

Summer 2024

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LOCAL 115

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- **Heavy Metal Rocks**
- **Day of Mourning**



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On the cover

MWL Demolition Ltd. working on the demolition of a YMCA building in East Vancouver, a three story concrete and steel structure.

Photo credit: Ryan Dickinson



What's inside:
• Heavy Metal Rocks
• Day of Mourning



Local 115 to push for improvements, crane safety and sectoral bargaining

It has been a busy spring for the staff of Local 115, and as some of the major projects are starting to wind down, we have been focussed on creating the next phase of good work opportunities for our members.

We have had many members pick up great hours and pension contributions over the last few years and many are now well positioned to retire, and start enjoying their Operating Engineers Pension. It has been a great way to close off hard working careers with big hour jobs, combined with a 16% increase in pension benefits over the last two years.

I want to congratulate Brothers Bryan Railton, Frank Baratto, Gavin Cross, and Simon Thomsen in their relentless efforts and successful organizing campaign with GFL in Coquitlam/Surrey. This new group of workers is over 300 strong, and it takes a ton of well-executed effort and commitment to win. I know there is a long list of staff and members that worked with the team to make this one of the largest successful campaigns in Local 115's recent history, and that combined effort created the strength to win.

The tough work of negotiating their first agreement has begun and I am confident that this will be another legacy moment for building the future strength of your Union.

On May 7th, Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley and I presented Local 115's position on the changes we want government to implement on future Labour Code

Changes to the 2024 Section 3 Labour Code Review Panel. With assistance from our Legal Counsel, John MacTavish, we put forward the strongest arguments for the changes required to protect and advance the interests of our membership. We only get a chance every five years to provide the rationale for changes to the Code, and I am proud of our efforts as Operating Engineers in this review—to help shape a stronger future.

One of the most important changes we need for our members is the right to access Sectoral Bargaining. This would mean that if we signed up a group of non-union crane operators, or road builders that they would immediately get access to union terms and conditions of employment. This change would be incredibly beneficial to workers and



Labour Minister Harry Bains meets with Business Manager Brian Cochrane and Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley in June.

Continued on following page



IUOE delegates from across Canada at the Day of Mourning ceremony in Ottawa.



Business Representative Leanne Hughf speaking at the Day of Mourning ceremony in Ottawa on April 28th.

would help expand our market share for our members. Greater market share = greater bargaining power = stronger Collective Agreements, and while it all seems obvious, trying to corral the Labour Movement into a unified position on this issue has been a daunting task. Many years ago, the Glen Clark Government saw the benefit to industry and union members and provided us this legislation – and the fight to get it back is relentless.

At the annual CBTU Conference in Ottawa, we had several delegates attend from throughout the districts. Of special note was Business Representative Leanne Hughf's delivery at the Day of Mourning event on April 28th. Sister Hughf delivered a heartfelt speech, recognizing the impact to the families who lost a loved one due to an industrial accident. Of course, all of the recent crane accident tragedies were a part of her remarks, and the need to increase standards and regulations to prevent them from happening again. This is a fight I have taken on for much of my career and will continue until meaningful changes are made.

The Building Trades Unions do a very good job in keeping up the profile in workplace safety. Their support in our efforts to enhance crane safety and ensure that workers have the right to return home safely every day has been invaluable.

With the continued growth of your Local Union, the Executive Board has approved the search for new office space. Our current main office in Burnaby has served our members well since 1971, but as we have grown over the years and as the bulk of our members have been moving east of the Port Mann Bridge we need to look to the future. Having our union hall closer to where our members live will help create better access so we can improve the personal connections that keep our union strong.

While text messages and ZOOM calls and e-Transfers are here to stay, there is no substitute for having a convenient place for members to have a face-to-face conversation.

We are about to enter into the second year of raid window legislation for BC's Construction Sector – where workers who are employed by companies signed to "Rat" unions have a chance to change their future.

Our organizing team and staff from all the districts will be out in the field educating these workers and provide the opportunities for change. While the efforts of our organizers are crucial to success – the support from our members on the ground and in the field is what will really make the difference.

I encourage you to get involved and if you know of someone working non-union in our jurisdiction, reach out to our organizing department or your business representative to see how you can help.

History is a great teacher, and we have achieved the strongest position in our 93-year history through the dedication and solidarity of our membership, and we are well positioned to build on that for the next generation.

To close, I just want to say thank you for your continued support of the team of dedicated staff that work incredibly hard to advance our organization every day.

rise above. 🍁



Shop Steward Training at the Burnaby union hall this past June.



Mega-projects do not need TFWs in BC

With Site C, LNG Canada, and TMX all wrapping up, a quiet rest period is brewing between mega-projects.

