

# leaflet

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WORKERS OF CANADA**

## Delegates vote to change PPWC's name

### Union is now formally known as the "Public and Private Workers of Canada"

A PROCESS WAS started a little over a year ago when we identified a possibility of taking our union to new heights. This came about as we tried to organize the unorganized and give members in other unions the same benefits we know and love our union for: truly independent, democratic Canadian representation.

In discussion with these groups of people, it became clear that the name "Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada" may have been a detriment to our organizing efforts. "Why join a pulp and paper union" or "what can that union do for me" were common phrases we heard.

This information was brought to the National Executive Board for discussion. At that meeting, there was an appetite to at least look into the possibility of a name change, ideas were floated around

and, in short order, the name "Public and Private Workers of Canada" came to fruition. All involved were in agreement that keeping the old PPWC moniker was important as it showed respect for where we came from, while the name would move us forward for the next fifty plus years.

A resolution was brought forward to convention from NEB to change the name. After much debate on the floor at Prince George last March, it became clear we would need to bring it back to the Locals for them to draft resolutions to endorse the name change and have them passed by the general membership. All of our Locals passed these resolutions by early June, and with that we scheduled a special convention for September 15.

At this special convention, the resolution to change our name to the "Public and Private Workers of Canada" was unanimously passed. It was a truly monumental day for our union, and the name is one which we trust will serve us well into the future.

*continued on page 5*



VOL. 52 NO. 2  
JUL-DEC 2015

**Boycott**  
Union workers  
organize boycott of  
potato chips

**5**

**Water Act**  
BC government  
plans to replace  
existing Act

**10**

**Log exports**  
Cutting exports  
could create jobs in  
BC

**14**

# “It is a chance to show respect and to remember those who have gone before us, as they campaigned for workers’ rights.”

## WHAT IS IN OUR NAME CHANGE?

What is in a name change? Does it change who we were? Of course not. Does it change who we are or does it reflect on who we have become, where we want to go?

We are only the keepers of the keys today. Our forebears passed the keys to us and we will pass them as well, but during our care, we have responsibility to understand our purpose.

What is our purpose? I believe it is to protect, to evoke fairness, equality, to grow our message of independence and the rights of all. Everybody deserves this. Everybody deserves us. So what is in our name change? To allow all the message of our past, our present, and our future.

**Todd Smith**

*Local 5*

NEW WESTMINSTER

## WHAT IS LABOUR DAY AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

For me it is a chance to show respect and to remember those who have gone before us, as they campaigned for workers’

rights, namely: fair wages, vacations, safe working conditions, weekends, workers’ rights, universal healthcare, child labour laws, labour reforms, 40-hour work weeks, and a plethora of other benefits. Things not freely given by employers but fought for by unions and their members as they endured strikes that were more often than not perilous, both financially and physically, to the people and their families on picket lines.

It is easy today to believe that these rights were always ours, and many employers and governments would like for the general public to think that they were the ones fighting for workers. However, it is only the union movement that has achieved this through the solidarity of their membership and the willingness of the rank and file to endure grueling attacks from industry, authorities and state. People have lost their homes, their livelihoods and even lives for the betterment of society.

You do not have to go back very far into our history to see the strife the coal miners were subjected to as they fought for

the things we, as a society, accept as minimum standards. These men and their families were forced from their homes by armed militia hired by corporations and endorsed by the dominion of the day, all in the name of profits. Some of these men were subject to prison time and others were murdered outright as they protested what they believed were rights all people are entitled to.

Eventually, through the last 100 years, more and more rights were fought for and earned by workers. These trickled down to all workers over time, and even non-union workers enjoy benefits won by the sweat and blood of those who have gone before us. We need to remind ourselves of this from time to time, and Labour Day does just that.

The fight for labour equality is far from over. We are constantly under attack by corporations and the political powers who serve them. In third world countries, unions are still being assailed or outlawed, strikes are deemed illegal and many of those partaking are sent to prison. Union leaders are routinely murdered in places such as Colombia and

Turkey. As the third world industrializes, unions will have a key role in fighting for the rights of workers in their bid to share in the profits generated by their labour and efforts.

The PPWC is an independent Canadian union for Canadian workers. We represent pulp and paper, sawmills, colleges, hospital workers, recycling plants, and other diverse operations. We advocate for workers’ rights that are constantly threatened by legislation aimed at further turning the balance of power from workers back to corporations. We, as a union, have recognized that we need to change as the world changes around us. We have and continue to evolve in a bid to stay relevant in this global economy. We had a special convention to change our name from “Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada” to “Public and Private Workers of Canada”. With this name change we look forward to a future whilst remembering and respecting the past. Labour Day is also the opportunity to do just that.

**Gary Fiege**

*Local 2*

CROFTON

# Will Trudeau keep his promises?

BY RON RICHARDSON EDITOR

**A**NOTHER FEDERAL election has come and gone and the tides have changed. It is a Red tide, that's for sure. I and many others were not prepared for the political landslide that occurred. I realized Harper would be out but not with the Trudeau Liberal majority that we saw. What happened to the NDP? What was thought to be Red and Orange turned out to be Red and Blue. But any change is a good change, I guess.

