



News@Nine



SUMMER 2016

Voice of the Local

PROUDLY CANADIAN

Public and Private workers of Canada !!

Labour Day Picnic



Brought to you by

Public and Private Workers of Canada Local 9 and Unifor Locals 603 & 1133

Monday September 5, 2016

11am to 3pm

A Great Day of Family Fun & Celebration



Games, Face Painting, Drinks, Hamburgers, Hotdogs.

Gather together at Cottonwood Island Park, next to the
Railway Museum on River Road. Event Takes Place Rain or Shine.



August 18, 2016

Hello all,

Wow! where did the summer go? I hope everyone was able to take some time off and enjoy some much needed time away from our places of work.

Even though it's summer time there have been some major changes in our Union. At the National level Louise Soukeroff and Frank Robertson have both retired. Louise was our long time (30 years?) secretary at National. Louise had seen many changes in her years with us but she was always the stability bridging all of these changes. We wish Louise well in her retirement!! With Louise moving on Maggie is now our National secretary. Take a moment and say hi to her!

The other retiree at National is Frank. Frank had been our National 1st Vice for almost 7 years. Before his term at National, Frank was President of Local 9 for 10 years and on numerous committees for many years before that. Frank did a lot of great work at the Local and National level. His spirit of Unionism is second to none. I had the pleasure of working closely with Frank on a number of different avenues and consider him to be my mentor and even more important, a close personal friend. I had the pleasure of presenting small tokens of the Locals appreciation to both Louise and Frank at a small gathering put on by our NEB. Replacing Frank at 1st Vice is Gary Fiege from Local 2 and replacing Gary at 2nd Vice is Todd Smith from Local 5.

In April of this year the pulp side held a week long wage caucus to get prepared for next years' bargaining. The transition of combining the Unifor and PPWC caucus' is going very smoothly. A lot of hard work went into forming our agenda and more hard decisions will also be made in October when we meet again. In the theme of co-operation with Unifor the Local has opened up our annual Labour Day Picnic at Cotton wood Island park to Unifor Locals 603 and 1133. Make sure you get out and talk with our brothers and sisters from Unifor.

Next year also sees us bargaining at Norbord. In September we will be taking nominations for their bargaining committee at their General Membership meeting. If you are interested in letting your name stand for this committee please contact myself or a member of your plant committee for more information.

Always a reminder to get out and attend YOUR membership meetings to have Your say in the running of YOUR Local.

Chuck



What's New In the CCU

In June I attended the CCU Executive board meeting and Labour School held in Charlottetown PEI . On the first day labour school was held, the topic was mental health and the workplace. It is hard to believe that there is so much stress to manage in the workplace - just kidding.

After the morning session of labour school and everyone having a bit of a break everyone converged out front of the hotel and the entire group of delegates marched down the streets of Charlottetown to show solidarity with NSUPE Local 19 who have been on strike for going on a year on Labour Day.

On Day 2 the Executive meeting was held and it was quite eventful. The first piece of business was the Presidents report. John told of how busy he and Frank had been with organizing. They have been going to meet with many like minded unions around our country introducing them to what the CCU does.

Frank Robertson then gave his final report as the First Vice President. In his report he reiterated about the work he and John had been doing with other unions. Frank then gave a heart felt speech on what the CCU meant to him.

After Frank there was an Election for the First Vice position and Kelly Johnson from PPWC Local 1 was successful in becoming the First Vice President.

After the election and a break, the executive reconvened. Treasurer Percy Darbyson gave his first report: things are coming together while in transition from one treasurer to another. There have been some hiccups but everything is looking good on the financial front.

