) thanked Chris, Louise and Amy for their patience as he learned and tried to get up to speed with office practices and procedures.

Since taking office on Jan. 1/10, he had the pleasure of travelling with Local 5 Union Counsellor John Folkers to certifications in the lower mainland. He was amazed at the diversity of manufacturers that make up Local 5 as well as the dedication members have to the PPWC on the shop floor.

Shop steward training was done in 100 Mile House for the workers at the Ainsworth OSB plant.

The balance of Frank's time was taken up with negotiations at Esther's Inn as well as at Ainsworth OSB.

SECOND VICE - PRESIDENT Gerald de Jong (Local 8) was next to report on his activities. Gerald was called upon to help thwart the raid efforts by CUPE against Local 29. He feels the effort in Prince George was successful due to the fact that it looked like the majority of members did not want to step up to the plate to do the work at the local level but wanted to be looked after by business agents.

CASTLEGAR WAS NAMED FOR AN IRISH TOWN THAT LAND DEVELOPER EDWARD MAHON EMIGRATED FROM IN 1890. IN 1891 HE PURCHASED 320 ACRES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND HAD IT LAID OUT AS A TOWNSITE.

He was also called upon by John Folkers to help with the workers at the refueling station at the airport.

December was a busy month for our Gerald as he travelled to the north to talk with the members of Local 9 at the pulp mills and with sawmillers at Local 18.

SECRETARY - TREASURER Both the Secretary-Treasurer's and the Audit Committee's reports contained good news for us.

Bonnie Horswill (Local 26) reported that our financial picture is much brighter than it was last year.

She also reported that the World Vision child we sponsor in Malawi, Dyles Munthali, is doing very well.

AUDIT COMMITTEE The Audit Committee members (Mike Broadbent, Local 18; Gord Mellis, Local 16; and Bob Smiley, Local 8) tabled a balanced budget for the year.



(L to r) John Folkers and Hal Legere from Local 5 and Chuck LeBlanc, Ken Fowler and Brett Macpherson from Local 9 listen to guest speaker

They reported that the Angus Macphee Memorial Bursary was won by the daughter of a Local 16 member, Stephanie De Anna.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER Stuart Blundell (Local 9) started off with the results of a report from the Washington Department of Ecology on pollution prevention advances in pulp and paper processing. It showed that, in data received from the North American industry, TRS emissions, effluent flows, and Total Suspended Solids levels have all dropped significantly over the course of the last 25 years. Public pressure and the work done by groups like the PPWC and environmentalists have pushed industry into changing the way it does business.

Stuart provided more information on the Green Transformation Program and the financial impact it will have on 38 pulp mills across Canada.

At the time of writing his report, plans were being made for the annual environmental/forestry seminar.

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FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER Arnold Bercov (Local 8) was unable to attend this year's convention.

He did file a report on his activities with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). He was recently re-elected to the FSC board of directors and is currently co-chair of the FSC Canada board.



PPWC President Chris Elias (right) thanks Mary Ann Morris for her presentation on Selkirk College's international nursing practice experience in Guatemala

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER Wayne Warawa (Local 2) reported on his two-day training course in Prince George for Local 9.

He laid out the course outline for the upcoming PPWC WCB claims and appeals seminar to be held just after convention in April.

The Joint Industry and PPWC safety conference planning sessions with Mike Conci from Local 1 were well underway at the time of report writing. This year's conferences are planned for the week starting the May 10. Both Mike and Wayne planned on using laptop computers to present the PPWC portion of the week. This represents a first for us and a decided move into the 21st century.

GUEST SPEAKERS Mary Ann Morris, an instructor at Selkirk College, spoke to delegates about a nursing program initiative that sees upwards of 58 nursing students going to Guatemala each year for three weeks. Students are exposed to working and living conditions in the countryside. They go to Guatemala to learn from local health groups as well as to educate the populace when they can.

At the end of the presentation, a motion was made that the PPWC make a donation to this extremely important project.

After the first round of nominations for officers, the convention was adjourned for the day.

