

leaflet

PULP, PAPER AND WOODWORKERS OF CANADA



Chris Toleffson

Convention at the bay

Members converge on Cowichan Bay for convention

THE 52ND ANNUAL convention was hosted by Local 2 at beautiful Cowichan Bay, BC, this year. I would like to congratulate Local 2 for doing such a fantastic job of keeping everyone entertained this year. What a fabulous location to have a convention with that awesome view.

The first two days of this week-long event were spent attending Labour School. On the first day, John Hanrahan, President of the Confederation of Canadian Unions, spoke on the legislations that are affecting unions. He also spoke promoting unions' association with fairness.

On the second day, Susan O'Donnell, Executive Director of the

BC Human Rights Coalition, came in to speak on human rights and harassment.

In the afternoon of the second day, Local 2 arranged for a tour of the Crofton Pulp and Paper Mill. Everyone who went found what they did there quite interesting. In the evening, there was a barbecue right on the beach. Fun was had by all.

On day three, the first day of the convention, everyone got down to the business at hand. The first thing was a moment of silence for all the brothers and sisters who have passed away over the past year.

The first of three speakers who were present on the first day was Chris Toleffson. Chris is Professor, Hakai Chair in Environmental Law and Sustainability, at the University of Victoria. Chris came to convention to speak on science, law and politics, environmental decisions in the Harper era.

In the afternoon, the first round of

continued on page 4



Janette Bulkan



Eoin Madden

side
in

VOL. 51 NO. 2

MAR-JUN 2014

Local unions
Executive board members report at June meeting

8

Trade unions
What trade unions have done for you lately

11

Parks and forests
BC's amendment bills should be open to debate

14

“The two main points of discussion for the forums...were well received in the region and had a definite impact.”

**ERNIE DOUGAN
SUCCUMBS TO
BATTLE WITH CANCER**

My husband, Ernest Webber Dougan, passed away on Oct. 14/13 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Ernie was a member of the PPWVC and the President of Local 25 in Prince George for over 20 years.

As written in “The Early History of Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada”, “Ernie Dougan, a Local 9 millwright, moved to NCP. Having a foundation in the PPWC, Ernie soon became president (Local 25). He served the local both at home and away at National Executive Board level for many years.”

He devoted untold hours to the welfare of others in the workplace and was an unwavering loyal advocate for the fair and equitable treatment of his union brothers and sisters. Ernie was the soul of diplomacy and showed great respect for all.

He was forced to retire due to complex health issues in 1998 and spent the remainder of his life with a keen interest in world affairs, trips on the water, and time with his family.

He will be forever missed, forever loved.

Karen Dougan

PRINCE GEORGE



Ernie Dougan

**STAND UP FOR THE
NORTH MEETINGS
ARE SUCCESSFUL**

On behalf of the Stand Up for the North Committee, I would like to thank your national union for its sponsorship of and generous contribution to the forest forums we organized on April 12 in Prince George and April 13 in Mackenzie under the heading of “Renewing Our Woods: Keep Our Forests Public and Sustainable” and featuring speakers from the forestry, labour, environmental and First Nations sectors. We would also like to extend particular thanks to yourself [Arnold Bercov] and Frank Robertson for initiating the idea for the forums and helping organize them, as well as Chuck LeBlanc, Stuart Blundell, Dave Seright, Mike

Broadbent, Bob LaVallee, Julie Ross and Louise Soukeroff for their helpful contributions to the work.

These forums, which attracted upwards of 200 people in Prince George and 45 in Mackenzie, played a significant role in advancing the local and regional discussion over the provincial government’s controversial plans to roll over existing Forest Licences in the province into vast Tree Farm Licences dominated by a handful of big companies. Adding to the discussion, several of the speakers from the Prince George and Mackenzie events were also able to present to more than 65 people at a successful meeting on April 14, hosted by local organizations in Williams Lake.

The two main points of discussion for the forums, i.e., the need for forest tenure that works for all sectors of the forest industry and all British Columbians, and the need to bring our forests back to health and sustainability, were well received in the region and had a definite impact.

Your union’s support and financial contribution helped to make all of this possible and we appre-

ciate your commitment to the communities in our region and to the future of our forests.

Peter Ewart

*Stand Up for the
North Committee*

PRINCE GEORGE

**EGON TOBUS, A
NOBLE MEMBER OF
PPWC, PASSES AWAY**

Egon Tobus, who died earlier this year, was one of the Real Union People whose work in our local was important. Egon is everyman. He gave his time. He saw that life has changes as he took so well to it, embracing every confrontation, which he saw not as a battle but as a cooperative experiment of life.

He walked in it all so well as a boy and a young man with friends, with employers, as a migrant, a husband and father, as a Canadian, with a new language, and as a friend of mine.

He did not walk with anger as so many do. Sober, quiet, understanding was his way. He admired directness and honesty and believed such action was its own reward.