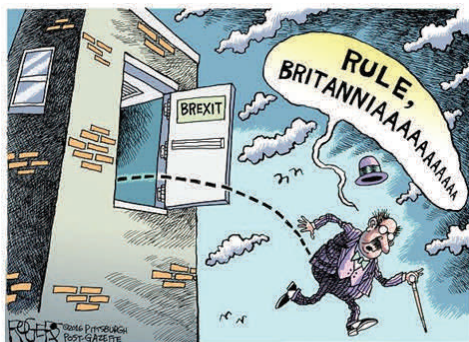
Update as of August 23 2016 NSUPE Local 19 has accepted the latest contract offer!!!!

Ron Richardson, CCU Delegate

Is it just me, or has the world gone completely mad? I can't believe the British voted themselves out of the E.U. without thinking of the consequences. The backlash against immigration seems to have caused all the fuss in the first place, but now that the vote has been cast, Brits seem to want a **re-referendum**.

Has complacency brought us to such drastic change? A lot of young folks did not vote, even though their economic future could be the first casualty. I have never seen such a strong campaign run against something only to have its leadership evaporate when it was time to implement those changes. Rah rah rah, and then a huge vacuum caused by everyone running out of the room!

Leadership requires commitment and strength of character. I think that is where the whole thing turned into a



house of cards. Prime Minister Cameron shouldn't have tinkered with the idea of a referendum. They are not the same as first-past-the-post voting. As a leader who said he believed in staying why would he even go there? Strictly Poor leadership!

Then you look south of the border! What is going on in the American election is just plain goofy! Donald Trump could be running as an independent, using up his own money on his bad ideas, but he's been endorsed by the Republican Party! He went so far in his campaign as to say he would leave the party if he didn't get the nomination; it makes no sense! The Republican Party used to have some values; people earnestly

believed in what the party stood for: It was a unifying force, albeit one that I don't agree with. But the debacle that we see nightly on the news as Mr. Trump spews out ever more crap is the result of a lack of leadership in the Republican Party. They have allowed an ignorant man who lacks principles to represent them. For President!? What the ...!

And why is Mrs. Clinton so hated? Is she too intelligent? Does she work too hard? Are the Americans so afraid of a woman as president that they prefer a man who says he hates everyone, and states his intolerances! Or does she too, lack certain good leadership skills. Caught in lies? Covering up the truth?



Of course Bernie Saunders didn't stand a chance! The only possible leader in the pack, Mr. Trump would have labelled him a Commie if he had got the Democratic endorsement. Americans do not like

communists, and the socialist rhetoric he was putting forward (it may have sounded good to a lot of **us**!) would have trapped him; it would've made an easy win for Mr. Trump.

Mrs. Clinton has made some errors, and she can't sit on her Laurels through the campaign but for the differences between her and Mr. Trump reason begs she take the presidency! It may seem entertaining, but the nuclear arsenal available to the president of the United States makes it no laughing matter. We should all be very aware of the election to the South and pray that reason and good leadership rules the day!

Submitted by Brother Kevin Beyer (for more see page 8)

Another man's opinion

There has been a lot of talk and media hype over the current state of the Canada Post strike or lockout, but no one knows about another Canadian government body that has been in brutal labour negotiations for much longer. The Unionized workers (Public Service Alliance of Canada) for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency have been working without a contract since Dec or 2014. These are the people tasked with inspecting and keeping our food supply safe. The irony I found in doing some research is the collective agreement that expired, was just signed in early October of 2014...the same year it expired. One worker that I happened to be speaking with about contracts said that they realistically have not had a contract that wasn't signed by the time it expired in 13 years.

The employer (Canadian Government) has an unrealistic list of negotiation "demands" for the PSAC. These include cutting sick leave (no more paid sick days), drastically weakening the Short Term Disability leave criteria, decreasing the amount of

vacation time by changing the amount of time between anniversary milestones, decreasing the amount of allowed banked vacation time by 40 hours or more, and removing the option to take vacation pay in a lump sum at the beginning of the year. There are many other concessions on the table from wages, pay scales, hours of work for dayshifts and shift workers, scheduling and overtime, to premium pay and clawing back part of shift differentials.