John Hanrahan, Vice President of the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU), opened up day two with a spirited discussion on the activities of the CCU. He described that the CCU acts on behalf of independent unions across Canada, advocating for workers' rights and social justice. All CCU officers are volunteers donating time so most money received can be turned back into donations to workers' lobbying groups.

Bob Brommeland (Local 1) chronicled the first year and a half of the pulp mill in Castlegar's history. It was fascinating to hear that during this time it was certified four different times by four different unions. The last union of record was the most important, as the CPPW (Canadian Pulp and Paper Workers) became the PPWC.

Patsy Frie (Local 1) shared stories from her days growing up in a union household during its formative years. Her dad, Jim Sloan, was in integral part of the group responsible for the growth of the PPWC. He also



Bob Brommeland and Patsy Frie from Local 1 regale delegates with stories about the mill's early history and growing up in a union household

served as National President and Secretary-Treasurer. Patsy told of family vacations all over the province that included a healthy dose of union organizing.

After the lunch break, Katrine Conroy and Bill Routley, from the BC New Democratic Party, were the

next set of guest speakers. They talked at length of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) and what the ramifications will be if it is put in place. Corporations will receive the biggest benefit from the tax, almost \$1.9 billion in the first year alone. They stressed that it will be hard to repeal once entrenched, so our efforts should be directed to stopping it dead in its tracks.

Since the Liberals took office in 2001, the NDP have recorded the loss of 71 forestry related plants in BC. Since 2000, over 21,000 jobs in logging/processing have been lost and over 18,500 jobs have been lost in manufacturing and paper mills. When elected after the next elections the NDP will have developed proper policies to address the concerns we as workers have in the industry.

RESOLUTIONS Day two came to a close after our Resolutions Committee addressed the convention floor, asking us to consider and vote on five resolutions.

A per capita increase was approved, and changes were made to the National officers' duties and the PPWC structure. A resolution that would have added another part-time officer to the organization was defeated.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS Day three started with the last call for nominations of officers, carried over from the first day of convention. All positions were filled by acclamation.

- First Vice-President: Frank Robertson (Local 9)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Bonnie Horswill (Local 26)
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer: Wayne Warawa (Local 2)
- Environmental Officer: Stuart Blundell (Local 9)
- Forest Resource Officer: Arnold Bercov (Local 8)

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS were done with a full slate of people in place for the upcoming year.

- Tabulating Committee: Chris Fabbro (Local 16), Ken Fowler (Local 9), and Rob Quiring (Local 16)
- Tabulating Committee Alternate: Ken Morrish (Local 15)
- Audit Committee: Mike Broadbent (Local 18), Al Sahlen (Local 9), and Bob Smiley (Local 8)
- Audit Committee Alternate: Gord Mellis (Local 16)

Leaflet editor was left open as it is expected National officers can and will step up and help Louise put out the product we have come to expect and enjoy.

CONVENTION SITE Convention delegates approved the sites for both the 2011 and 2012 conventions. The 2011 will be hosted by the fine membership from Nanaimo, Local 8. The 2012 convention is our 50th convention, so it was felt that it would be best to hold it in Vancouver.

GOOD AND WELFARE comments this year were by and large very positive in nature.

A tremendous thank you went out to the Local 26 members at Selkirk College who provided us with an excellent banquet from their cafeteria facilities.

A newly-certified member from Local 5, Hal Legere, expressed his pleasure with and the depth of learning he received from this, his first PPWC convention.



Rod Fayant (Local 26) supports picket line of striking workers at Nelson and District Credit Union

Chuck LeBlanc from Local 9 challenged all in attendance to go out and find the organizing opportunities that will keep us growing.

A round of applause was given to two Local 16 members, Gordie Mellis and Chris Fabbro, who travelled to Castlegar on their own dime to take part in the convention itself and the social networking that makes up a part of convention.

Convention adjourned on a very positive note this year. In spite of the internal and exterior forces that try hard to undo what the PPWC accomplishes and stands for, we are still here as a very viable alternative for workers across the country.