Our skilled work, now on display and driving our economy upward, will be the reason we build our next mega-project. But before that happens, our membership needs to focus on upskilling and advocating for programs and politicians that support us.

This starts with doing the little things like participating in this year's upcoming Provincial Election and supporting candidates who want to build more infrastructure with Operating Engineers. Additionally, we should support our signatory contractors in their efforts to bid for new work and Local 115's efforts to reform the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program.

“Many future mega-projects throughout British Columbia are still not even out to tender, which presents opportunities for us to build more, build better, and do it without exploiting TFWs.”

For too long, the TFW program has artificially kept industry wages low and allowed companies to exploit temporary foreign workers. Just like you and your family, TFWs come to Canada to provide for their families, but they unknowingly do it at the expense of our local workers. Unless there is a skilled shortage of operators (which there isn't), no company should be using a TFW at any site in BC.

This has become a particularly hot issue in Ontario, where the EV project, the NextStar plant in Southwestern Ontario with Chrysler (Stellantis), and the Korean firm LG are seeking to bring in TFWs to help build the plant. IUOE Local 793, the Canadian Building Trades Unions and leaders from across Canada are working to ensure that those jobs go to Canadian workers.

Many future mega-projects throughout British Columbia are still not even out to tender, which presents opportunities for us to build more, build better, and do it without exploiting TFWs. We must support local workers and their families at home. Our dispatch lists have skilled members who want to get out to work, and if you hear of TFWs working in BC, you need to let us know.

Our future depends on being able to crack down on the exploitation of the TFW program and reminding companies

and multinational corporations that build mega-projects in our province to hire unionized workers and our members first! Construction is one industry in our province where we do not need temporary foreign workers.

BC is leading in the adoption of electric vehicles, green infrastructure, and carbon-neutral technology, especially in the marine and transportation spaces. In the north, we have future hydrogen refuelling stations to build, a growing demand to improve battery charging infrastructure for electric and hybrid vehicles across our province, and an even greater demand to mine the minerals that make up those batteries.

There is much optimism ahead, but we need to support politicians and systems that prioritize local workforces and send operators out to work. 🍁



Have a great photo of you at your worksite?



If you have recent photos showing off your skills or workplace, send us your pictures for the next IUOE News. E-mail your newsworthy stories and photos to: iuoe@iuoe115.ca



iuoe news



Advocating for safer workplaces and a labour code that works for our members

On April 28th each year, we take a moment to honour those who have lost their lives as a result of their work.

In 2022, almost 1,000 people died in Canada due to incidents and occupational diseases. These are fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children – they all had families that cared for them. These incidents and exposures are preventable.

In BC, we've seen several high-profile incidents around tower cranes, two of which have resulted in the deaths of workers. First in Kelowna in 2021, where the collapse of a tower crane resulted in the deaths of five workers; the second, a tower crane dropped a load at Oakridge Park in Vancouver killing a woman who worked on the site.

"We will continue to advocate for workers in our craft who currently belong to fake unions to have the opportunity to join the IUOE..."

Unions have always fought for safer workplaces. IUOE Local 115 has advocated for employer-supplied personal protective equipment; advocated for the removal of asbestos from our workplace – and training for those that remove asbestos from our buildings; strengthened laws against bullying and harassment in the workplace; and advocated for employers to be held accountable when they kill working-people due to their negligence.

Your Union is currently working to create a licensing regime in the tower crane industry; pushing for workers that erect, dismantle, climb, and reposition tower cranes to receive base-line training; and, advocating for the operators to be either certified journeypersons or registered apprentices to make workplaces safer.

We will be involved in every discussion, every consultation, and every public hearing, until we see the change that is needed so that none of us need to go to a Day of Mourning event and have a moment of silence for workers killed because of a crane collapse or a dropped load.

On May 7th, Business Manager Brian Cochrane and I presented the IUOE Local 115's submission to the Section 3 Labour Code Review Panel. We advocated for changes to the BC Labour Code that support craft construction and our ability to advance the interests of those workers in our craft; a more efficient bargaining process for the Standard Construction Agreements; and a process that allows greater access to collective bargaining for more workers. These changes are important to Operating Engineers as we continue to grow our union, work to improve our market share in our industries, and advocate for safe working conditions for our members and those around us.

We will continue to advocate for workers in our craft who currently belong to fake unions to have the opportunity to join the IUOE and enjoy the benefits, pension, and training opportunities that we all enjoy. 🍁



Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley presents IUOE Local 115's submission to the Section 3 Labour Code Review Panel.