Terry Smith

*Local 3 retiree
GARIBALDI
HIGHLANDS*

The way things are in my eyes

BY RON RICHARDSON *LEAFLET* EDITOR

I WOULD LIKE TO congratulate Local 2 on the fantastic job they did hosting this year's convention. I am sure everyone had a great time. From the beach barbecue to the entertainment at the banquet, it was awesome. It is going to be hard to beat.

To start, I would like to thank everyone for another term as the *Leaflet* editor. I am extremely honoured to fill this position and I will do my best. I find it important to keep the membership informed of what is going on in the world, at home and right here in the most independent and democratic union that anyone can be involved in, the PPWC.

I would also like to congratulate Locals 2, 8 and 9 on rejoining the Confederation of Canadian Unions. When you join a group like the CCU, you have the backing of other unions but not having to be run like the other big unions.

With convention over, I would like to congratulate all the officers and committee members for being elected into their various positions and hope they have success in the duration of their terms.

There are a few things on the world map this year that are very important on the labour front.

The one that tops my list is still the one that I spent most of last year wrapping my head around, and that is the poor conditions people are forced to work in if they want employment. What I really wonder is if any of these employers have any kind of conscience at all and, if they do, how they could let things get to this state. They have to be seeing what is going on.

A little closer to home there are the foreign workers and how they are treated has been a hot topic here. This has been a bee in my bonnet for quite some time now and things have been getting worse. From the way the employees have had to pay back their overtime in one case to the way they are cramped into a small living space and then charged a huge amount

to live there are just a couple of the many problems. The government has finally heard what has been said and they are looking into the program. What that is worth we will see.

Local 26 has started a petition to stop the cuts to education in rural British Columbia. I personally think this is a very important issue. I have two children entering into post-secondary education and I would like to see them be successful in this and not have to worry about cuts in their education. If you want to sign the petition, go to the Local 26 website and you will find it there. I wish Local 26 success in this endeavour.

On another education note, I spent a few hours walking the picket line outside a few of the Prince George schools. Listening to what the teachers were saying, they truly are out there not just for themselves but also for the students. They believe class sizes do affect their ability to spend adequate time with the students. I hope everyone will spend some time out there on the picket lines so the teachers don't feel they are in this on their own.

I hope the teachers get what they deserve and they don't have to suffer through a long and drawn-out labour strike because no one deserves to have to deal with that.

I hope everyone has a great year and will take time to read this newsletter this year and take time to get some submissions into me at my email address or Louise at the National office.

Remember, this is your newsletter and your input is important to everyone at the other locals.

WHEN YOU JOIN A GROUP LIKE THE CCU, YOU HAVE THE BACKING OF OTHER UNIONS BUT NOT HAVING TO BE RUN LIKE THE OTHER BIG UNIONS.

CONVENTION

continued from page 1

nominations for table officers was held. These positions are President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Occupational health and Safety Officer, Environmental Officer, and Forest Resource Officer. The second, and final, round would happen on the last day of convention.

After all of the nominations, the membership welcomed the second speaker of the day, Satnam Manhas, who is the Ecosystem Services Program Manager of Ecotrust Canada. Satnam came to talk to the convention about forestry and, more specifically, carbon.

The third speaker was Eoin Madden, a Climate Campaigner for the Wilderness Committee, who spoke about fracking and what it is most notably doing to our environment and the water in northern British Columbia.

PRESIDENT When the last speaker of the day was done, it was time for some of the convention reports to get done. To start it all off was the president's report, given by Arnold Bercov (Local 8). Arnold first mentioned that on the second day of him being president it



President Arnold Bercov chairs the convention

was announced RockTenn had decided to close the New Westminster plant. He mentioned that Local 16 had been a long-time member of the PPWC and a cornerstone of our organization, and every member of our union wishes only the best for the members of Local 16.

In September, Arnold and Frank attended the CCU convention in Halifax. At the labour school there they talked about the continuing attack on unions through pending legislation (Bill 377) and the ongoing efforts

by government and business to give a negative image to unions.

In March, Arnold was asked to sit temporarily on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Canada Board. In September, Arnold was elected to the FSC Canada Board for a full two-year term.

Satnam Manhas, Ecosystem Services Program Manager of Ecotrust Canada, speaks about carbon



Arnold touched on the event that he was part of at UBC the supported old growth forest that happened on January 23. At the event that was eventually called "BC Coastal Forest: What's the vision?"

Arnold spent some time at various mills throughout the province, such as Prince George on December 11, where he was welcomed by a huge dumping of snow so he was unable to get up to Mackenzie, which was a disappointment. In March, he visited Cranbrook, where he attended an Executive Council meeting with Local 15 and Paper Excellence. In November, he visited Castlegar and attended a President's Council meeting with Mike Conci. This was Mike's last meeting of this type as Local 1 president. Mike retired shortly after.