FRANK ROBERTSON, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

What's new in your local? Write to your union. Keep us all in the know. Contact louise@ppwc.ca.

LOCAL 26 CASTLEGAR

Local gets 10 new members in IT

In the maintenance department, we are adjusting to the cuts that were imposed on us in March, which resulted in an approximate 30 per cent cut in manpower. Hopefully some of the budget will return next year, but for now it's put a band-aid on it and move on.

On the Local's business, I reported in December that we might be losing 9 members of the IT department to the faculty union. However, in a strange turn of events, it appears that about 10 members in that union will be joining our Local. We are currently trying to sort out the particulars, as this was a ruling from the Labour Relations Board and they don't care how you do it, just do it.

LARRY PEREPOLKIN, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 18 MACKENZIE

Sawmill has a bright future

Things in Mackenzie continue to improve. More people are moving back into town with the start-up of the old Pope and Talbot pulp mill and the purchase of the old Abitibi-Bowater mill by Conifex.

At our mill, things continue to be a struggle, but our members persist. For the first time in many years, in April we made a profit. With that comes the real possibility of our

members receiving a Stakeholders Incentive Plan payment, which will help raise the spirits of our members. There is a bit of a black cloud, though. With the start-up of the pulp mill, many of our trades people have gone to the higher-paying jobs across the fence. It also looks like some of our production people will also try to get jobs there as well.

If you know any trades people, mostly millwrights, who would like to join a mill with a bright future, please send them our way.

MIKE BROADBENT, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 8 NANAIMO

At Harmac things become very busy

Harmac is currently operating on 2 lines with 240 members. Lots of temporary trades and contractors are entering the mill with the ramp up of the Green Transformation Program (GTP). Our annual shut is slated for mid-October with substantial work being done to make up for the last few years of lower spending under Pope and Talbot. With the tie-ins for the new projects and the annual shut, things are becoming very busy at Harmac.

Ladysmith Forest Products (LFP): Discussions have started with Western on a new collective agreement at LFP, which has been down for two years. Getting a committee together and meeting with the members has consumed a tremendous amount of time for our

president and first vice. We are optimistic that as markets change we will see a successful restart at LFP.

Value Added Division (VAD) is one of the few value-added mills to operate throughout the past two years as most of the other mills have taken huge amounts of down time. Local 8 is currently in negotiations and close to a new agreement.

Long Hoh continues to operate on one shift with approximately 50 members working.

BOB SMILEY, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 16 NEW WESTMINSTER

New West plant is open for business

The box still folds in the New West box plant despite the cracks in the walls and floors. The questionable structure damage to the building has been due to the pre-loading at the property next door. There have been several engineers in the plant keeping an eye on the plant's condition.

There is a mixed morale in the plant after the plant-wide meeting and vote to accept a wage freeze, 5 per cent wage rollback, and elimination of the pre-shift overtime meetings. Smurfit started with the pre-shift overtime reduction May 1, and the 5 per cent rollback took effect June 1.

On a positive note, Smurfit should be coming out of CCAA/Chapter 11 soon, and Smurfit New West is still open for business

LEN GAUNT, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 15

KIMBERLEY

Management is hung up on language

THE PUSH JOB at Tembec's Skookumchuck mill in April was the steel and crane upgrades over the No. 2 turbine generator. The 20-ton hood was beyond the capacity of the existing bridge crane. In early May the lift was completed and the inspections took place. The damage was much less than thought, and the rotor was sent to Calgary instead of Germany, which would have been the worst-case scenario.

Siemens Canada is the contractor overseeing the rebuild. The sub-contractor is L.O.K. Services, a non-union company which has also worked on our TG 1 in the past.

The union has requested "Code of Ethics" payment for L.O.K. as the company paid it on TG 1 work done in

2007. After a grievance was filed and a few meetings with the company, they decided to pay the COE.

We also requested that parallel hours would also apply. The company has denied this grievance at the first and second stages, and this will now go on to third stage. Management is hung up on the word "normally" in the language.