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Slow start to the summer

We have a lot of members working on projects across the province. The pipelines are in full swing for clean-up in District 1 and the finishing touches in District 4 along with other projects. There are a lot of companies waiting for the go-ahead for work to start on some of their projects throughout the summer. There are many members currently booked-in and we hope to get you out to work once these companies get their go-ahead.

We have noticed that work hasn't been the same as it has been over the last four years, that was the busiest that Local 115 has ever seen.

We've noticed that many members don't understand most of the dispatch rules. Scan the QR code to read through

dispatch rules in full to help you understand how the dispatch service works. Don't hesitate to give me a call anytime if you have any questions about the dispatch rules or what's going on for work.

Make sure to book-in or check-in when leaving a job or if you are looking for work. When calling into dispatch, if you get my voicemail, always leave a detailed message with your name and registration number otherwise I cannot return your call.

Looking forward to more projects starting so I can shorten the booked-in list and get members out to work. 🍁



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Scan to find course
schedule information





Honouring Robert Malange

Seventy-year member, Brother Robert Malange recently passed away at the age of 97. He was one of the very rare members who achieved 70-years of membership with IUOE Local 115. His niece Tracy Turnell, the daughter of former Local Union President, Jim Malange, spent a lot of time looking after her “Uncle Bob” in his later years. Below is a letter she addressed to the members and management of Local 115 in honour of her late uncle, Brother Robert Malange.

June 13, 2024

Brian Cochrane
Business Manager
IUOE Local 115

To the Members and Management of Operating Engineers #115

I am the niece and daughter of three past strong Local 115 members. I was pleased to discover recently in a Local 115 online flyer that the only 70-year member of Local 115 was my Uncle Bob (Robert Malange). I’m sure it would have been his greatest honor to know that and I know for certain, I would not have heard the end of his endless bragging to that fact. Sadly, my Uncle Bob passed away on May 19th, just a month ago quietly and in his sleep. He hadn’t been on a single medication and had 97 years of relatively good health and remained as sharp as a tack with no mental decline up to the day of his passing. He remembered every single job he ever worked on, and he could tell you the names of most of the guys he worked with. You could ask him where he was working in any of his past 70 years as a member and he could’ve told you.

He always looked forward to the monthly Local 115 magazine and would spend hours looking through it. It was the ONLY thing I ever saw him actually read. He loved his TV and spent most of his days watching sports and his beloved UFC fight nights.

He told me many times that you, Brian Cochrane, were and are the best Business Manager that Local 115 ever had. He admired your genuine concern for members, your integrity and your ability to see past the politics that were so prominent in the years that my dad (Jim) served as President of Local 115 and the mistakes that were made.

My Uncle Bob retired and moved to Chilliwack back in the early 90’s where he remained for the past 26 years, taking care of his wife and his 2 little dogs. He developed bad arthritis in his left leg after a work injury years before his retirement which left him somewhat disabled in his later years. It took me 3 years of arguing to get him to use a walker. Those Malange boys were a stubborn bunch.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you and the Members of 115 for giving my Uncle Bob and the Malange family a legacy to be proud of. He would wish every Member of 115 and their families the same opportunity to be safe, healthy, prosperous and proud union members as well as to beat his 70+ membership milestone.

Best regards,

Tracy Turnell (Malange)



Changes to regulations are required before anyone else is killed

On April 28th of every year, we observe the National Day of Mourning by remembering those who have lost their lives, suffered injury or illness on the job, or experienced a work-related tragedy. This year, I was fortunate enough to attend the event in Ottawa at the Canadian Building Trades Monument located in Major's Hill Park. The restrained palette of materials consists of Cambrian granite and stainless steel creating a sense of unity and gravity.

The event was sombre, but luckily the sun came around the clouds. It was opened by a ceremonial prayer by one of the elders from the Anishinaabe and Algonquin Nations. The Executive Directors from each province of the Building Trades reported on the number of workplace deaths in 2022.

In the province of British Columbia, we lost 181 people to workplace deaths; 54 workers died in construction alone, 28 due to trauma and 26 due to exposure hazards and 62,294 injuries. This was a 35-year high in construction worker deaths in BC.

"In the province of British Columbia, we lost 181 people to workplace deaths..."

Other provinces lost people to workplace deaths including Alberta (161); Saskatchewan (39); Manitoba (16); Ontario (317); Quebec (216); New Brunswick (13); Nova Scotia (14); Prince Edward Island (3); Newfoundland & Labrador (30). This does not include the hundreds-of-thousands of workplace injuries that occurred in each province two years ago.

In my speech, I covered the tragic loss from July 12, 2021, when the Kelowna crane incident happened and the world lost Cailen Vilness, Jared Zook, Eric Stemmer, Patrick Stemmer, and Brad Zawislak. They all went to work not realizing that they would not return home to their families that night. The crowd was silent and upset because we all know this could have hit close to home for any one of us.