Arnold, Gary Fiege and Frank Robertson met with the new CEO of Catalyst, Joe Nemeth, for a casual meet and greet. On Nov. 20, Arnold attended a President's Council meeting in Nanaimo. All the CEP reps were also present. It was a fairly positive meeting.

He also touched on a few other things he attended and helped to organize, such as Leadership Training in early March. At the same time, he had meetings with Urban Impact, which is a Local 5 plant, about ways to secure a recycling contract.

On March 20, Frank and Arnold met with Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. They had a 45-minute meeting and did agree to further meetings.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Frank Robertson (Local 9) then gave his report. Frank also touched on what happened at Local 16, mentioning they were the last Wage Caucus Local to present management with the pattern agreement last spring. After several months of going back and forth with RockTenn, the Local made the decision to take a strike vote in order to secure the pattern. The strike ended suddenly when RockTenn informed the union of their plan to permanently close the New Westminster plant.

Frank then spoke on the meetings he attended such as the one he and Arnold attended at UBC on January 23. This meeting was structured to promote a discussion on what the long-term vision for forestry is on the coast. He also has been involved with the Stand Up for the North Committee to plan an open-house-style meeting for the weekend of April 12 and 13 in Prince George and Mackenzie. Frank has also been involved in a survey the provincial government put money aside for to study on the BC pulp and paper industry, I am sure Frank will keep everyone apprised of all the information he can give us. Frank also touched on the Leadership Training the National office put on and how the full- and part-time officers fielded questions from the members who were in attendance.



Frank Robertson
First Vice-President



Environmental Officer Stuart Blundell reports on environmental issues and concerns

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT The second day of convention started off with Second Vice President Mike Broadbent (Local 18) giving his report. In September, Mike attended a meeting with Wayne Warawa, James Hope and Mike Federici of the PPWC along with members from Unifor and Canfor to set the agenda for the Joint Pulp and Paper Industry Safety Conference.



Mike Broadbent
Second Vice-President

Throughout the year Mike attended a few other meetings and seminars, such as the Forestry Day at UBC that was set up by Arnold and others, the Health and Welfare Training Seminar put on by Wayne Warawa, Environmental and Forestry Seminars put on by Stuart Blundell and Steven Miros, and he also attended the Leadership Training put on by the National office.



Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Horswill attends her last convention

SECRETARY-TREASURER Bonnie Horswill (Local 26) then gave her report. This will be Bonnie's last report to convention, as she did not run this year for this position.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER Stuart Blundell (Local 9) gave his report. This is a good time to be in the forest products business as pulp and specialty paper prices are high and the demand for lumber and pellets are high as well, Stuart reports. Stuart also said that companies are always looking to improve the bottom line and they find labour costs as an easy target.

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

Stuart then reported that law makers have seriously eroded the ability to protect our environment and our natural resources by passing ill-conceived legislation, such as those contained in Bill C-38. Stuart reported on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and how they affect the marine environment and how climate change worsens the POPs threat.

Stuart touched on how environmental concerns are getting more attention in the media these days, and many of the reasons for BC's current economic boom is because of mining or the oil and gas industry. He



Ken Wu, Executive Director of Ancient Forest Alliance, speaks about old-growth forests

also mentioned all of the drawbacks of all of these industries and their environmental impact. Stuart mentioned that, even though Christy Clark's decision to not support Enbridge was huge, it is still the Harper government who will make the final decision.

John Hanrahan, President of the CCU, gave a short little speech thanking the PPWC for all the support and the importance of all the independent unions and the CCU.

Ken Wu, Executive Director of the Ancient Forest Alliance, spoke on old growth forests and how government is affecting the old growth. Ken had a great slide show that really gave a person a reality check on what is happening in the old growth.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER Wayne Warawa (Local 2) gave his report. Wayne spoke on the many seminars he has put on this past year and how successful they were, such as the Health and Welfare Conference, which was well attended and impacted some Locals in positive ways and how Local 18 is subsequently in the process of setting up their first Joint Health and Welfare Committee.

Another of Wayne's seminars was the WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar. The novices and advanced people worked together and learned how to do medical/legal requests. The next WCB Claims and Appeals Seminar is scheduled for April 14-17/14.

Wayne talked about last year's Safety Conference and the Joint Pulp and Paper Safety Conference and how successful the conferences were. Wayne ended his report by letting convention know of the many active WCB files he is working on.



Wayne Warawa, Occupational Health and Safety Officer

FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER Steven Miros (Local 1) gave his report on the many things he has been up to throughout the past year. Steve attended the 2013 PricewaterhouseCoopers Global Forest and Paper Industry Conference, where several forest industry CEOs suggested we have the basics of a solid industry with great long-term potential, which was just a feel-good picture.