I find it troubling that the media has played such a huge role in the postal workers strike/lockout, but we've never heard a word about the people taking care of our food supply. Not to downplay the gravity of a full postal service disruption but the way I look at it, ensuring a safe food supply should be seen as at least as important as getting our bills, if not more so. But that's just one man's opinion...

Submitted by brother Steve Etter (for more on Postal Negotiations see page 6)

PPWC FINANCIAL AWARDS

Deadlines and applications etc

Bylaw Article XVIII - Member Services

Section I (Amended)

- A) Local 9 shall make available 3 (three) \$1500 financial awards to students who are enrolled in full time classes of a post- secondary institution in Canada. These awards are open to all students in any program of study; academic technical arts or the trades, who are members, or the spouse, dependant or grandchild of a member of PPWC Local 9.
- B) To be considered for the award an applicant must write a short essay on the benefits of unionism.
- C) A committee will be struck in house, to decide on the recipients of the awards.

Rules & Guidelines

- 1) Each year the selection committee will be chosen by the executive and table officers at an executive meeting prior to the fall academic semester, and no later than September 30th.
- 2) The deadline for application for these financial awards will be no later than September 30th
- 3) Selections will be completed by the committee by October 20th, and awarded by November 1st.
- 4) Any one applicant will not be precluded from receiving an award twice, but preferably not in consecutive years and regardless, no more than twice.
- 5) Proof of relationship can be a note from the member. Proof of membership can be a letter from our office manager or a scan of the members card.
- 6) Proof of enrollment may be a transcript of courses taken and paid for, or receipt of same from the institution. 3 courses are required to be considered as a full time academic program.
- 7) These awards will be advertised in the News at Nine, as well as the TRU and CNC websites (link posted), as a show of our continued support for these institutions.
- 8) UNBC has two dedicated awards already, and students from there will not be precluded from applying for these 3 awards but these awards will not be given concurrently to those
- 9) An applicant who was a full time student in the spring or summer session of an institution but did not apply the previous fall will be allowed to apply for the awards.
- 10) The essay may be as short as 500 words but should be no longer than 2000 words to qualify
- 11) These rules will be made available to applicants.
- 12) The committee may in fact use a lottery system to decide the recipients from accepted applications



Note: Dependant is usually defined in the same regard as medical benefits or bereavement leave: Includes Spouse, son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter, step son or step daughter. If living in a married like relationship, the children of the spouse. A member may also qualify.

PPWC Golf Tournament
Great Success at Aspen Grove In June



INTERESTING STUFF

Canada Post is not fighting workers over the future of mail, they're trying to weaken pensions

What's *really* going on with Canada Post?

Over the last while, a contract dispute between Canada Post and its workers has led to workers being threatened with getting locked out of their jobs by management because management wants to ram through controversial changes to the pensions postal workers fought for and won.

Canada Post's management, appointed by the former Harper government, wants to weaken the company's pension plan for new hires, replacing the current defined benefit system with a defined contribution model. As the CBC explains:

"The former offers plan members a steady monthly cheque every month. But experts say those are costlier to maintain since the onus is on the company to ensure those payments regardless of investment returns. Defined contribution plans, meanwhile, just invest a certain amount on the employee's behalf every month, but offer no guarantee of payments down the line if those investments underperform."

This is strange since at \$22 billion, Canada Post's pension fund is one of the biggest in the country. And although the fund faces liabilities in the long-term (largely due to low interest rates), the fund also ran a surplus of \$1 billion in 2015.

So the fund has plenty of money to pay out workers as they retire, but it would only run into problems if Canada Post went bankrupt or if all of its workers somehow retired tomorrow.

But if you pay any attention to Canada Post's Conservative-appointed management (who also wanted to privatize the crown corporation), they'd have you believe Canada Post needs to adapt to a "changing business reality," while pundits call Canada Post a "sun-setting industry" made obsolete by "Facebook or email."