Then earlier this year, there were multiple tower crane incidents in the Lower Mainland, most with minimal to no injury. Unfortunately, one at a Vancouver site ended up taking the life of Yuridia Flores, a mother of two who recently became a permanent resident of Canada after emigrating from Mexico.

IUOE Local 115 has been advocating for safety in the crane industry since the early 2000s when the government attempted to completely deregulate the industry. It is not lost on me that many of the regulations that have been written to provide safer workplaces are written as a result of the deaths of working people.

When regulatory changes are made in BC they will require the licensing of contractors that assemble and dismantle tower cranes and mandatory training for workers in that industry, and when the government announces that to run a tower crane in BC, you must be a certified operator or a registered apprentice, they will be written because of the deaths of Cailen Vilness, Jared Zook, Eric Stemmer, Patrick Stemmer, Brad Zawislak and Yuridia Flores.

It was a very powerful ceremony that I am grateful to be able to be a part of. 🍁



Sarens crane working on the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project.



A shop steward's work does not go unnoticed

On May 4th Local 115 presented a training course for local shop stewards. This was a great day of education and insight for them as they got to hear from different industries that the Local

represents and hear that certain issues that impact them also occur at other workplaces.

Director of Education & Engagement Brian Haugen presented a great course that kept the stewards engaged all day, even after lunch. Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley and Business Representative Will Suelzle gave presentations and you could tell the shop stewards were taking it all in with the questions and comments they came back with.

The shop stewards are on the front line and deal with a lot of issues before they get to the business representative. They do not get a lot of thank you's, but they deserve to hear it. So THANK YOU to all of our shop stewards across BC representing Local 115 members.

On the bargaining front, we are headed to the table with Xylem Water Solutions and have mediation upcoming for F&G Delivery. Hopefully, both of these will come to quick resolutions with improvements to both of their respective Collective Agreements.

We are preparing to start bargaining the Roadbuilding Utility and Paving Collective Agreements. We have a lot of our members working under these agreements. It is important that you share your ideas for changes with the Local so we can put forward proposals that come directly from the membership.

Business Representatives Will Suelzle, Leanne Hughf and myself will be sending out proposal sheets by the end of October so make sure your address is updated with the hall before then. Proposal meetings will begin in January 2025 for both agreements. 🍁



On the runway for another long hot summer

As the long days of summer approach, folks return to the outdoors to enjoy time with their family and friends. I'm reminded of the heroic work that the aerial firefighters

working at Conair perform.

I had the pleasure of supporting Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley in negotiations with Conair over the past months as we pushed for improved working conditions and compensation to benefit the lives of the Brothers and Sisters doing this challenging work.

Thank you to our bargaining committee Darren O'Shea, Tony Szekely, Andrew Bailes, and Aaron Beattie who have tirelessly dedicated their time and effort to providing lift for discussions with the employer and advancing the interests of their fellow pilots.

The work this group takes on every day throughout the summer is imperative to protecting our communities and keeping people safe.

The next few months will be busy for me as I prepare for early negotiations setup with employers.

Velocity (First Truck Center) has received their proposal sheets and at the time of writing, I am collecting feedback from members and will start collective bargaining as early as July.

Great West Equipment is also providing proposal feedback as I write, I anticipate strong engagement with the members at Great West Equipment. I will ensure the members' voices are heard and their concerns are addressed through the bargaining process.

I hope you all stay safe this summer and enjoy our beautiful province. 🍁



Conair crews will be out responding to wildfire threats in BC this summer.



There is nothing more important than safety

Firstly, I would like to welcome Organizer Cody Poirier to IUOE Local 115. Brother Poirier will be very busy over the next few months with the annual raid window about to open up. He served as a shop steward at Waste Control Services and sat on the bargaining committee during negotiations for their first Collective Agreement. It will be a steep learning curve but I am sure that Brother Poirier is up to the challenge.

Secondly, I would like to welcome the 300 employees of GFL in Coquitlam/Surrey who voted in favour of joining Local 115 on May 3rd. This was a team effort led by Organizer Frank Baratto who deserves a lot of credit for all the work he put in. IUOE Local 115 looks forward to the privilege of representing all our new members.

Finally, every year on April 28th we gather to remember those workers who have lost their lives while on the job. This year I attended the Day of Morning service in New Westminster with several other IUOE Local 115 business representatives. Treasurer Frank Carr has been an advocate for improved training and safety regulations in the crane industry for many years and was asked to say a few words at the memorial service. The lack of proper legislation and safety training in the crane industry has resulted in several crane incidents in the last few months as well as the 2021 Kelowna crane incident that killed five workers.