Steven attended the UBC Forestry Day on January 23. He thanked the many members of the PPWC who attended, and Steven felt the discussion went well and we gained a few allies, young and old.

Steven touched on the PPWC Forestry Seminar and mentioned how successful it was and mentioned the many speakers they had there.



Steven Miros, Forest Resource Officer, reports on his activities of the past year

LEAFLET EDITOR Ron Richardson (Local 9) gave a short report.

The convention welcomed the final speaker, Janette Bulkan, who is Assistant Professor, Forest Resources Management, at the University of British Columbia. Janette came to speak on how her country of Guyana is similar to Canada, as her country's forests had been logged and exported as raw logs and made into low-end furniture.

On the final day of convention, there were some loose ends to take care of, such as the nomination of the national officers and election of committees.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS All positions were filled by acclamation.

- President: Arnold Bercov (Local 8)
- First Vice-President: Frank Robertson (Local 9)
- Second Vice-President: Gary Fiege (Local 2)
- Secretary-Treasurer: Al Sahlen (Local 9)
- Occupational Health and Safety Officer: Wayne Warawa (Local 2)
- Environmental Officer: Stuart Blundell (Local 9)



Quinn Glock and Darren Pilla, Local 1



Dave Seright and Darren Cardinal, Local 18

- Forest Resource Officer: Steven Miros (Local 1)

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

- Leaflet Editor: Ron Richardson (Local 9)
- Tabulating Committee: Mark Hartley (Local 2), Les Hillier (Local 8), Travis McLean (Local 5)
- Tabulating Committee Alternate: Nick Moscrip (Local 9)
- Audit Committee: Travis McLean (Local 5), Tracey Mehmal (Local 2), Dave Seright (Local 18)
- Audit Committee Alternate: Glenn Jackson (Local 5)

2015 CONVENTION will be hosted by Local 9 in Prince George.

- RON RICHARDSON



John Folkers, Travis McLean and Todd Smith, Local 5



Chuck LeBlanc and Nick Moscrip, Local 9



Les Hillier, Local 8, and Debbie Oslund, Local 26

What's new in your local? Write to your union. Keep us all in the know. Contact richardsonron6@gmail.com.

LOCAL 5

NEW WESTMINSTER

Hospitals have tentative offer

Negotiations at CKF had stalled and we went to mediation at the Labour Board. After one day, we came out with an offer that the committee felt was good and fair. We gave our recommendation and the offer was turned down by 52 per cent.

The hospitals went to a strike vote and received a 96 per cent mandate. With the help of Vince Ready they now have a tentative offer that includes wage increases of 5.5 per cent over 5 years. The agreement would also limit contracting out, expand employment options, protect benefits, and address issues related to paramedics.

Negotiations at Urban Impact have still been delayed.

GLENN JACKSON, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 15

KIMBERLEY

SKK Pulp executes major shutdown

Currently at SKK Pulp we are just beginning our first major shutdown wholly planned and executed since being purchased by Paper Excellence. To say there are some growing pains may be an understatement.

We at Local 15 are excited to have President Arnold Bercov coming out to our neck of the woods on

June 27 and were very glad to have Arnie, Frank Robertson, and CCU President John Hanrahan out for the CMAW convention recently.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Locals 2 and 8 to the CCU!

JEREMY CHRISTENSEN
NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 18

MACKENZIE

Brother Broadbent enjoys retirement

Not much new is happening at Canfor, Mackenzie Division, but much more of the same. Currently we have 202 members actively working.

Canfor is still actively recruiting tradesmen as well as supervisors for vacant staff positions. We have just hired two new millwrights from Winnipeg, who are new to sawmilling. A couple of millwrights and electricians have been introduced while here for interviews, but have not been seen since.

Brother Mike Broadbent is enjoying his retirement. He continues ripping up the golf course, and the sod farmers love him. Mike's departure had left a big hole on Standing Committee.

Hopefully, the testing for the four apprenticeships posted will start soon.

Canfor have just hired four summer students for dust control and clean up.

BOB LAVALLEE, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 9

PRINCE GEORGE

Shop stewards do a great job

At Canfor Pulp, the new \$30 million Intercon generator project is ongoing, with completion slated for the end of the year and commissioning first thing in 2015.

At Esther's Inn, we have three active shop stewards who are doing a great job for the membership.

CHUCK LEBLANC, NEB MEMBER

LOCAL 26

CASTLEGAR

Negotiations start in late fall

Our contract ended Dec. 31/12, and in January 2014 we finally got a new two-year contract. There were some wording changes, and our bargaining team managed to get a 3 per cent increase with some retroactive pay. Our next bargaining negotiations are to start sometime late fall.

Thanks to the amazing continued support of PPWC and our local communities, nine third-year Nursing students at Selkirk College once again travelled to Guatemala for just over three weeks as part of their practicum. They left on April 29 with a commitment to learn more about the common roots of health-care challenges in both the north and the south.