There's also been a lot of apples and oranges, with one CBC pundit recently comparing Canada Post to Canada's failing "newspaper industry" while another pundit on the same program compared postal workers to "the people who made my 8-track player."

So let's get a few facts straight:

Canada Post continues posting millions in profits

Despite claims that Canada Post is an obsolete and/or dying company, Canada Post has been posting hundreds of millions in profits for the past two decades.

That includes each consecutive year since 2011 (mainly because management locked out workers; a year earlier Canada Post raked in \$314 million in profits).

So, not only is this *not* wasting tax payers money, it's actually *generating a profit* for taxpayers.

Canada Post is still a widely used service

While it's true that fewer people are writing handwritten letters today than they did a century ago, Canada Post is actually delivering more items each year than it did in 1989 – several years *before* the internet really took off.

According to Canada Post, Canadians sent 8.9 billion parcels in 2015, representing two-thirds of all parcels delivered in Canada that year. Revenues from parcel delivery alone have grown by nearly half-a-billion dollars since 2011

Even the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and Conservative Party of Canada admit Canada Post is "essential for small businesses, charity organizations, and entrepreneurs who are the backbone of the Canadian economy."

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

So, ask yourself: how can someone claim no one uses Canada Post anymore at the same time as they claim the economy would screech to a halt if postal service is disrupted?

The Harper government undermined Canada Post for years

In December 2013, Canada Post management – fronted by Harper government appointee Deepak Chopra – announced an "action plan" that included ending home delivery for 5 million Canadians, laying off 8,000 workers and increasing the cost of a letter by 63 cents.



What was behind the move? According to internal documents Harper's Prime Minister's Office conducted a secret study looking at privatizing Canada Post only a few months before management announced it was cutting services, jobs and raising prices.

At the time, both Canada Post management and Lisa Raitt, the Conservative minister responsible for Canada Post, claimed the cuts were necessary to "protect taxpayers" from "continued losses."

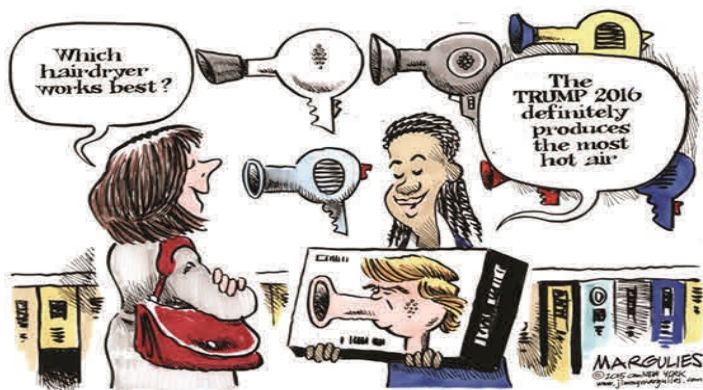
Except those "losses" were self-inflicted by management when they decided to take a hardball approach with 50,000 workers during the 2011 Canada Post lockout.

So, the end result of these unnecessary changes – introduced shortly after Harper studied the idea of privatizing Canada Post – was "worse service at a higher cost."

Several major labour organizations are now calling on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to remove Chopra from his position as Canada Post CEO.

Reprinted from *Press Progress* July 11, 2016.

Submitted by brother [Alex Deevy](#)



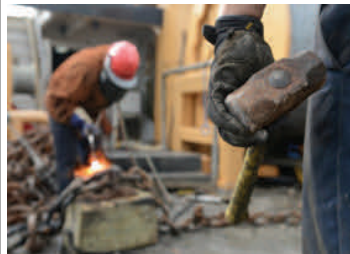
Did You Know? Elections for Table officers are coming up this fall. It's a good time to mull it over and consider running for office or convincing brothers you think would work well for the union, to run for office. We have articles and opinions of how things look south of the border due to the lack of quality candidates running. Help the Local and your brothers out! Run for office! Help us get quality recruits!