There is nothing more important than safety in the workplace. No worker should have to die to provide for their family. Cutting corners to save time, reduce costs or increase profits is not worth someone's life, period. Please take the time to ensure that you and your fellow workers get home safe to your families. That should be everyone's #1 goal every day. 🍁



Waste Management in Coquitlam members Quinn Patrick, Nitish Chauhan and Vince Ncube.

Enhancing your **IUOE NEWS**

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We use QR codes to expand on stories, share videos, and provide links to help you take action and become more involved.

We hope you enjoy the enhanced *IUOE News* digital experience.

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LOCAL 115



Mental health services available for members

It's been a busy few months since our last article. Congratulations to the crew at Dyno Noble for ratifying their Collective Agreement. Based at the Cox Quarry on Sumas Mountain, you

may also run into the crew at various quarries throughout the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley supplying emulsion.

In April, we also ratified the Pipeline Service and Maintenance Agreement. This will be for the crews looking after the oil and gas lines throughout the province. The agreement is national in scope but there are rates and language specific to British Columbia.

After being stalled out for a few months, bargaining is underway with Heidelberg Sechelt, Depots and Marine Maintenance. I am focused on positive outcomes for our members and a ratification vote soon.

In April, I was happy to take part in one of our shop steward training courses held in Langley. Director of Education & Engagement Brian Haugen is holding a series of these one-day courses throughout BC. A great source of up-to-date information on best practices and procedures shop stewards will use while representing members and your union.

I had the privilege of being invited to the Canadian Building Trades Union (CBTU) conference in Gatineau, Quebec. I would like to thank Business Manager Brian Cochrane for the opportunity to attend and represent IUOE Local 115. The CBTU event had a multitude of speakers including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, NDP leader Jagmeet Singh and opposition leader Pierre Poilievre as notables.

The conference started with the National Day of Mourning ceremony at the CBTU Monument for fallen workers at Major's Hill Park in Ottawa. It included various speakers from government, community, and Local 115 Business Representative Leanne Hughf. Sister Hughf delivered a compelling speech on the multiple crane incidents in BC which resulted in six deaths. She highlighted our struggles with WorkSafeBC and the province to institute mandatory training.

A major focus of the event was on mental health in the construction industry. With the current opioid epidemic across Canada and the rise in workplace accidents, we are seeing the effects on construction sites. The results are mental and financial strains, lost time, and physical health risks including death.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the Canadian Building Trades Union conference in Gatineau, Quebec.

I want to remind Local 115 members that your union is here for you and we will do our best to assist you with the struggles that you are having in life. There are counselling and medical services available, reach out to your business representative for more information

Have a great summer, stay hydrated and safe. 🍁

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Tunnel projects well underway

In February, I participated in the Federal Labour Law course at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs. It was an enriching and informative experience. Networking and connecting with individuals from different unions served as a valuable reminder of the commonalities we all share in our workplace experiences.

In March, Lafarge Asphalt Technologies successfully ratified their Collective Agreement. With an overwhelming 83% majority in favour of the three-year agreement. This agreement ensures a market adjustment for wages in the first year, followed by incremental increases in the subsequent two years. Increases to their pension and benefits, meal allowance, boot allowance, and first aid premiums. Thank you to Shop Steward Geoff Wilkinson for your assistance on the bargaining committee.

Canadian Heating bargaining started in February and proposals were sent to the company. We are awaiting a response from the company for meeting dates.

I am hopeful that I'll be able to report on the ratification in my next article.

Preliminary site work began in November 2023 on the Woodfibre LNG Project and full construction can't start until a permit is approved for the floating hotel (floatel) that will house workers. Unfortunately, the Squamish council voted 4-3 to reject the permit for the floatel that would house 600 workers on the water in Howe Sound. While Local 115 members would not be utilizing the floatel it will delay the beginning of full construction. Councillors who voted against the plan cited safety concerns, environmental and community impacts, as well as a lack of information from the company. It is my understanding that the project

continues to work with the Council to gain approval for the floatel.

The Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel Project is currently underway and anticipated to be finished by year's end.

The Annacis Island Water Supply Tunnel, a new water supply tunnel deep under the Fraser River, between New Westminister and Surrey is underway. This will be one of the five new marine crossings in the region built to withstand a major earthquake. When complete, it will help ensure the continued delivery of clean, safe drinking water to the communities south of the Fraser River. Construction will take approximately six years and will involve building an entry shaft in Surrey and an exit shaft in New Westminister.