NADYA SOFONOFF
NEB MEMBER

"I am my brother's keeper" campaign is successful

THINGS ARE GETTING better at Local 2, what with the price of pulp, the new CEO, and a company that is working with us as opposed to paying us lip service. Is everything rosy? No, and it is far from it, but we are making some headway.

The company is doing better (because of pulp) and we are seeing increased capital spending at Crofton, which bodes well for our long-term survival. The company is working with BC Hydro, and we have a number of energy projects that have or will be announced in the near future. We are in the middle of our Kraft shutdown right now and lots of work is being done to increase production and reliability.

We are still having trouble attracting tradesmen and are working to get more apprentices.

The summer student program has been returned to Crofton, albeit in limited numbers. This is great for the mill, our kids and the community, and I see the use of this into the future as a good thing.

We convinced the company that realigning the hog cat position from the steam plant back to chip supply and hiring four more steamers will actually save the company substantial money and operational problems. We have been pushing this ever since they took the job out of chip supply, but it was not until we threw some numbers at them that they finally took notice.

Safety is vastly improved at our

site. Statistics are way down, and the message we resurrected (I am my brother's keeper) has been grabbed onto by the whole workforce, even the company. They want to take some control over what our message really means, but we have insisted it is a union idea that will be driven by the union. I am not naïve enough to say it is our message that has changed things; rather it is the collective work done by our safety reps as well as the company's efforts that are making the difference, or maybe it is our stickers. Either way, less people have required medical treatment and that is our end goal.

We recently have changed how supplementary vacation has been awarded. In the past, time was carved out of years of service for members on LTD returning to work. Now members on LTD will have this time added to their service dates and no loss will be incurred.

GARY FIEGE, NEB MEMBER

Local 8 votes to rejoin the CCU

Currently we have 269 members working at Harmac. Since my last report, we went through our annual shutdown April 1-11. The shutdown went well, with the usual surprises they did not anticipate and some they did.

On April 12-14, Gerald and I, as well as a lot of our brothers and sisters from other Locals, went to Prince George for the Sand Up for the North meetings and to Mackenzie the next day to do it over again. The meetings were very informative, and we need to get the word out about forestry issues.

On May 6, Gerald, Al Delcourt and I went to the Pricewaterhouse-Coopers 27th Annual Global Forestry and Paper Industry Conference in Vancouver. The conference was very interesting and

informative. You get to see how industry thinks. There were speakers from all over the world and the Forests Minister, Honourable Steve Thomson, was there and spoke as well.

At our last membership meeting, we invited Frank Robertson to our meeting to discuss us joining the CCU. Lots of good questions were asked and the vote was taken. Local 8 is going to join the Confederation of Canadian Unions.

Ladysmith Sawmill Division currently has 63 members working and is running two shifts.

Chemainus Value Added Division currently has 58 members working and is running two shifts.

There are currently 51 members working at Long Hoh. We have a new chairman there, Sean Demeria.

Canexus currently has 14 members working. They are now at full complement. Things there are going smoothly.

LES HILLIER, NEB MEMBER



Curtis Spencer and Doug Narver, Local 8



Derrick Przysieny and James Hope, Local 9



Gary Fiege, Local 2, and Wayne London, Local 15



Dave Benjamin and Paul Zarry, Local 2



Richard Wiebe and Khon Meas, Local 5



Jeremy Christensen and Dave Gustafson, Local 15



Glenn Jackson, Local 5, and Chuck Fillion, Local 9



Guests and observers

What have unions done for you lately?

BY DON MACKINNON

SOMETIMES WE GET so used to our institutions we forget how important they are to us. We take democracy for granted in Canada, but a moment's thought about life in countries without it should be enough to convince you of the importance of a democratic political system. Absent democracy, "might makes right", tyranny and inequality prevail. If our democratic institutions aren't preserved, we risk falling back into a state of affairs where people live politically impoverished lives.

Trade unions have been around longer than representative democracy in this country. It's easy to take them for granted and, particularly now when they are under persistent public attack, to forget why they are important for all of us. Here's a reminder.

First, trade unions transformed workplaces for the better. Before trade unions, working conditions were often deplorable and workplaces dangerous, and this in the most prosperous countries in the world. Twelve or even sixteen hour workdays without breaks in workplaces that were literally a threat to the lives of workers were not unusual. There was no minimum wage, medical coverage, insurance, or workers' compensation. A worker could have wages cut, be laid off or fired without warning or explanation. Women were paid less than men doing the same job and children were put to work in dangerous conditions.