Challenging the Stereotype: Working Class White Guys Against Trump

By Leo Gerard / AlterNet , August 2, 2016

Photo Credit: pixabay.com



As Hillary Clinton's "Blue Collar Bus Tour," travels across Pennsylvania and Ohio, I want to tell you about two angry white men I met at the Democratic National Convention last week.

The press would have you believe that all of the angry white men are Trump supporters. This is the stereotype: They are high school educated, gun-totin', flag-wavin', bigots who love the bragging, swaggering bully in Trump.

But that's an easy story. Those guys are easy to find. They fill Donald Trump's stadiums. It's true they're out there. But what's also true is that there's a huge number of high school educated white men who don't go to Trump rallies. They aren't flag waving bigots. These are guys who only carry guns when they are hunting. They're angry, all right. They're angry at being associated with Trump.

Two of them were delegates to the Democratic National Convention last week. Both will be voting for Hillary Clinton and both will be urging their union brothers and sisters to do the same. They are Jim Savage, who is a member and past president of USW Local 10-1, where most members work at Philadelphia Energy Solutions, and Richard Ray, who is a retired member of the USW at Owens-Illinois Inc., having worked at plants in both North Carolina and Georgia.

For Ray, backing Trump would be antithetical to his life-long commitment to organized labor.

Ray joined the American Flint Glass Workers union when he got a job with Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in Durham, N.C. when he was 20 years old. Six months later, he was elected shop steward. He held elected union offices for the next 49 years, all the way up to president of the Georgia State AFL-CIO, always in the not-so-union-friendly South. He became a member of the USW when the glass workers and the steelworkers merged.



Richard Ray

Ray devoted his life to helping the group, getting better wages, benefits and working conditions for his union brothers and sisters. The most vital value to union members, he explains, is "we." The idea, he said, is that everybody helps improve life for everybody: "We are all in it together."

"With Trump, though, it is always, me, me, me," Ray said. What is most important to Donald Trump is Donald Trump.

It is true, Ray noted, that Donald Trump is very rich, that he has done very well for himself. For the "me." But he has also gone bankrupt repeatedly. And when he did, he protected himself at the expense of working guys and small contractors. Trump paid pennies on the dollar to electricians and bricklayers and other skilled laborers. Lots of small contractors in New Jersey lost their family businesses because Trump didn't pay what he owed them.

"He is the only one who came out smelling like a rose," Ray told me. Trump wasn't thinking of the other guy like a union brother or sister would. He was just thinking of Donald Trump.

The same is true with Trump's signature products like suits and ties. Trump could have thought of the "we" and made a little bit less money for himself by manufacturing those products in America. But he didn't. He makes them off shore with exploited foreign labor.

And right now Trump could be helping unemployed Americans, caring about the American "we," but instead he is applying for 78 visas to bring in foreign nationals to work at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida.

Ray told me that, by contrast, when he listens to Hillary Clinton, he hears the opposite. Even her slogan is "stronger together."

He noted that when Hillary Clinton left an Ivy League law school, she could have taken a high-paid job with a law firm and just made money for herself, the way Donald Trump did when he left the Ivy League Wharton School. But instead, Hillary Clinton began working for children with disabilities. And she has been laboring to help people ever since, including securing health insurance for low income children when she was First Lady.

"I don't think it has ever been about 'me' for Hillary Clinton," Ray told me. "It has always been about we."

Ray is a no stereotype southern working class white man voting for Trump. He will be working hard over the next four months to make sure his union brothers and sisters, his neighbors, friends and acquaintances all see that stereotype is as repulsive as he does.