A tunnel boring machine (named Anna) started her journey constructing the Annacis Water Supply Tunnel in February. The boring machine was lowered down a 50-metre-deep shaft in Surrey to start digging a 2.3-kilometre-long tunnel under the Fraser River. It will arrive at the exit shaft in New Westminister in early 2025. Once construction is complete, Metro Vancouver will connect the newly constructed water supply tunnel to the regional water distribution system, and restore both shaft sites. Restoration will include creating a new green space for the community in New Westminister and replanting trees in Surrey. 🍁



Shop Steward Marcos Bermudez from Taplow Feeds.



Crew from BC Rentals at the proposal meeting in April.



Crew at Lafarge Asphalt Technologies. L-R: Shop Steward Geoff Wilkinson, Scott Mitchell, Scott Oswald, Evan Wilson, and Ashif Ali.



Importance of conflict resolution

In May and June, I had the opportunity to attend courses on conflict resolution at the Justice Institute of BC. These courses were made possible with the support of our Business Manager Brian Cochrane, and Local 115. Investing in professional development ensures that we are equipped with the necessary skills to effectively represent our members and navigate complex situations. The knowledge and skills I gained in the last year are a reminder that our organization is committed to staying sharp and informed in the ways of navigating difficult situations.

For members at Williams Machinery, as many of you know, negotiations have been in progress with the assistance of mediation through the Labour Relations Board. I am optimistic that we will soon reach an agreement that reflects

the needs and interests of all parties involved. Your patience and solidarity throughout this process have been invaluable, and we thank you for standing together to ensure a fair outcome.

On April 28th, we observed the Day of Mourning to honour those who have been killed or injured in the workplace. This solemn occasion serves as a stark reminder of the importance of prioritizing safety in all aspects of our work. We reaffirm our commitment to advocating for safe working conditions and ensuring that no worker is ever put at risk for the sake of profit.

As always, I remain committed to getting to know each of you on a personal level and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. Your input is invaluable as we work together to build stronger Collective Agreements. 🍁



Appointing new shop stewards in the crane industry

Over the spring I've spent lots of my time, day and night, visiting our members on and off the job. Building relationships and providing support to our members. During site visits,

members are always eager to showcase their safe worksite, the cranes, and most of all the professionalism that sets them apart. Remember, you are the envy of the construction industry—be proud of it.

One of my initial priorities has been to appoint more shop stewards throughout our signatories in the crane industry. I am proud to share that, at the time of writing, we now have five new shop stewards in place. With these new stewards, our members can expect even better support on the job site.

Regarding the industry itself, some contractors did experience a little downtime throughout the spring, however, most of our crane contractors are back in full swing as we head into the summer. By now members under the Crane Rental Agreement should all be enjoying the recent wage increase. Operating Engineers' Pensioners are now enjoying another increase of 4.5% on their pension cheques.

Projects are well underway and taxi work is booking out well in advance, indicating a strong and busy season ahead. Currently we're looking for heavy duty mechanics. If you

know anyone looking for work with our signatory contractors, please refer them to our dispatch. I encourage each one of you to stay safe and continue to uphold the high standards that define our union.

As I stated in my last article, it is all our responsibility (as members of Local 115) to organize and grow our union so please pass on any of our contact details to anyone you know working in similar industries and encourage them to join.

As always, I am accessible and eager to connect with you all. If you see me on the job site, don't hesitate to say hello. If you know where you'll be and want a visit or have any concerns or questions, reach out to me. Your feedback and engagement are vital as we work together to continue to strengthen our union and the crane industry in BC.

Stay safe and see you soon! 🍁



GWIL Crane members Andy Murray, Ken Grant and Matt Davis on the Liebherr LTM-1650 lifting the 68,000 lb dome off the Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Success after a long battle

Summer is in the air, and it's beginning to smell like workers deserve better rights, working conditions, wages and benefits. They deserve IUOE Local 115.



The organizers have had quite the winter chasing industrial and waste units in the off-season, and our latest victory highlights the essence of worker determination. As we write this article, we have just been successful in organizing GFL Coquitlam/Surrey and added 300 new members to our ranks.

This victory spreads the glorious orange flag of IUOE Local 115 from Squamish, across the Lower Mainland and throughout the entire Southern Interior as far north as Kamloops and Vernon. This has been a monumental shift in the industry, and could not have been successful without the determination of these workers to fight for their rights to be members of this fine organization. The entire team came together on this one including Local 115 business representatives from across the province with Organizer Frank Baratto taking the lead. We're proud of all involved, and even more proud to report this victory to our members. Now we set our gaze upon the Island.

In addition to this we have been hard at work on several smaller campaigns, and preparing for the raid season. This year marks another year where, thanks to the Provincial NDP Government, we have another crack at liberating CLAC/CWCU/CISIWU workers during the annualized raid period of July and August.