Now that it is a Trudeau government, let us hope Justin is forthcoming with all of his campaign promises, especially the promises of siding with labour. He promised to repeal the two bills that are really putting unionism into hardship: Bills C-377 and C-525. I believe getting rid of these two bills will, as Justin said, restore the fundamental rights unions have been working so hard to secure, such as being able to bargain collectively in good faith, organize freely, and work in safe environments.

Trudeau also mentioned he would work on making changes to Bill C-51. His statement was that he “would repeal all the problematic elements of the Bill and introduce new legislation that better balances our collective security with our rights and freedoms”. I hope he is truthful to what he is saying because this bill is going to make it pretty hard for us to do our jobs without being labeled terrorists.

Another issue I am going to be watching for is the stopping of Harper's plan to get rid of Canada Post's door-to-door mail delivery. This will stop the dismantling of thousands of letter carrier jobs, and also make the lives of many seniors and disabled persons much easier because they will not have to go out into the elements to retrieve their mail.

I PERSONALLY AM looking forward to the day I will not have to pay so much tax, but this will only happen if Justin goes through with his promise to put more taxes on richer Canadians and corporations and drop the taxes to the middle class.

I would really like to see the Trudeau Liberal

government implement a strong version of an apprenticeship program that would encourage employers to hire internally for trades jobs. I believe, if employers would hire from within, this would pump up morale and keep employees for long term. This is a win-win situation for both.

ANOTHER OF Trudeau's promises I hope he is going to keep is the retirement security one. This may not affect me at this very moment but, in 15 or 20 years down the line, I hope to be able to retire with some kind of Canada pension.

In Trudeau's speeches, he mentioned he planned to enhance the Canada Pension Plan and restore the eligibility for Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement to the age of 65. He also made it clear he was not going to do away with the Pension Income Splitting for seniors, so this is still a good thing for seniors.

I know I am rambling about what the Liberals promised and what I hope they will accomplish. I have a couple of young adult children who are just now going for some kind of education in either the trades or some other form of

post-secondary education. They will also be venturing out into the workforce. This government will be the government that will affect how they will make out in the future, or at least for the next four years.

In closing, even though I was not totally happy with the outcome of this federal election, the one thing most of us can agree on is that it is a good thing there is no more Harper government.

I hope Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is ready for what is ahead for him. All I can say to him is “good luck”.

**I BELIEVE GETTING RID OF THESE TWO BILLS WILL, AS JUSTIN SAID, RESTORE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS UNIONS HAVE BEEN WORKING SO HARD TO SECURE.**



**LOCALS** • *Members report on activities of their Locals at December National Executive Board meeting* • *Members at Ladysmith Sawmill ratify new collective agreement* **6**

**PROVINCIAL** • *PPWC awards Angus Macphee and Orville Braaten Memorial Bursaries* • *People come out to hear about problems plaguing forest industry* **8**

## Canada gets sued under Free Trade Agreement

### Companies sue Canada under NAFTA for trying to protect its environment

IN RETALIATION for President Obama's rejection of the Keystone XL Pipeline, Canadian company TransCanada is suing the US government for a whopping \$15 billion.

The company's complaint? That the rejection, widely applauded by environmental groups, violates the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA) rules and cuts into its profits. "TransCanada has been unjustly deprived of the value of its multibillion-dollar investment by the US administration's action," it said in a recent release. The lawsuit was filed under Chapter 11 of the NAFTA, which deals with the investor-state dispute process. Critics of NAFTA have long warned the process for resolving disputes between investors and governments put corporate profits ahead of public and civil society interest, especially when it comes to the environment.

#### 1 Ethyl Corporation

Having banned MMT, a chemical additive to gasoline suspected of being a neurotoxin capable of

causing severe health risks such as Alzheimer's disease, the Canadian government was forced to pay \$13 million USD in an out-of-court settlement in 1997.

Ethyl, the Virginia-based company exporting MMT to Canada, forced the settlement by threatening a lawsuit against the Canadian government, saying that its commercial rights had been "expropriated" by the ban.

#### 2 S.D. Myers Inc.

In 1998, the US toxic waste disposal company challenged a temporary ban on exports of PCBs.

Despite the Canadian government's argument that it was bound to ban the export of PCBs by international treaty, a NAFTA tribunal ruled the ban violated Chapter 11 and awarded S.D. Myers some \$5 million in damages plus interest.

#### 3 Sun Belt Inc.

The same year American water giant challenged British Columbia's water protection legislation along with its moratorium on exports of bulk water from the province, making a claim to NAFTA under

Chapter 11's "expropriation" clause and demanding \$10.5 billion.

#### 4 V.G. Gallo

A Canadian company had planned to dispose of Toronto's municipal waste by dumping it in a huge, artificial lake located at the site of the former Adams Lake Mine in northern Ontario.

In 2002, the company allegedly transferred control of the project to a numbered company involving American citizen V.G. Gallo. In June 2004, the newly-elected Ontario government enacted legislation to stop the project from moving forward by banning the dumping of garbage into the province's lakes. Gallo sued for \$105 million.

#### 5 Bilcon Inc.

The American corporation proposed to build a massive quarry and marine terminal on the Digby Neck, an environmentally sensitive part of southwestern Nova Scotia.