The hog boiler has been down while the TG 2 repairs are on-going. Contractors are inspecting all internal walls and tubes. Temporary gate hires to do repairs in the hog conveyor areas have boosted our workforce.

We have grieved Tembec not paying COE for Economy Vacuum. This non-union company was hired to clean up the powerhouse ash and dust problem. The union feels mill cleanup is part of maintaining the mill and is the duty of Local 15 members. The company is disagreeing with us on the language; they feel the word "maintenance" does not cover cleanup.

Negotiations are underway at Pine Profiles in Creston. Agendas were exchanged last week, and committee members met on Tuesday to start things off. Job evaluation and wages seem to be the main concerns.

DAVE GUSTAFSON, NEB MEMBER

"Today, although there are still sweatshops and other inhumane working conditions for many workers around the world, the labour movement has won numerous victories that many of us take for granted, such as the five-day work week, eight-hour work day, paid holidays, and the end of child labour." - Robert Alan

LOCAL 9

PRINCE GEORGE

Local negotiates contracts for two new units

Things haven't changed too much since March. CPLP management is still looking at our contract to see what else they believe they can take from our members. The manager at Chemtrade is still poking his fingers into everything and causing problems as he does. Pacific BioEnergy is still rolling along without any huge problems. Negotiations at Esther's Inn are still progressing very slowly. Our members at Ainsworth OSB are still unhappy with the contract they were offered and will be taking a strike vote.

Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership (CPLP): Boiler repairs and acid washes were completed on the recovery boiler and No. 2 power boiler. No. 1 power boiler is

down now for tube repairs and an acid wash. This should look after the problems caused by our water treatment system, or lack of one.

Pacific BioEnergy is in expansion mode. They're doubling the number of pellet mills from 5 to 10 and are installing new dryers. Our members there are entering into the second year of their two-year contract.

Chemtrade: We're still working to resolve the issue of whether or not WI and LTD are leaves of absence. Chemtrade has renewed its contract with CPLP. This will allow them to upgrade their salt-handling system so they can use lower-grade, cheaper salt in their process.

Ainsworth OSB: Our members will be holding a strike vote on June 16-17.

Esther's Inn: We're tentatively back to the table on June 23 to try and get these members a first contract. Money is the issue slowing things down.

KEN FOWLER, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 1
CASTLEGAR

Zellstoff takes on two apprentices

Celgar had its annual maintenance shutdown from April 19 until April 28. With a budget of approximately \$10 million, the spring shutdown was shortened from 2 weeks to 10 days due to the high price of pulp.

Celgar's Green Energy Project is moving along, with all major parts installed and work to the power boiler progressing nicely. The main electrical contractor (Mar-teck) that was working on the GEP had its contract cancelled and was sent off site for three major safety violations, two of which shut the mill down.

Celgar has offered a \$30,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for committing acts of sabotage at the Celgar mill in Castlegar. Stainless steel has been found in the low pressure feeders and the digester. Stainless steel has also plugged off some of the suction lines to pumps.

Zellstoff has taken on two apprentices: one millwright and one stores.

NEIL BERMELE, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 5
NEW WESTMINSTER

Layfield merges two operations

Local 5 is losing members at BC Shipper Supplies (29 members) and Honda Canada (32 members). These two units have now shut down.

On the brighter side, Layfield Plastics has decided to merge its two operations into one. Vision Plastics is a CEP certification that has approximately 22 members. Layfield Poly is a Local 5 certification with approximately 36 members. We have tried to work things out with the CEP, but they insist on a dual certification, so it looks like we will be going to the Labour Relations Board to have the Board make a decision for the parties.

As always, negotiations are still going on in Local 5. We are continuing with A-Z Sponge and Foam. These negotiations are moving along at a very slow pace.

CKF's plant committee has an agenda to present to the membership next week and will probably exchange agendas with the company on June 23.

GLENN JACKSON, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 2
CROFTON

Company claims to be losing money

The second line of Kraft was restarted around May 1 after all laid-off members were recalled in April.