Jim Savage

Savage is no stereotype rust belt working class white man voting for Trump (either). Vice president of the Philadelphia AFL-CIO, Savage came to the convention as a Bernie Sanders delegate because his mission is economic justice. He said he switched

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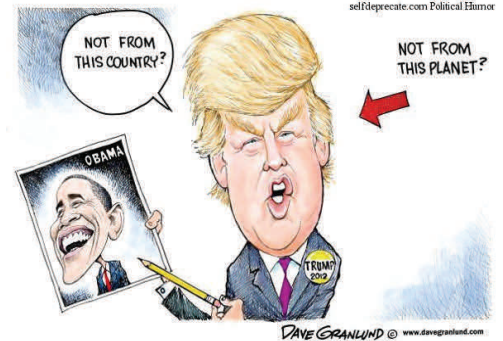
his allegiance to Hillary Clinton easily because she has supported organized labor her entire political life.

Savage told me that he has fought throughout his life as a labor leader for economic justice and thought that racial justice would just naturally come along with it.

But it has not.

"Economic justice doesn't mean shit if it is only for a certain sector," he told me last week. This is personal for Savage because he has both white grandchildren and black grandchildren. He wants them all to have the same opportunities. And he wants them to be treated equally in all areas of society.

He is deeply offended by racist comments Donald Trump has made. And he is deeply offended that people assume that because he is a white working class man that he is a Trump supporter.



"We need economic justice for all people, for people's wives and daughters and neighbors," Savage said. And that is why he is a white, working-class man supporting Hillary Clinton.

Submitted by brother Alex Deevy

Sustainable Forest Rally

A Rally was organized in Port Alberni on July 22, 2016 by The PPWC. Representatives from Unifor were also on hand to show their support. A march was held through the streets down to the main park in town which had an appropriate view of the Pulp Mill in the background where the main rally was held. There were five speakers: the local MLA, Union Leaders, including PPWC President Arnold Bercov, and speakers from First Nations & other Forest Committees.



History Of The PPWC

CHAPTER 17

PPWC GAINS ONE MORE VICTORY

It is mid 1968. Northern BC is rumbled long into the night. Local 9 has commenced partying.

Local 15 is about to do likewise. In mid August, a PPWC charter was granted to the workers of the Skookumchuck pulp mill as Local 15.

Organizers were led by Doug Sallis from Local 1 and ably aided by Gordie Wickham, National first vice-president, and Local 1's Russ Leamy. The International sent in their heavies. Sallis claims O'Neal got one look at big "Hoss" Leamy and immediately called for Biasutti and all the other heavyweights he could muster, including Andy Lapa. Lapa later became a stalwart in Kamloops, playing a big roll in the affairs of Local 10. In Skookumchuck, however, he was a child of a lesser god.

A complete slate of officers, led by President Ken Arsenault, was elected. Meetings were held every Monday night in the Cranbrook Legion, where all aspects of working in the new mill were discussed, including the lack of proper housing.

Fred Mullin, designated PPWC National organizer, rented a travel trailer, which was then parked on the mill road. Access to PPWC information was, thus, quite easy. The trailer, manned by Doug Sallis, became the place to stop and talk in the area.

To further the cause of the Canadian union, a debate was staged, featuring Doug Sallis, Gord Wickham, and Local 9 Vice-President George Smith speaking for the PPWC. In opposition, for the International, spoke Pat O'Neal, Ray Haynes, BC Fed leader, and Norm Paxton, an International representative from Ontario. The debate was moderated by the president of the Cranbrook IWA local. Several members from Local 1, Castlegar, and Local 9, Prince George, attended. In spite of the firepower produced by the International, the debate, in the opinion of the vast majority, was clearly won by the workers on the stage not the business unionists.

Interest in stopping at Sallis' trailer continued. The signup went reasonably smoothly. By September, an application was filed, and the Board-ordered vote in early October resulted in a clean win for the PPWC.

Three months later Local 15 members were on strike. The company, apparently viewing Local 15 as a bunch of upstarts, essentially refused to bargain satisfactorily on any items in any way. A major item was the reinstatement of a fired union brother. Other items were: establishing rates in a new mill, travel allowance, trades classification, and seniority issues.