In 2007, a joint federal-provincial environmental assessment panel recommended the project be rejected due to its likely adverse environmental impacts. Both the Canadian and Nova Scotian governments informed Bilcon they were rejecting the proposed quarry and terminal.

Bilcon Inc. then filed for more than \$100 million in damages.

- Adapted from *Press Pogress*

# Potato chip union workers organize boycott

WORKERS AT A successful start-up potato chip company in Hartland, NB, are organizing a boycott of their product, saying it's the only way to gain traction in an ongoing labour dispute.

Thirty-two unionized employees at Covered Bridge Potato Chip Factory are in a labour dispute with the company over pay and seniority.



“That’s why the people approached us to unionize,” said Carl Flanagan, a national UFCW representative. “It was all about the favouritism, so that somebody who’s been here five years should not get less hours than somebody who just started a month ago.”

With chips still coming off the assembly line, workers hope the boycott will steer negotiations back to the bargaining table.

“One is for all the employees to be out here and have no scab labour and the other is to hurt his sales so that if he is producing he can’t sell it,” said Flanagan.

In a statement, Covered Bridge Potato Chip Factory president Ryan Albright says he wants customers and suppliers to know the labour dispute is a “small bump in the road that many family run businesses encounter”.

“We are motivated to getting past this,” said Albright in the statement. “All production and business operations will continue without a slip in quality or service.”

The picketing employees hope they can get back to work soon.

“But I’ve accepted that if I don’t get my job back, hopefully I’ve made a difference for those coming,” said striking employee Betty Demerchant.

No negotiation talks are currently on the calendar.

- CTV Atlantic

## History remembers

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

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68)

## Labour movement

“Today, although there are still sweatshops and other inhumane working conditions for many workers around the world, the labor 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 labor.”

- Robert Alan Silverstein, American writer, author, and social activist



## Development of civilization

“The development of civilization and industry in general has always shown itself so active in the destruction of forests that everything that has been done for their conservation and production is completely insignificant in comparison.”

- Karl Marx (1818-83), German philosopher and political economist

## DELEGATES VOTE

*continued from page 1*

Now that we had the name, we had to take steps to make it official to the outside world. Each Local had to apply to the Labour Relations Board for new certificates and recognition. New charters need to be drawn up, stationery changed, flags need to be redone, signs altered, banks notified, and new logo wear ordered. This has been a huge undertaking, one which never could have happened without support from the NEB, the Locals, office staff, legal representation and, most importantly, the rank-and-file membership.

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

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## LOCAL 26

CASTLEGAR

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### Committee signs off on agreement

The Ministry of Advanced Education has announced their \$14.2 million contribution towards Selkirk's Silver King campus renewal and replacement project.

The Bargaining Committee has signed off on a new collective agreement and is hoping to see it ratified by Dec. 7. As part of the 5.5 per cent/5 years economic stability mandate, the government also included an "economic stability dividend" clause designed to ensure government employees under this mandate share the benefits when economic growth exceeds expectations. Apparently, this will give us a further 0.45 per cent increase at some point.

NIKI MENARD, NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 18

MACKENZIE

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### Local votes to rejoin the CCU

On Nov. 15, we voted in favour of returning to the CCU. Frank was in attendance and watched the moment happen. I am excited to be involved in the next step, and was lucky enough to be chosen as the delegate for CCU meetings and events.

In the same meeting, I was fortunate enough to become our NEB member, as well as the presi-

dent of our Local for another year.

This meeting marked our closing nominations for our executive positions, and there wasn't as much involvement as I would have hoped, but we did fill some vital positions.

In mill news, our transporter sailed on Nov. 16. She is officially on the water. I watched the moment she left, and even bought an expensive bottle of champagne to christen her for PPWC. This is a big deal, not only to our mill but to our community. Twenty new fists in the air means good things to the community. This brings our membership to approximately 230 people.

NATHAN BLACKLER,  
NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 15

KIMBERLEY

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### Table officers for 2016 are elected

Currently at Skookumchuck we have 213 union employees.

We have completed the elections of our table officers for the upcoming year and will be seeing some new faces around the table. Our new president is Tim Strachan. Our first vice-president again is Ryan Grier, who will also be our new NEB member. Our new second vice-president is Eric Smyth. Returning as treasurer is Mario Araujo. The recording secretary will again be Len Pepper.

As we come to the close of a very historic year and look forward to the upcoming contract negoti-

ations, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the work you do. It has been an honour and a privilege to work beside you all. Carry on the good fight.

JEREMY CHRISTENSEN,  
NEB MEMBER

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## LOCAL 9

PRINCE GEORGE

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### Local makes holidays happier

I had the pleasure of making three donations on behalf of the Local to charities in our area. The Local made donations to the Elder Citizens Recreation Centre to purchase a stove, to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, and to the 100 Mile House Food Bank.

Local wise, we have our annual Christmas dinner and dance, where we take a moment to honour this year's retirees and, more importantly, have a good time among fellow Local 9 members and their guests.

At Canfor Pulp, we have 22 apprentices at our site. This includes 8 millwrights, 7 instrumentation, 4 pipefitters, and 3 electricians. We also have one more on the way.

At Chemtrade, there is one instrumentation apprenticeship right now.

At Norbord, there are 3 millwright and 1 electrical apprenticeships on the books.