Once working people formed trade unions, however, workplace conditions improved. Unions struggling to achieve these gains, which we now take for granted, had to fight against many employers and governments, who claimed that any improvement to the lives of workers was unaffordable and would render industry uncompetitive. Unions persevered, however, to the point where people came to see their benefits for everyone and governments decided to acknowledge and regulate their existence by legislation. Unions, traditionally democratic organizations, were now required to be democratic by law and to represent all workers fairly. By the same token, all workers in the workplace were required to pay dues to the democratically selected trade union because they all got the equal benefit of the union's representation (the "Rand formula"). But the benefits of union activities went beyond the

workers they represented to all workers, whether or not they are union members.

Even more, the union movement benefited the economy as a whole. One reason for the establishment of labour laws in the early part of the 20th century was to promote economic expansion by increasing the purchasing power of workers. The expansion of unionization parallels the expansion of the middle class and the reduction of income inequality, the improvement in private pension and benefits plans, and the better treatment of women and minorities in the workplace.

The last 20 years or so have seen a rapid increase in the income of the wealthiest people in the country and

"They've protected good jobs, wages, benefits and working conditions."

a decline of the middle class. It's not a coincidence that this has been a period of sustained attack on trade unions, culminating in "right to work" laws in many US states. Unions tend to equalize wages among

workers and ensure that fewer people are left in low-paying jobs. They protect the vulnerable and ensure that workplaces are safe and that workers are treated fairly. As long as there is unionization in an industry, non-unionized employers can't afford to fall too far behind in the treatment of their workers.

We are again hearing that business can't afford good wages and working conditions, pensions and benefits. It wasn't true a century ago and it's not true now. "Right to work" laws do not create jobs; they diminish the quality of existing jobs by stripping workers of the benefit of trade union representation. In a race to the bottom, the worker and society as a whole always lose and income inequality returns.

So what have trade unions done for you lately? They've protected good jobs, wages, benefits and working conditions for you and your children. They've ensured that all people, including women, minorities and the disabled, you, your friends and family are treated fairly in the workplace. They've fought for the preservation of the middle class, the only sure way of guaranteeing economic prosperity for all of us in the future.

- Adapted from an article by Don MacKinnon, President of the Power Workers' Union.

Union troubles

- The Fortunetellers did not form a union although they were a spirited group because it became crystal clear that there was no future in it.
- The Meat Packers Union found that government gave them the cold shoulder. They felt they had a legitimate beef and a steak in their future, and were willing to meat the government half weigh, but it turned out to be much ado about mutton.



- The Musicians Union had no business to conduct because there were no complaints that were noteworthy, but they were composed, well-versed, and knew the score.
- War recently broke out among the Windows Installers Association, causing a real pane until they had a major breakthrough that was a shattering success.
- The Professional Bowlers Association did go an a major strike, but they were split on the issues.
- The Blacksmiths Union recently merged with the Plumbers Union and now they are forging ahead.
- The Barbers and Hairdressers Union was another group that failed because they couldn't cut it.
- The Dairy Workers owe everything they have to udders.

- Internet

Kafala is alive and well in Qatar

Modern slavery will still exist in Qatar despite the announcement of cosmetic reforms to the labour law.

The changes are designed to make it easier for employers to find migrant workers, but the announcement fails to address the multiple violations of international labour standards found by the International Labour Organization.

Qatar's notorious exit visas will remain in place. There is no indication on the fate of employees of government bodies who are being kept in Qatar against their will.

There is no freedom of association, no minimum wage, and no effective labour compliance system. None of the laws seem to apply to domestic workers.

No moves were announced to stop the death and injury toll amongst the migrant workforce.

While freedom of movement for workers should always be respected, with the removal of the "no objection certificate", the employer still sets the contract, the wage, and employees cannot join a union

and negotiate.

All these laws do is make it easier for employers to recruit staff.

The government apparently said it agrees that migrant workers should be allowed to have unions. If that's true, they should stop refusing to discuss this with the ITUC.

- Ituc-csi.org

Catholic Bishops speak out for agriculture workers

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) has released a report supporting the call for equitable access for agriculture workers to the same labour rights and workplace benefits as other workers in Ontario.

The report, "Fruit of the Earth and Work of Human Hands", raises 10 key issues regarding agriculture including environmental stewardship, ethical consumer choices, as well as the protection and promotion of the human and labour rights of agriculture workers, including the right to organize.



PPWC Local 26 members support striking teachers on their picket line in Castlegar (Photo taken by PPWC Local 1 member)

A federation of domestic workers is established

IN THE PAST TWO years, 25 countries improved legal protections for domestic workers, with many of the strongest reforms in Latin America. Some of the biggest challenges loom in the European Union, which has a growing elderly population depending on the services domestic workers provide, and the Middle East and Asia, where progress has been weak and some of the worst abuses occur.

Labour leaders from more than 40 countries met in Montevideo Oct. 26-28/13 to establish the International Domestic Workers Federation to organize domestic workers worldwide, share strategies across regions, and advocate for their rights.