With members not returning, retiring, or quitting, our membership has fallen from over 500 before the curtailment to 340 now, yet the company still insists labour costs are too high. The company still wishes to talk about a different contract for future employees in exchange for investment in the Kraft mill. We will see where this goes, if anywhere.

We did win a pension from the Pulp and Paper Pension Plan for

"History is a great teacher. Now everyone knows that the labour movement did not diminish the strength of the nation but enlarged it. By raising the living standards of millions, labour miraculously created a market for industry and lifted the whole nation to undreamed of levels of production. Those who attack labour forget these simple truths, but history remembers them."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

two of our members who were on WCB. The company had not been paying contributions, saying they were on WCB pension and not wage loss. The pension trustees found that if the member was (a) still disabled, (b) receiving the \$25 from the LTD plan, and (c) had enough seniority to be working, contributions had to be paid by the employer on behalf of the member. This may need to be looked into at all of the pulp Locals and anyone else who is a member of the plan.

Catalyst still claims to be losing money at a frightening rate, but somehow manages to borrow \$100 million. They have stated that the second line of Kraft will be going down in December unless cost savings can be found. We wait to see what changes, if any, the new CEO will bring, once they find one.

LYNN LINDEMAN, NEB MEMBER

Bio-mass energy production competes for fibre

THE PPWC HOSTED our annual Environmental/Forestry Seminar on May 4-7. I would like to thank all of the Locals that sent representatives.

On the forestry side, we had five speakers, including Jim Snetzinger, the chief forester, who opened the seminar for us. The other speakers were: Stephanie Goodwin from Greenpeace; Evan Stewart from the Tsleil-Waututh First Nations; Richard Hebda from the University of Victoria, Climatology Department; and a speaker from the Pacific Forestry Centre.

Stephanie gave us an update on progress in the Great Bear Rainforest around environmental-based management and the success of FSC pilot certifications. As it stands now, about 14 per cent of the area is FSC certified, and progress is being made to move forward on larger certifications. Canfor has also expressed a willingness to move their tenures to FSC certification.

Evan Stewart gave an interesting and insightful presentation on First Nations forestry perspectives. His talk centred around native land claims, tenure allocation, and a history of First Nations involvement in the treaty process.

Richard Hebda gave a presentation on global warming, or climate change, and his perspective on the changes this would bring about to the forests, the eco-systems, and how we should look at reforestation going forward. While the presentation was both enlightening and

somewhat frightening, I think it opened a lot of dialogue as to what the future could hold for forest-dependent communities.

We also had a presentation from the Pacific Forestry Centre on bio-mass energy production, both pro and con. For our industry, it is becoming increasingly clear that competition for wood waste could have a negative effect on already scarce fibre supplies. If we support these bio-energy plants, they should be built in conjunction with existing pulp mills.

On a positive note, the pulp markets look strong, and they are even talking about re-opening the Ladysmith Sawmill in Nanaimo. The challenge has always been and will continue to be stopping log exports.

ARNOLD BERCOV, FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER

Clean water shortage will become more of a problem than climate change

The Environmental and Forestry Seminars were held during the first week of May. Arnold Bercov and I both felt they were a great success. Using the National Office Boardroom worked out well and, except for being a bit of a distraction to regular office business, it did not detract from the event at all.

There was a tremendous amount of information provided to everyone and lots of opportunity for questions and discussion with the presenters. Chris Elias, Frank Robertson and Gerald de Jong were able to attend most of the presentations and added a lot to the discussions that followed each speaker. Once again, the people who came on their own time to speak to our group were impressed with our knowledge and dedication to forestry and environmental issues. This says a lot for our organization and the people who are involved.

Tony Wakelin from the BC Ministry of Environment spoke on regulatory change and ministry direction under the Liberal government.

Jay Ritchlin of the David Suzuki Foundation talked about coastal fish farming as well as other common interests regarding the aquatic environment.

Mike Bradley is with Canfor Forest Products and gave us a presentation on water issues that will have an impact on all industries in the future. He stated that clean water shortage would become more of a problem than climate change in the near future.