CHUCK LEBLANC,  
NEB MEMBER

## Ladysmith Sawmill ratifies collective agreement

**T**HERE ARE 252 members working Harmac at the moment.

We had a mock mill evacuation on Nov. 17. It went very well. The Safety Committee is going over the event to see if there were any deficiencies.

The OH&S Committee is auditing the Injury Prevention Plan throughout the mill at this time.

We have hired a millwright and are looking for one more. The millwright apprentice has been selected. We are still hiring for the labour pool, and lots of training is going on for impending retirements.

At Ladysmith Sawmill Division, we have had a \$1.2 million capital investment into the sawmill, putting a stick placer into the mill stacker. They will also be consolidating the quad saws line and operating only on the canter come the new year, increasing the recovery for the logs we put through the mill.

Mid October came with the signing of our new collective agreement. This agreement took almost a full year to settle. I think this contract will bring stability and money into the pockets of our members, with wage increases and lump-sum signing bonuses in every year. This deal should keep the mill running for a few more years.

We are currently operating on two shifts with 67 full-time members.

At Chemainus Value Added Division, they have one shift going right now with a second one on and

off. They are having fibre supply problems. They have 72 members at the moment.

The collective agreement is up in October next year, and they are having their committee elections next month.

Long Hoh has 49 members. The current contract expires in March, 2016. We have recently elected a Negotiations Committee consisting of three members.

We have seen a recent wave of training going on: forklifts and loader operators, graders, barkermen, and chipper men. Our custom-cut cedar mill has been down for the last few months, but we are now starting to see some orders come in and that ball is now rolling.

At Canexus, we have 15 members. The total concern of all employees at this certification is on maintaining employment. Canexus management announced a month ago the intended “business combination” with Superior Plus. The merger would engage Erco Worldwide with Canexus and possibly lead to rationalizations of production.

LES HILLIER, NEB MEMBER

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LOCAL 1  
CASTLEGAR

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## Mercer spends on upgrades

Our current membership sits at 290 unionized employees, with the company looking to make a few temporary employees (working in our oiling department) full time.

Our Automation and Job Evaluation Committees will be busy in the next few months, as they look at the effects of the “restructuring” we are going through since the 65 buyouts.

As safety is pushed to the forefront, we have not yet felt any results from DuPont Sustainable Solutions but know it is not far away. We have been told at toolbox meetings that changes are coming.

Our mill is in the middle of a guarding project pushed by WCB (WorkSafeBC). They now have our #2 bail line completely enclosed with five-foot-high fencing with doors in logical spots. The line will not run with a door open, and it is sure to make maintenance on the line challenging. This, too, will be coming to a pulp mill near you.

Mercer has announced an extra \$11 million to be spent on upgrades to the mill, over and above the \$23 million spent annually, with money going to our blow tank to increase capacity after the digester, and funds being spent on recaust. Mercer is also looking to spend an additional \$14-17 million on our wood room, which would give us the ability to process waste wood.

NEIL BERMEL, NEB MEMBER

## Totally useless information

- Only bird that can fly backwards: hummingbird.
- Only continent without reptiles or snakes: Antarctica.
- Only animal besides human that can get sunburn: pig.
- Ostriches stick their heads in the sand to look for water.
- In the Caribbean there are oysters that can climb trees.
- Polar bears are left-handed.
- The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.
- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- Mark Twain didn't graduate from elementary school.
- Proportional to their weight, men are stronger than horses.



- Your nose and ears never stop growing.
- Jupiter is bigger than all the other planets in our solar system combined.
- Hot water is heavier than cold.
- The parachute was invented by da Vinci in 1515.
- Cream does not weigh as much as milk.
- Starfish have eight eyes: one at the end of each leg.
- First novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer.
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.
- Men get hiccups more often than women.

## PPWC awards bursaries

In December, 2015, PPWC selected recipients for the Angus Macphee and Orville Braaten Memorial Bursaries.

The successful applicant of the Angus Macphee Memorial Bursary, Samantha Rigby, is in the fifth and final year of the Elementary Teacher Education program, and is the daughter of Ed Rigby of Local 1 and Julie Rigby of Local 26.



PPWC Local 9 President Chuck LeBlanc presents Orville Braaten Memorial Bursary to Romy De Kok

Romy De Kok, the successful applicant of the Orville Braaten Memorial Bursary, is in the fifth year of the Bachelor of Social Work program, and is the daughter of Antonius De Kok of Local 9.

## Williston Transporter sets sail

The Williston Transporter set sail on November 16. The transporter was recently recommissioned and upgraded to bring logs down Williston Lake to the Canfor sawmill in Mackenzie. It can carry a maximum load of 6,000 cubic metres of logs, or the equivalent of 100 log trucks at one time. Hopes are that the transporter will be able to deliver 5 round trips in 14 days.



Paul Leavitt looks on while Jamie French, PPWC Local 18's Marine Officer, christens the Williston Transporter

## People gather to hear about BC's forest industry

**O**N OCTOBER 30 in Duncan, PPWC members stood beside community members, Unifor brothers and sisters, and were supported by Ken Wu and the Ancient Forest Alliance.