According to the ILO, almost 30 per cent of the world's domestic workers are employed in countries where they are completely excluded from national labour laws, including weekly rest days, limits to hours of work, minimum wage coverage, and overtime pay. Even when partially covered, domestic workers are often excluded from key protections such as minimum age requirements, maternity leave, social security, and occupational health measures.

On Sept. 5/13, the Domestic Workers Convention entered into legal force. This ground-breaking treaty adopted in 2011 establishes the first global standards for domestic work. Under the new convention, domestic workers are entitled to the same basic rights as those available to other workers.

Ten countries have ratified the Domestic Workers Convention: Uruguay, Philippines, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Italy, Bolivia, Paraguay, South Africa, Guyana, and Germany. Several more are completing these processes.

"The momentum of ratifications and improved laws in Latin American nations and a number of other countries shows that governments are capable of protecting domestic workers," said Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the ITUC. "Governments that have lagged, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, need to act without delay."

Despite recent legal advances in some countries,

many domestic workers are still grossly underpaid and forced to work long hours, seven days a week. Denial of pay is a common abuse. Many women and girls are unable to leave households where they work, and may face psychological, physical, or sexual abuse.

Certain categories of domestic workers, including those who live in the household where they work, children, and migrants face heightened risk of abuse. Recent ILO research found that while child labour in other sectors has declined in recent years, child domestic labor increased by 9 per cent between 2008 and 2012. International migrants may face exploitation linked to abusive recruitment practices, restrictive immigration policies, discrimination, and poor access to redress.

"This groundbreaking treaty adopted in 2011 establishes the first global standards for domestic work."

As the ILO, Human Rights Watch, IDWN, and the ITUC have documented, domestic workers can get trapped in situations of forced labour, including trafficking.

The report discusses reforms in countries as diverse as Brazil, India, Italy, Tanzania, and the United States, and assesses how domestic workers' rights movements, operating at the grassroots, national, and regional levels, have succeeded. For example, ITUC spearheaded the "12 by 12" campaign in partnership with other unions and civil society groups to promote national ratifications of the Domestic Workers Convention. Advocacy for the campaign has fueled demonstrations, meetings with government officials, social media campaigns, membership drives, and new alliances among domestic workers and trade unions in more than 90 countries.

Organizing domestic workers has many challenges, both practical, in terms of limited time and mobility, and legal. In some countries, domestic workers are legally barred from forming their own unions or joining other unions, especially when they are also migrants. For example, Bangladesh, Thailand, and the United States deny domestic workers the right to form unions to fight for their rights.

- Adapted from *ituc-csi.org*

Forest, park bills should be open to debate

BIG CHANGES ARE being discussed for the future of British Columbia’s parks and forests. Despite the impact of these changes, British Columbians are not being consulted.

On Feb. 25, two proposed bills, Bill 4 and Bill 5, entered their second reading and almost no one noticed. If passed, the two amendment bills—known as the Park Amendment Act and the Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Statutes Amendment Act—would adversely affect forest-based jobs and our protected areas network, which are anchors for the motto “Super Natural BC”.

Buried within a 36-page document, Bill 5 looks to make what is being called an administrative change to speed up the process for the export of wood chips. In reality, this change is anything but simple and could have undesirable impacts for communities and those who work in the forest sector.

Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Minister Steve Thomson proposes an increase to the maximum amount of wood residue (wood chips) that the minister can permit for export from 5,000 bone-dry units to 200,000 bone-dry units.

Put plainly, the minister can currently approve the export of 217 double truckloads of wood chips in a single application without the requirement of an additional level of approval from cabinet. This balance and check ensures that all wood chip exports are, in fact, surplus and in the public interest. If the bill is passed, the minister could approve the export of more than 8,500 double truckloads of wood chips and shavings without any additional review of the application. This is a 40-fold increase and would logically have a correlation to employment.

BC is currently a net importer of wood chips. If the province needs more than we are exporting, why is the minister rushing to move more of our forests out of BC? With mills around the province shutting down and an exhausted timber supply in the mountain pine

beetle-affected areas, this ability to approve a massive increase in exports sounds like a lot less value for BC’s forest products.

It also sounds like fewer jobs for British Columbians at a time when our government should be trying to keep forest product processing and production at home.

It’s not looking good on the environmental side, either. If passed, this amendment could lead to the expansion of forestry for export in areas that already do not have sufficient ecological conservation with little or no net gain for communities. The government should increase levels of forest protection from its current 15 per cent to scientifically mandated levels,

“There has been no consultation with the public, environmental or labour sector.”

instead of adding pressure on our forests by eliminating steps that help ensure a healthy balance is maintained.

Add to the mix the minister’s current priority to roll over volume-based tenures to area-based tenures, and one wonders whose interest is being served by these changes.