STUART BLUNDELL, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER



Stuart Blundell

Union troubles

- The Custodians of America were in a hiring frenzy because their work was really picking up. So they went on strike demanding sweeping reforms.
- The Bakers Union could not rise to the occasion when the members wanted more dough.
- The Lumberjack Union couldn't hack it and failed because so many of their members were given the axe.
- The Delicatessen Workers Union had to sandwich their meetings between shifts and couldn't cut the mustard when their members had a beef. They realized the wurst is yet to come.
- The Coal Miners Union laboured in vein.
- The Cartoonists Union knew where to draw the line.

Our crazy language

- Why is abbreviation such a long word?
- Why is dyslexic so hard to spell?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell mnemonic?
- Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?
- Why is it that the word "gullible" isn't in the dictionary?
- Why is it that we recite at a play and play at a recital?
- Why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham?
- Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?
- Why is the plural of goose geese, and the plural of moose not meese?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Health and safety reps share knowledge and experience at conferences

Twenty participants, including 11 novice WCB reps, attended the WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar on April 7-9. The required computer and written submission-critique will continue as our format. Janet Patterson wrote a summary using the evaluations gathered from the National. She points out areas to improve, giving us a template to plan next year's seminar. Janet, Sarah O'Leary, and I were again impressed with the work ethic our advocates bring to the seminar.

Our lead time to set this up was tight this year. We can improve that by approving the course and funds at the September NEB. Requesting advocate information and numbers for January will help us tailor the seminar.



Participants at WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar take a break from the course work

The Joint Industry Safety Conference was held on May 10-11. The conference topic was "Rebuilding a Safety Culture". The speakers and workshops were geared towards communication, a fundamental building block for any culture.

The planning committee will have a post mortem on June 29. If there are any issues regarding this conference, please inform me so that Mike Conci and I can take them to the post mortem.

The PPWC Safety Conference on May 12-14 was great and a pleasure to put together with Mike Conci of Local 1. During the reports, the reps had an exchange of ideas that no instructor could put together. The old hands were generous, sharing their experience and reinforcing the direction the PPWC wants to go in the safety arena. Mike had a very diverse exercise for WCB Regulations on the computers. Our efforts are to ground our reps in WCB regulations and PPWC policies regarding the safety arena.

One of the messages more experienced members passed on was: no matter what level of cooperation you are now receiving from management, it will change.

WAYNE WARAWA, OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

CCU holds labour school and NEB in Vancouver

ON MAY 15 AND 16, the National Executive Board meeting of the Confederation of Canadian Unions took place in Vancouver, BC. The CCU is an organization for independent unions like the PPWC. It gives independent unions a national voice, greater philanthropic opportunities, and a networking think tank. More information about the CCU can be obtained through the website, www.ccu-csc.ca.

The first day included a labour school session that was led by political science graduate Shaun Cain. Shaun reinforced the importance of unions in the Canadian landscape. Emphasis was on how unions are perceived by many Canadian people as the vanguard of the social and civil liberties. He also stressed the importance of unions to promote and market ourselves, be it our social and civil causes, our charitable causes, or our fight for workers' rights. Corporations jump at the chance to market themselves with a popular cause. Unions, whose core values better reflect those greater causes, are lagging behind on this important mandate. However, our greatest advantage and opportunity is our grassroots' connection in the communities we live, connections we have to continually cultivate and grow through self-promotion. Corporations aren't afraid to, so why should we be.

Day two gave way to reports from CCU President Joanie Cameron Pritchett; CCU Vice President John Hanrahan; PPWC National; and the affiliates. A com-

mon theme that ran through the reports was the commonality we all share as independent unions, a commonality shared across Canada. This commonality is both supportive in nature but shows how large the task is at hand.