There were close to 100 people who came out and wanted to hear about the many problems plaguing our forest industry. One of the major problems is the exporting of raw logs from our coast. Exporting raw logs diminishes the value for our forestry products. These logs are exported at the lowest possible value for our resource, starving our mills of fibre and causing mills to search outside sources for fibre supplies, unable to rely on local harvests here on the coast.

Close to 6.5 million cubic metres are exported annually. PPWC mills use almost 12 million cubic metres annually, meaning that over half the consumption of our mills' timber supply is exported! If you take all the exported logs, load them onto logging trucks, and start lining them up in Vancouver, they would stretch to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

We need a government in power that has the courage to tackle this problem:

- Stop the short-sighted forestry practices of large corporations that rule the coastal forest sector.
- Quickly phase out old-growth logging and transition to second- and third-growth manufacturing facilities.
- Leave our old-growth forests and their precious ecosystems intact for future generations and for the species that inhabit those areas.

We must be active and make our voices heard, as our livelihoods will be affected if these short-sighted practices continue. One voice can go unheard, but the voices of the 3,000 members the PPWC has can be loud.

CAM SHIELL, FOREST RESOURCE OFFICER



(L to r) Doug Routley, MLA for Nanaimo-North Cowichan and New Democrat Opposition Deputy Spokesperson for Forests - Forest Futures, and Cam Shiell, PPWC Forest Resource Officer, speak at rally



# BC government plans to replace existing *Water Act*

**T**HE BC GOVERNMENT plans to implement the new *Water Sustainability Act*, Bill 18, in early 2016 to replace the existing *Water Act*. The *Act* provides new policy directions, but how these policies will be implemented will be provided in regulations and operational policies that are to be developed over the next several years. Below are the policies highlighted by the government and some limitations and suggestions for improvement from Emma Lui, Water Campaigner for The Council of Canadians, and information from the West Coast Environmental Law website.

## 1 Protect stream health and aquatic environments

The new *Act* requires the government to consider environmental flow needs in new water allocation decisions. The government will have to determine what the environmental flows should be to prevent irreversible harm to ecosystems and fish populations. These considerations only apply to new licences, not to licences from the previous *Act*, which may already have an impact on environmental flows.

## 2 Consider water in land use decisions

Section 43 of the *Act*, Water Objectives, supports policies and objectives towards sustaining water quality, water quantity, and aquatic ecosystems. A recent study by hydrogeologist Tim Gleeson finds just 6 per cent of the groundwater around the world is replenished and renewed within a human lifetime of 50 years. This water tends to be mainly within a few hundred metres of the surface and is vulnerable to pollution, higher temperatures, and reduced rainfall as a result of climate change.

## 3 Regulate groundwater use

Surface and groundwater will be managed as a single resource. The *Act* does extend the First In Time, First In Rights (FITFIR) system of water allocation to groundwater. FITFIR means older licences that were granted before environmental flows were a consideration will continue without consideration. An example

would be Nestle for water bottling. The production process requires three to five litres of water to produce a one-litre bottle of bottled water.

## 4 Regulate during scarcity

Section 22, Precedence of Rights, sets out FITFIR, but allows a basic amount of water use for essential household needs, and protection for environmental flows. Section 88 replaces and expands on the current provisions of the *Fish Protection Act*, Section 9. If the flow of water in a stream becomes so low the survival of a population of fish is threatened, the Minister may issue a fish protection order restricting all uses of water from a stream, its tributaries, and hydraulically-connected aquifers regardless of Section 22. If BC does restrict a licence because of drought or fish protection,

**“These considerations only apply to new licences, not to licences in the previous *Act*.”**

under NAFTA, CETA and the TPP, companies could launch a trade challenge and sue for compensation. Nestle takes 265 million litres a year while the district of Hope was experiencing Level 4 drought conditions.

## 5 Improve security, water use efficiency, conservation

Section 30, Beneficial Use, requires all persons who divert water must use it beneficially. The concepts of making efficient use of water and not to waste water have been added into the *Act*. The *Act* does not recognize water as a human right. The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing the human right to water and sanitation. Enshrining the human right to water in the *Act* would ensure people living in indigenous and Canadian communities are legally entitled to sufficient quantities of safe, clean drinking water, and water for sanitation, and would require access inequalities be addressed.

## 6 Measure and report

The new *Act* expands on current provisions and provides regulation-making authority for measuring, calculating and reporting on the quantity and quality of water diverted and used. BC has mapped just 1,110 of an estimated several thousand aquifers. Some of the

*continued on page 11*

# BC's food system relies on vulnerable migrant workers

**A** NEW STUDY finds that citizenship status plays a key role in farmworker safety, and recommends significant changes to immigration policies to protect this vulnerable workforce.

“Many British Columbians are probably unaware that immigrants and migrants make up nearly 100 per cent of our farmworkers,” says Gerardo Otero, lead author of the study. “About half are South Asian immigrants and the other half Mexican migrants. And these workers, especially the migrants, are very vulnerable to exploitation.”

Otero and his team carried out interviews with 200 farmworkers, as well as representatives from industry, advocates and civil servants. They found that most workers are subject to hazardous conditions like unsafe transportation, substandard living conditions, long work hours and dangerous equipment. Employment standards for the agricultural sector are only loosely enforced.