We have many targets we are focused on, but we want to take this moment to remind all the members that if we aren't speaking with our friends, family, and neighbours about the benefits of IUOE Local 115, we need to be!

Local 115 is among the finest organizations, and the most professional craft union out there (in our humble opinion) and the more we talk about it, the more prepared people are when an organizer attends their job site. We know how hard it is for everyone to get by these days, imagine how much harder it would be without a strong union at your back, now is not the time to be a shy Operating Engineer.

To continue to drive IUOE Local 115's determination towards organizing, we'd like to thank Business Manager Brian Cochrane who has been working diligently with our communications staff.

We rolled out an aggressive advertising campaign which aired during the second round of the NHL playoffs. Brother Cochrane's dedication to organizing and ensuring the growth of IUOE Local 115 has

never been stronger; and has never been more prudent during these times when workers are getting pinched for every dollar they earn. The stage is set for workers to fight back; we just need to give them the proper motivation.

Lastly, we'd like to welcome Organizer Cody Poirier. He started with the Local in April after enduring one of the Union's highest profile, contentious and downright nasty organizing campaigns at Waste Control Services over the past two years. He worked tirelessly to ensure that his former employer was held accountable on several occasions, having been solely responsible for the success of multiple Unfair Labour Practices awarded to IUOE Local 115.

He knows what it means to work for an employer who is dead set on fighting the union at every turn and disregarding the rights of their workers while doing it. We look forward to the energy Brother Poirier will bring.

Until next time Brothers and Sisters, we wish you a safe and productive start to this season, and as always we look forward to seeing you on the claim! 🍁



Organizer Cody Poirier setting up swag to welcome the new members from GFL Coquitlam/Surrey.



Roadbuilding in desperate need of skilled labour

As we move into our busiest season here on the Island, industry and construction are still feeling the pinch of the labour shortage in several areas. Our roadbuilding signatories especially

are looking to attack this from all different angles. Whether getting out and talking to high school students about the merits of a career in the trades, to sourcing operators that would be interested in taking a step sideways from a civil operator to running roadbuilding equipment, the search for labour is getting creative.

If you are an operator interested in a bit of a change and would be willing to work remotely or are looking for something closer to home, get in contact with your District 2 business representative to explore your options.

The shipyards including Point Hope Maritime are feeling the same pinch and have joined the Association of BC Marine Industries in a Shipyard labour outlook initiative. This initiative involves the leaders of the shipyard industry, unions and the government looking to tackle the labour shortage issue before it's too late.

Now along with the shortage of crane operators and heavy duty mechanics in our province, we are seeing a desperate need for welders.

In regards to organizing activities on the Island, Business Representative Gavin Cross and new Organizer Cody Poirier, have been on the Island hitting every GFL location and the last non-union ready mix company in Victoria, Independent Concrete Limited. If successful with either, it will change the standards for workers in those industries significantly on the South Island.

We recently held shop steward training at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo which was extremely well received and it armed our stewards with the tools to be successful in their roles. Thank you to all who attended and especially to facilitator and Director of Education & Engagement Brian Haugen! 🍁



Crane operator Mike Dunlop, excavator operator Trenton Henneberg, and deckhand Brian Robertson working at the John Hart Dam.



Gary Mugford working at the John Hart Dam.



Organizer Cody Poirier and Business Representative Kyla McCormick at Independent Concrete Limited.



Another successful Heavy Metal Rocks

Heavy Metal Rocks

Local 115 was proud to co-sponsor and participate in the Heavy Metal Rocks event held at the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band gravel pit on April 10-13.



The event provided opportunities for high school students to explore potential careers as heavy equipment operators in a variety of industries, by sampling equipment and doing work related to roadbuilding, hydrovac, logging, fighting forest fires, and working in mines and quarries.

Grade 11 and 12 students from School District 73 who participated in the program gained experience operating heavy machinery and industrial tools with one-to-one guidance and mentorship from certified operators. The students also received certifications in first aid, site safety, WHMIS, forklift operation, and aerial platform lift operation at the end of the program.

This event requires a lot of support from our Union, the contractors, the School District and the community and everyone should be proud of making this event an ongoing success and introducing students to a possible career in the trades.

This year the IUOETA provided one lucky student who excelled in the program, with a training grant for a course run out of our Maple Ridge Training Site.

District 3 updates

With the pipeline finally completed, oil is now flowing freely through the Trans Mountain Expansion. With that, there is a surplus of qualified heavy equipment operators booked into all districts which is a huge bonus for our local contractors looking to fill dispatch orders as work is now picking up steadily.