ROD FAYANT, VICE PRESIDENT AND
CCU DELEGATE, LOCAL 26



CCU delegates walk along the seawall in Vancouver

Plan custodian sends out audit letters

The Trustees of the Pulp and Paper Industry Pension Plan have authorized RBC Dexia, the Plan Custodian, to mail out audit letters to everyone who receives a monthly benefit from the Plan. The purpose of the audit letters is to:

- confirm that pensions are being paid as they should;
- confirm that the contact information on file is correct; and
- avoid pension overpayments.

Audits are performed every two years. Currently the Plan is conducting the 2009 Pensioner Audit. A letter went out in October 2009, and a second letter was scheduled to be mailed in February 2010. The letter was mailed to all retired members, surviving spouses, and beneficiaries receiving a monthly benefit. We ask each pensioner, surviving spouse, or beneficiary to please complete and mail back one of the two letters to RBC Dexia in a self-addressed envelope.

Important notice: A witness signature is now required for the audit letter. Your witness must be someone you know who is not related to you.

If RBC Dexia has not received a response to any of their confirmation letters before the July 14, 2010, deadline, the person's pension payments will be temporarily suspended effective August 1, 2010, until RBC Dexia receives a witnessed confirmation letter.

If at any time you would like to see a sample copy of the confirmation letter, you can view it on line at www.pulpandpaperpension.ca.

CPP board invests \$500 million in Goldcorp Inc.

EVERY WORKING Canadian pays into the Canadian Pension Plan. Prior to 1997, the CPP was held in government bonds. Since 1997, it has been managed by the CPP investment board and has been invested in stock markets rather than being held in bonds. The CPP investment board is managed independently of the CPP and at arms length from government.

CPP is a universal investor in more than 2,600 companies world wide. It is heavily invested in mining companies, oil and gas companies, pharmaceutical companies, and arms manufacturers.

To see the complete list of investments online visit the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board at <http://ywww.cppib.ca/>.

Argued by critics as the next wave of land theft and imperialism, foreign-controlled mining activity in Guatemala has increased from practically nothing ten years ago to massive concessions and nearly unlimited exploitative rights to the corporations. Companies pay only 1 per cent royalties to Guatemala for the materials extracted from the country.

In the case of the Marlin gold mine, situated in the remote highland department of San Marcos, local inhabitants risk their lives by opposing the occupation and destruction of their land and communities. Five Mayan (Mam) communities comprising 10,000 inhabitants are affected by the mine.

The Marlin mine is a project of Canadian mining giant Goldcorp, which is now the world's third largest mining company (after merging with US-owned Glamis Gold in 2006). Glamis began constructing the mine in 2004 with a \$45 million loan from the World Bank. Commercial production began late in 2005. The mine is projected to be productive until 2015.

IMPACTS ON HEALTH Communities in the area have begun to suffer adverse consequences due to the open-pit mining. According to local organizations such as ADISMI (The Association for Integral Development in San Miguel Ixtahuacán) and the represen-

tative governing body of the communities, these effects include:

- lung problems and respiratory infections due to dust;
- water contamination and loss of water sources (over 40 wells have dried up);
- use of cyanide to separate gold from heavy metals, dumping cyanide and heavy metal residue into community drinking water at toxic levels;
- skin diseases, especially among children and the elderly;
- death of animals and an increase in miscarriages;
- increased militarization, the presence of private security, and social conflict between communities and armed guards;
- insufficient compensation for land sold to the company by community members, as well as pressure, threats, and coercion by the company in the acquisition of this land;
- labour violations of mine workers.

In addition to threatening the health and well-being of surrounding communities, the mining company and the Guatemalan government have violated the legal rights of indigenous peoples, as declared in the International Labor Organization Covenant 169, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Guatemalan Constitution, and Municipal Law. These statutes are meant to secure the rights of indigenous communities to grant or withhold their free, prior, and informed consent for any activity proposed on their lands.

According to many mine-affected citizens, this consultation was inadequate, full of lies and empty promises, and no consent was ever given to the company.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Urge the Canadian government to take immediate action to suspend the operations of Goldcorp, pending a complete independent inquiry and compliance with human rights obligations.

Urge the Canadian government to support efforts by the Guatemalan government to fulfill its human rights obligations; in particular, to adopt a policy in which consent from affected populations is recognized as key to enacting sustainable development.