In 2003, 98 per cent of agricultural workers were

South Asian immigrants, but as of 2012, fully half are Mexican migrants. These workers are even more vulnerable to exploitation, as they enter Canada with time-limited, employer-specific work permits. Employers have the power to deport workers, or to give them negative evaluations at the end of the season, making it unlikely they will be rehired. Migrants, as opposed to immigrants who are citizens or permanent residents, are not on a path towards citizenship, which would offer some protection from employer abuses.

The study includes a number of recommendations for government and industry, including:

- Granting immigrant status to farmworkers on arrival; these workers would then have a path to citizenship after three years if they choose to apply.
- Establishing an employment compliance team, whose mandate would include random spot-checks at worksites to enforce employment standards. Priorities would include safe transportation and housing.
- Reforming MSP so that agricultural workers receive health coverage immediately upon arrival in Canada; this is already done in Ontario.
- Registering migrant employers and recruiters, so that they can be held accountable if they violate workers' rights, as has been done in Manitoba.

*The study is available on the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives' website: [www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca).*



**PPWC Environmental Officer Michael Scott and his mother, Ellie Scott, participate in the rally in Duncan**

## BC GOVERNMENT

*continued from page 10*

money earned from the rates would expand mapping in priority aquifers over the next two years. Licences in the *Act* are reviewed 30 or more years after they come into effect. Also in the *Act* is a new power for the government to issue repeat short-term authorizations to the same person for the same purpose. Short-term water use approvals have less transparency since information has generally not been available like the information on licences and far less information is required for short-term approval.

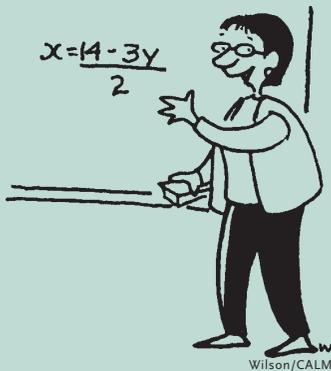
### **7 Enable a range of governance approaches**

The *Act* provides for regulation-making authorities for implementing the administration and governance framework in the *Act*. The regulations can provide for dual enforcement authorities and the decisions of the delegated person or entity must be reported.

MICHAEL SCOTT, ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

## Union troubles

- The Orange Juice Workers organized because so many of the employees were getting canned. Their employers were putting the squeeze on their workers to the point that they could no longer concentrate.
- The Math Teachers Union had too many problems while the English Teachers Union had no class. The administrators did not organize because of the principal of the thing.



- The dentists, however, had to organize because their work was hand to mouth. They found that getting dentists to cooperate was like pulling teeth and they had a lot of holes to fill. But they succeeded because they had a lot of pull when the dentists were down in the mouth.
- The Manicurist's Union has its hands full making certain its members get paid any time they lift a finger.
- The Tailors Union found out that many of their members were not suited for the job. It didn't matter because the work was just sew-sew. The members hemmed and hawed at being buttonholed because they felt the union was skirting the issue.



## Conditions at HMP are “deplorable”

The president of NAPE says the conditions inside Her Majesty's Penitentiary are “indescribable” and “deplorable”.

Corrections officers protested outside HMP in St. John's on Nov. 13 to highlight what they call unsafe working conditions.

Plans to replace the aging facility have been put on hold. Workers say conditions at the Pen are so bad they make their jobs unsafe, and they're calling for the resignation of Superintendent of Prisons Owen Brophy.

NAPE President Jerry Earle says even he didn't appreciate how bad it was at the facility until earlier this year. Earle says some parts of the facility are 150 years old and running on patchwork solutions that will not work forever.

## PM Trudeau hits reset button with labour movement

CWA Canada President Martin O'Hanlon was among a gathering of union leaders who heard from Justin Trudeau on Nov. 10 that he is hitting the reset button on the federal government's dealings with the labour movement.

The new Prime Minister said in his speech to the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) that he looks forward to working together with labour on a common goal of a better future for families.

It was the first time since 1958 that a sitting prime minister had addressed the CLC. More than 120 labour leaders and representatives

were in Ottawa for a meeting of the Canadian Council, a democratically elected group that governs the CLC between its national conventions.

“We were happy to welcome the Prime Minister to our meeting, and to hear him recommit to repealing the former Conservative government's anti-union legislation, C-377 and C-525,” CLC President Hassan Yussuff.

“We look forward to working with the Prime Minister and his cabinet on a number of issues that are priorities for working Canadians.”

## Global union organizations back Korean union

The ITUC and ITF (International Transport Workers) have swung into action to support a Korean trade union facing state victimization. Both bodies are mobilizing their global networks of affiliated unions to protest to the Korean government following a raid by 200 police officers against the Korean Public Service and Transport Workers' Union (KPTU), and the brutal arrests of seven union members.

The KPTU reports that this latest attack on the Korean labour movement comes in response to KPTU drivers' struggles for union recognition, safe rates and dignity. It has appealed for unions worldwide to register their protests. Its president, Sangsu Jo, said: “Many unions around the world have already expressed their willingness to stand in solidarity with us. This outpouring of support is greatly appreciated and is much needed to stop further repression.”