Five weeks later the strike was settled. On February 21, 1969,

the workers voted in favour of the new offer. Local 15 made no concessions. The fired brother was back at work. The members knew why they had voted in favour of PPWC certification. They themselves were the power in their negotiations. There were no business agents telling them how to be and no regional vice-president cutting any deals.

The ink barely dry on the new contract, O'Neal and company tried again. They imported International staffers from all over, brought them to Cranbrook, Kimberley and Skookumchuck. The Canadian union answered with their best: Mullin, Wickham, Jameson, several Local 1 activists and, perhaps most inspirational of all, Orville Braaten, PPWC National president.

On June 10, 1969, Local 15's hall in Cranbrook was filled to overflow. Many addressed the gathering, none better than Orville. In a long and passionate speech, he implored the workers there to keep the faith. In Local 15, they had a true, democratic, membership-controlled union, a one-of-a-kind union. Jameson, Local 2, was very impressed by the speech. He declared it the best ever by a man known as an orator.

A few hours later Orville was gone, a massive heart attack taking him in the night. The PPWC, in particular, with the labour movement, in general, mourned the loss. At 51, he died relatively young. One may say, with his work unfinished. However, the work of unionism never ends. Battles do, but the war drags on. Orville Braaten passed on putting his last hours into the defining role of his life.

Stay tuned for CHAPTER 18 of the history of the PPWC in the next issue of News @ Nine.

The History of PPWC was written by PPWC Local 8 member, Jimmy White in the late 90's. Brother White was the National 1st Vice President of the PPWC and is now retired. His contribution and the historical value of this information to the membership is valued.



Did you notice on the front cover poster the Unifor logos beside ours? The Local decided to welcome our other union brothers to our Labour Day Picnic and celebrations. We are one of the few union organizations in town doing so. Unifor has shown great interest in participating in this event and community-wise it is a great way to get the message out about the positive aspects of unionism, and the family values we all hold and share. We will be bargaining together so why not have lunch together? **Kudos** to our Rec Committee for organizing a successful golf tournament in June, and doing a great job, as always, in organizing our picnic !

Prince George Upcoming Executive Meeting Dates

Sept 13 / 27
Oct 11 / 25
Nov 8 / 22

Union Office
1921 Third avenue
7:30 pm

Prince George Upcoming General Meeting Dates

Sept 14
Oct 12
Nov 9

PG Elder Citizens'
Rec Center
1692 10th Ave
7:30 pm

Norbord Upcoming General Meeting Dates

Sept 20
Oct 18
Nov 15

Red Coach Inn
upstairs room
7:00 pm

PPWC

Public and Private Workers of Canada



Safety Calendar

Submission deadline for calendar drawings is September 6, 2016 so make sure your artwork is in on time.
Looking forward to seeing them



Confederation of
Canadian Unions

www.ccu-csc.ca



1921 3rd Avenue

Employee Assistance Programs EFAP CONTACTS

NORBORD	1-800-668-2055
CANFOR	250-563-0665
CHEMTRADE	1-877-630-6701
PACIFIC BIO	1-800-481-5511

Got Work Related Issues?

Contact the office at:

Phone (250) 563-5670

Julie will help direct your concerns

can't make it in, send an e-mail
ppwc.nine@shawcable.com

Bursary Deadlines 2016

New 3 PPWC Awards	September 30th
UNBC	March 1
CCU	October 1
Angus Mcphee	November 1
Orville Braaten	November 1

The views and opinions expressed herein are solely the responsibility of the author. They do not form local or national policies or procedures. We welcome your feedback, opinions and inquiries.

Ron Richardson—Editor

On the Health and Welfare front, things have been relatively quiet. There have been Brothers and Sisters going on and off of weekly indemnity for various reasons. Some of these we have known about and have contacted these members, but there has been a number of our membership that we don't hear about that go off work for medical reasons. That creates a sizeable problem for us on the committee, and here is why.