Learn more at: www.ACTfortheEarth.org; www.unpri.org; www.miningwatch.ca; www.ghrc-usa.org; www.rightsaction.org.

AFL-CIO THREATENS

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in clearing up their own domain... The present AFL-CIO leadership doesn't have the guts to remove the racketeer from office, but they threaten anyone who will not turn his back on civil liberties." Joseph McCarthy, especially, is singled out for scorn.

No one, least of all Orville, believed the senators were entirely legit. Hidden agenda was on everyone's mind. That agenda, of course, was double-barreled: more Joe McCarthy purge of perceived undesirables coupled with an attack on union power.

In the opinion of BC pulp and paper workers, the union can best weed out the unwanted. They do not need help from their sworn enemies.

The Senate Committee, however, continued its probe. Chief among its targets was none other than the Teamsters. Teamster Leader Dave Beck was subjected to heavy flack from the committee. Everyone knew the Teamsters were guilty of perhaps just about everything and, thus, were the easy scapegoats for the committee, whose real motives were to dampen union activity by introducing right-to-work laws, by introducing open-shop laws and, generally, impeding unions at every turn.

The AFL-CIO assured that Beck would be suspended if he took the Fifth, not for being a racketeer, mind you, but for pleading a civil right guaranteed by the American Constitution.

This probe led to the realization that all was not well in union land. That knowledge results in the formation of the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action (the RFMDA). Within this ad hoc movement (committee) were the seeds that, in time, would lead to the end of the International Pulp Sulphite Union.



Local delegates at PPWC Safety Conference pose for a group photo

Quotations about safety

- "Safety doesn't happen by accident." - *Author Unknown*
- "Better a thousand times careful than once dead." - *Proverb*
- "Safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy." - *Author Unknown*
- "Prepare and prevent, don't repair and repent." - *Author Unknown*
- "Chance takers are accident makers." - *Author Unknown*
- "Luck runs out but safety is good for life." - *Author Unknown*
- "Accidents hurt, safety doesn't." - *Author Unknown*



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Affiliated to the
Confederation of
Canadian Unions

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
CALM
OF LABOUR MEDIA

AFL-CIO threatens suspension

BY JIM WHITE

THE INTERNATIONAL president cut loose their CLC chartered rights.

This, of course, meant further expansion of Local 433 would not occur. Since organizers with no ability to organize are mostly unhappy people, Orville, as Local 433's business agent, was quite vocal in his condemnation of this action. The mentioned episodes may well be considered mild in nature 45 years later; however, in the middle 1950s, Orville was breaking with tradition.

Clearly, Orville was not acting alone. As an executive member of the Western Pulp and Paper Council (the Council), he shared views with George Pembleton, Council president; Angus Macphee, Council vice-president; and Bob McCormick, Council member; good socialists all and dedicated to the union movement. Later these names, especially Macphee, will become very prevalent, but in 1957-58,

Orville led the way.

Although the above unrest, as exemplified by Orville, is worthy of note and express where BC pulp and paper unions were going in the mid '50s, one event that began in the US overshadows everything else.

This event, initiated by the US Senate, was a probe into labour racketeering. Three US senators were conducting the inquiry, namely, Senators McClellan, Mandt and, not the least, Joseph McCarthy. McCarthy, of course, is famous for having ferreted out the communist threat, real or perceived, in America. The affiliate AFL-CIO sided with the probing senators to the extent that they (the AFL-CIO) announced they would suspend any union officer or his union, if it failed to suspend him, who availed himself of the US's Fifth Amendment.

Essentially, the Fifth Amendment offers protection in investigations of this nature by stating no person shall be compelled to bear witness against himself. Pleading the Fifth enables due process to occur. By their actions, the AFL-CIO were denying due process to their own members. Again, an example of how in deep they were with all things American or all things business bent.

Writing in April of '57, Orville says, "The executive of the AFL-CIO should have their heads examined. They are supporting these politicians who are notoriously unsuccessful

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