# G20 recognizes inequality as risk to growth

G20 LEADERS AT the Antalya Summit have acknowledged that reducing inequality, creating jobs, and ensuring inclusion are essential to generate a stable economy. The summit took place in the shadow of terrorism, the flight of refugees from fear, and the threat of further economic crisis.

For the first time in a Leaders' statement, the G20 acknowledged that rising inequality is a major risk to "social cohesion...and our objective to lift growth" and called on "Finance Labour and Employment Ministers to review growth strategies and employment plans to strengthen action against inequality". They committed to implementing the G20 Policy Priorities on Labour Income Share and Inequalities that recognize the need to strengthen labour market institutions, the role of minimum wages and collective bargaining. However, this will mean nothing unless there is national commitment to implement the priorities, warned the Labour 20 (L20).

With global unemployment still 30 per cent above the level before the crisis, and the global jobs gap forecast to rise to 80 million by 2018, and the risk of further recession, action is needed in the short term to raise growth.

The L20 welcomed the statement on refugees, as the world faces the biggest refugee crisis since WWII, and the reference to climate.

"The crisis of refugees is recognized and there is a call for humanitarian support, responsibility for providing safe haven, and the financial support for poorer economies, but there are no specific commitments and the central issue of the right to work for refugees is missing," said Sharan Burrow, ITUC General Secretary.

"The focus is now on leaders at the COP21 to negotiate an ambitious and legally binding agreement that keeps the world's temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius, delivers on the promise of \$100 billion in finance for developing countries by 2020, and has a mandatory review mechanism," said Burrow.

The L20 Summit in Antalya began the groundwork for the labour and social input to the Chinese Presidency of the G20 in 2016.

"The world needs hope, and with control of 85 per cent of the global economy and the majority of the world's population, the G20 must act with greater coordination and build on these commitments in China," said Sharan Burrow.

- [www.ituc-csi.org](http://www.ituc-csi.org)

## PPWC supports workers on strike in Prince Edward Island

The members of NSUPE Local 19 in Prince Edward Island have been on strike for 16 weeks. They walked off the job on Labour Day and, as I write this article, there is every indication they will still be out at Christmas. The workers are employees of Canadian Blood Services. They are the people who deal with the public and do the real work in blood collection. They provide a vital service to our healthcare system.

The employer is determined to provide no guaranteed hours. Canadian Blood Services wants a part-time, on-demand workforce with no guaranteed income and no benefits. The union believes that CBS is cutting clinic hours and shutting down clinics in an attempt to create an artificial blood shortage in order to convince government blood collection services should be privatized.

The strikers have picketed CBS locations in PEI, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Ontario. The CCU

organized a picket of the employer's offices in Vancouver, which many PPWC members attended. The PPWC and its Locals have made generous financial contributions to the striking workers.

Recently, talks have broken down again, just after the strikers traveled to Ottawa to meet with Graham Sher, the CEO of Canadian Blood Services. In the meeting, the CEO made it clear the employer was not prepared to budge on the issue of guaranteed hours for the workers. This same CEO has a guaranteed wage of over \$750,000 per year.

The Confederation of Canadian Unions thanks the members of the Public and Private Workers of Canada for the support and solidarity you have shown to our striking comrades from NSUPE Local 19. The workers united can never be defeated.

*John Hanrahan is President of the Confederation of Canadian Unions.*

# Here's how cutting log exports could create BC jobs

**S** EVEN YEARS ago, workers at the Harmac pulp mill near Nanaimo defied the odds and hung onto their jobs at a time when so many of their counterparts at other mills in British Columbia were losing theirs.

Each worker scraped together \$25,000 and three local investment groups pooled resources to save the pulp mill from being closed. Today it is one of only a few left on BC's coast.

By the end of 2012, thanks to the sacrifice of its workers and prudent investments by its management team, Harmac's 320 union and salaried employees received dividends for the first time since the employee-led rescue operation.

You don't hear success stories like this often, but you could. One option is for the provincial government to embrace new policies that encourage more domestic manufacturing, policies that also enhance the strength of existing mills like Harmac.

Despite obvious successes, significant challenges still remain for the pulp mill, challenges that Arnold Bercov, head of the Public and Private Workers of Canada (formerly the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada), believes must be overcome if the mill is to continue to thrive.

What distresses Bercov is the enormous number of raw, unprocessed logs that leave British Columbia's coast each year, aided by export policies that act as a disincentive to investments in new mills that would put people back to work.

In BC, logs deemed "surplus" to domestic needs can be exported. Bercov says such policies actually encourage certain companies to take the easy way out: to close mills, put people out of work, and export logs rather than make forest products here at home.

Last year, BC companies exported 6.26 million cubic metres of raw, unprocessed logs. Most went to buyers in China. Exporters included companies that are solely in the business of selling raw logs, companies that own some mills but that used to own many more,

and some First Nations who have no nearby mills to purchase their logs. To put such exports into perspective, carpenters could frame nearly 165,000 average-size North American homes with that much wood.

But BC's and Canada's economy isn't just smarting from such lost economic opportunities. Equally problematic is the perverse outcome our export policies have on mills such as Harmac.

It could be said that BC's log-export policies actually subtract, rather than add, value from logs.

Here's how. When sawmills turn round logs into rectangular lumber pieces, tonnes of wood chips and sawdust are generated. Historically, that so-called "waste" fed pulp mills such as Harmac.