Bill 4, the Park Amendment Act brought forth by Environment Minister Mary Polak, proposes to allow “research” in the province’s parks related to feasibility and environmental assessment for pipelines, highways and transmission lines. However, the term “research” is not defined and could mean anything from taking a water sample to drilling a test well. If the bill is passed, the minister could approve a permit for this range of research even if it isn’t consistent with the purpose of the park.

As written, Bill 4 would make every protected area vulnerable to large industrial projects.

When changes of this sort are proposed by a government, it is expected that public consultation and collaboration with affected sectors be done. This public vetting of policy ideas ensures that the resulting bill reflects the will of the public and affected interests. Decisions that affect the well-being of communities and forests should be up for public debate. Up to today, there has been no consultation with the public, environmental or labour sector.

continued on page 15

Seniors express regrets

The following, as noted by a nurse in Castlegar, is a list of common regrets of seniors.

1 *I wish I'd had the courage to live a true life to myself, not the life others expected of me.*

"This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made. Health brings freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it."

2 *I wish I hadn't worked so hard.*

"This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret, but as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence."

3 *I wish I had the courage to express my feelings.*

"Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result."

4 *I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.*

"Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying."

5 *I wish I had let myself be happier.*

"This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called 'comfort' of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to themselves, that they were content, when deep within they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again."

- Iskra

FOREST, PARK BILLS

continued from page 14

Forests and forest workers deserve sustainability, and this should start with the government working to protect forests and keep jobs and forest-product manufacturing in BC.

Fortunately, these are only proposed changes. There is still time to pull them off the table before we chip further away at our forest sector and our protected areas.

Arnold Bercov is national president of the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada. Stephanie Goodwin is the BC director for Greenpeace.



PRESIDENT

Arnold Bercov

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Frank Robertson

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Mike Broadbent

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Bonnie Horswill

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Stuart Blundell

FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER

Steven Miro

OCCUP. HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

Wayne Warawa

LEAFLET EDITOR

Ron Richardson

PRODUCTION

Louise Soukeroff

OFFICE

*201 - 1184 W. 6th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V6H 1A4*

WEB www.ppwc.ca

PHONE (604) 731-1909

TOLL FREE 1-888-992-7792

FAX (604) 731-6448

E-MAIL louise@ppwc.ca

Signed articles appearing in the Leaflet express the views and opinions of the authors. They are not necessarily the policy of the PPWC or views shared by the Editor or PPWC officers. In submitting copy or photos, contributors should note if they wish material returned. The Leaflet attempts to give coverage to all locals, and pertinent material will be held for the future if the space is unavailable in the current issue.



Affiliated to the
Confederation of
Canadian Unions



Canadian ideas a threat to whom in US?

BY AL SMITH

PRIOR TO THE convention, Brothers Angus Macphee of Prince Rupert Local 708 and Orville Braaten of Vancouver's Converter Local 433, both elected

delegates to the convention, were halted at the border and refused entry into the United States.

As both Brother Macphee and Brother Braaten entered the United States on numerous occasions prior to the convention, and when one faces the fact that both brothers were guiding lights behind the movement to reform the International, it doesn't require an overactive imagination to figure out who was behind this move.

To repeat, the International leaders have a vicious active machine going for them.

If the International was free of any implication in having our two brothers detained at the border, I find it hard to believe

they would have accepted it as calmly as they did.

I'll bet there were sighs of relief, smiles of happiness, and cries of jubilation in the upper brackets of the International, when they learned that their efforts to keep our two Canadian brothers off the convention floor were successful.

I wonder how they missed Brother McCormick of Local 312, Ocean Falls? He went to Cuba, didn't he? Isn't he also a socialist? Maybe the International didn't want the plot to appear too obvious.

Yes, sir. The best way to handle a strong opposition is to eliminate it.

This our great union did, with a vengeance.

The convention was put into motion with a speech by Detroit's mayor, astute Jerome P. Cavanaugh. The essence of his address was that both Canada and the USA should be proud of the mutual trust that is epitomized by the thin line border stretching from coast to coast.

As the mayor was about to leave the hall, a West-Coaster approached him and asked if he would use his influence to determine why Brothers Macphee and Braaten had been refused entry.

Who knows why the FBI does anything, was his curt reply. A thin line border, indeed.

Al Smith was President of Local 494, Woodfibre.

- from Western Pulp and Paper Worker, October 1962

IF THE INTERNATIONAL WAS FREE OF ANY IMPLICATION IN HAVING OUR TWO BROTHERS DETAINED AT THE BORDER, I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THEY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED IT AS CALMLY AS THEY DID.

I'LL BET THERE WERE SIGHS OF RELIEF, SMILES OF HAPPINESS, AND CRIES OF JUBILATION IN THE UPPER BRACKETS OF THE INTERNATIONAL, WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT THEIR EFFORTS TO KEEP OUR TWO CANADIAN BROTHERS OFF THE CONVENTION FLOOR WERE SUCCESSFUL.