Say a co-worker goes off work for a medical reason, fills out paperwork, files said paperwork, and is off work for two weeks or eight months. It doesn't really matter the length of time. Paperwork sometimes gets delayed, mishandled, miscommunicated, or sometimes just lost in the shuffle. If the members on the appropriate committees never hear about that person going off work, they have no reason to do any follow-up on how the claim is progressing, and don't hear anything about it until this claim is already weeks or months behind, paydays have been missed, and the member is pissed off and wants action NOW! This holds true for all medical leaves whether WCB or a WI claim.

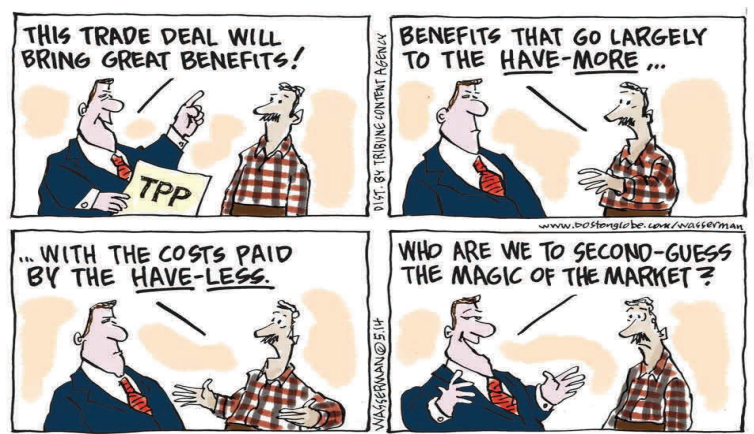
There are some simple steps that you as someone going off on WI or WCB, or as a co-worker of someone going off for medical reasons, should be doing. First, fill out all the documents required. That is an easy one. Second, photocopy these documents. Time and experience has shown me that no paperwork should get filed to anyone (government, employer, service groups etc. even to the Local) without keeping a copy of it for yourself. Third, contact someone from the appropriate committee to let them know. There are a number of ways to do this. You can call or email the Union office and Julie will direct that notification to the committee that needs to know about it. You can also contact pretty much anyone from the Union executive, and they can relay the same message, OR you can check any Union bulletin board in mills or certification to find out who to contact.

Once the committee knows someone is off work, contact is usually made by one of us. We will follow-up on the paperwork and can keep track of your claim with the corresponding insurer once we have a right to represent form signed by you the worker. Yes...more paperwork to fill out at the Union office, but we need this one signed so that someone from either the Health & Welfare committee or WCB committee can speak on your behalf with the insurers. We can assist with getting information, track down payment schedules for you, and often get information earlier than you could waiting for it in the postal mail. All information we receive is confidential, so no one else hears of any information that comes to us. That being said, we all know rumours and stories go around, just please know that any of your information will not be coming from any of us on either committee.

With a WCB claim, we will also invite you to come down to the Union office to sign up online to be able to follow your own claim. This is fairly easy, but will take about an hour to set up on the WSBC website. With this set up you, or a committee member, can log-in and see exactly what is happening with your WCB claim. All phone calls are transcribed and available to see, mailed notifications are posted the day they are mailed rather than finding out a week later when it shows up in your mailbox, and payment schedules are posted so you can also see when your next payment will be coming.

Those of us on these committees are here to help you, the membership of Local 9, but to do this we need some help from you as well. We all know when co-workers go off work on a medical issue, if that co-worker hasn't let someone other than their supervisor know they are going to be off work, have them contact us, or you can contact us on their behalf. We can't help if we don't know you're off.

Submitted by
Health & Welfare Committee Chair Steve Etter



Did you know? The trustees have been working hard on the office the last couple of years, making sure office windows have been replaced, a new sign installed, the old mess of shrubs and scraggly trees have been removed, and the the new furnace and AC unit is working great! It's a cool place to be! Drop in sometime and have a look!