**"Last year, BC companies exported 6.26 million cubic metres of raw, unprocessed logs."**

Now, BC's dearth of sawmills means that Harmac is forced to get nearly 600,000 cubic metres of wood per year—roughly one-third of its total raw material needs—from running whole logs directly through giant chipping

machines. The practice is expensive and represents a huge loss in potential forest industry jobs in BC.

Instead of logs first being turned into lumber products at mills where hundreds of people could be working, and then shipping the so-called "waste" from those sawmills to pulp mills, massive numbers of logs are exported, forcing companies into the uneconomic and wasteful practice of directly chipping logs.

More troubling, hemlock logs are among the most commonly exported. China last year alone purchased nearly three million cubic metres of hemlock, a species that must be dried to achieve maximum value and for which pulp mills, with all the energy and heat they produce, are ideally suited to do.

Harmac's management team would like nothing better than to see a sawmill built nearby and more mills on the coast, Bercov says. Mills focused on processing hemlock logs from second-growth as opposed to old-growth forests. But for that to happen, the provincial government needs to rethink its export policies.

One way to do that, Bercov argues, is for the province to encourage companies to work actively with First

*continued on page 15*

## KENT ROWLEY

*continued from page 16*

He reminded delegates of some of the more significant aspects of labour history in Canada and clearly illustrated how capable Canadians had proven themselves in the field of organizing. “We need no assistance to run Unions in Canada,” he said. “We’ve been doing it for 100 years already.”

**PAST LESSONS** Delving back some thirty years, Bro. Rowley related how he had been an international union delegate to the 1937 A.F. of L. Convention in Denver when the C.I.O. were expelled. Although the Canadian members of the old Trades and Labour Congress, forerunner of the C.L.C., were opposed to the expulsion in Canada, the American unions forced the split, he said.

The main issue at a Trades and Labour Congress convention in Victoria 20 years ago was the independence of the Congress from U.S. control, said Bro. Rowley, who at that time was a Vice-President of the United Textile Workers of America. Although Canadian independence was won at the convention, the decision was undemocratically reversed soon after at a secret meeting which was convened in Ottawa with 40 International Union “bosses” in attendance. “I opposed it violently at the time,” said Bro. Rowley, maintaining that it was a historical lesson which clearly showed that “bureaucratic decisions of Unions in the U.S. carried the most weight.”

Because he believed in and advocated democratic methods of arriving at decisions, Bro. Rowley was soon to be fired from his office of Vice-President of the United Textile Workers of America. Delegates were very impressed when Bro. Rowley quoted from figures compiled in Ottawa which clearly indicate that International Unions in Canada take millions of dollars out of our country every year.

Bro. Rowley concluded his address with an invitation to our National Union to affiliate with the Council of Canadian Unions.

*from The Leaflet, November, 1968*

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## HERE'S HOW

*continued from page 14*

Nations on new joint ventures by hiving off a portion of what is logged annually and declaring that such wood is unavailable for export and must be assigned through special bidding processes to new partnerships between First Nations and forest companies.

It's time to stop subtracting value from our forests by allowing raw-log exports based on a false and dangerous “surplus” test, Bercov says.

Instead, let's embrace a new future where we actually log less and process more, where logs pass through many hands here at home rather than directly through our hands to China.

*Ben Parfitt is a resource policy analyst with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.*

*- The Province*



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# Kent Rowley addresses convention

BY FRANK JENNINGS

**K**ENT ROWLEY, Secretary Treasurer of the Council of Canadian Unions and President of the Canadian Textile Workers in Ontario,

addressed our 6th Annual Convention in Prince Rupert.

Bro. Rowley explained that the Council of Canadian Unions came into being in July of this year because of the growing number of independent labour unions and the need of these groups to establish contact with others and discuss their mutual problems. The inaugural conference was conducted with enthusiasm. Bro. Rowley said he felt certain that while its present affiliated membership was relatively small, the Council would continue to grow because of the trend towards more and more independent unions.

**Kent Rowley (right) addresses convention in Local 4's Islander Hall, while PPWC National President Orville Braaten (left) and First Vice-President Gordon Wickham look on**

**AFFILIATES** Listed among the present Council affiliates are the 4,000 Sudbury workers who became independent at the time the International Steelworkers of America took over the Canadian membership of the now defunct Mine Mill and Smelter Workers International Union following a merger deal. It will be recalled that the B.C. Director of the Steelworkers at that time was Pen Baskin, who now holds a \$40,000 a year job with the B.C. Mediation Commission established under Bill 33.

Other affiliates to the Council of Canadian Unions include the Canadian Union of Operating Engineers, who broke away from the International Union of Operating Engineers, in Ontario, the Bricklayers and Masons Independent Union, and the Canadian Textile Council. Bro. Rowley indicated that several other independent unions are looking into the question of affiliation and extended an invitation to our National Union to affiliate.

**UNITY** On the subject of unity, Bro. Rowley maintained that it is the easiest thing in the world to establish provided we are prepared to agree with our enemies. "However, unity of purpose is the aim of the Council," he said, maintaining that "even if the name of the Council is changed at some future date, the idea to co-ordinate interest and advance a common cause will stay."

*continued on page 15*