Our roadbuilding contractors including BA Dawson, Emil Anderson, Vernon Paving and Westlake Paving out of Kelowna are busy as usual and are looking for qualified asphalt laydown technicians to add to their crews.

In terms of organizing, our team has been busy with GFL Coquitlam/Surrey, including in District 3 with the GFL-operated landfills in Kamloops.

If you know anyone working non-union in construction, in a shop, or an industrial setting that could use the Local's help organizing, please have them call the District 3 office and we would be more than happy to help them.

From all of us in District 3 have a safe and cool summer! 🍁



Emil Anderson Construction asphalt plant in Smithers, B.C.
Photo credit: Colton Taphorn

HEAVY METAL ROCKS 2024

Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Indian Band gravel pit

Grade 11 and 12 students from School District 73 took part in the 2024 Heavy Metal Rocks Program, co-sponsored by IUOE Local 115. It began with classroom-based orientation sessions, followed by three days where students, under the mentorship of professionals, got hands-on experience operating various heavy equipment.





Mechanics in high demand in District 4

Integrated Contractors Ltd. has picked up a \$750 million cargo handling project for the Prince Rupert Port Authority, as well as several infrastructure projects throughout the Township of Prince Rupert. The Prince Rupert Port Expansion is expected to increase the cargo-handling capability by 400,000 twenty-foot equivalent containers.



BC Building Trades Executive Director, Brynn Bourke took time to come out and witness the fruits of the union's labour at Site C. With the Operating Engineers being at the forefront of the construction on site, Bourke made sure to talk with as many members as possible.



Cleanup has begun on the Coastal GasLink pipeline; this will be the last season of this project with completion this fall. To all members who worked on this project, you should be extremely proud of yourselves; work

conditions at times were not favourable and it's not lost on your union that spending months at a time away from loved ones can be difficult.

The truck and equipment shops continue to stay busy within our District. If you or anyone you know would like to move to Prince George as a mechanic, Inland Kenworth Ltd., SMS Equipment Inc., First Truck Centre, and Union Tractor are just a few of our signatory companies looking to hire.

Organizing is the foundation of organized labour, bringing working people together to provide security, safety, and dignity in their workplaces. Local 115 will continue to strive to level the playing field for the unionized contractors that will provide meaningful work and benefits for the members of the Operating Engineers. With the potential for Labour Code changes, that will bring fairness back to the workplace, these are optimistic times for working people in our province.

Please ensure your tickets are up to date. Contact the IUOE Local 115 Training Association (IUOETA) for information on tickets and how to access training. If you have updated your certificates outside of the IUOETA, please forward copies to your local district office and they will be updated in our dispatch system.

Thank you to the shop stewards who are diligently holding the companies accountable to the Collective Agreement and thank you for all your dedication to IUOE Local 115 and ensuring your workplaces are a better place to work. 🍁



Business Representative Konrad Tarry and BC Building Trades Executive Director Brynn Bourke on a recent visit to the Site C Dam.



Shop Steward Tom James at Site C Dam.



Working on first agreement with GFL Trail and Grand Forks

2024 appears to be filled with contract negotiations as we have several Collective Agreements up for renewal this year.



SMS Equipment wage increases for 2024 and 2025 are not concluding as quickly as we would have liked. We agreed on a 4% increase for 2024 in the meantime and if the median changes again (which we believe it will) we will adjust the amount for the increase as these numbers come in when they ratify their agreements. It should be noted that if the median happens to be

less than the amount agreed to, SMS has confirmed with us that they will not be reducing the wages to match the median percentage.

At the time of this writing, a ratification meeting has been scheduled for the Nelson Ready Mix group in hopes of concluding their new agreement with a recommended tentative agreement.

Selkirk Paving negotiations have now launched and we seem to be having some good dialogue and making some good progress so I am confident we will reach an agreement sooner rather than later.

Negotiations have begun with Teck Resources – Line Creek Mine as we navigate through discussions to bring

better wages, and benefits, and to catch up to the high cost of living. The bargaining committee is looking forward to the upcoming talks and is positive we can bring great changes for our 600 Brothers and Sisters at the mine.

Teck Coal Ltd.'s assets in the Elk Valley coal mines are still slated to be purchased by Glencore Mining, with no clear date as to when the change will take place due to waiting for acceptance from governmental regulatory bodies.

Business Representative Rob Foskett recently had the privilege of attending the Canadian Building Trades Conference in Ottawa. It was a great event which included one of our own, Business Representative Leanne Hughf who spoke at the National Day of Mourning ceremony on April 28th.

Along with the interviews and presentations from a vast group of guest speakers throughout the week, a few of us were lucky enough to get a tour of Parliament, including an opportunity to sit in on Question Period that took place on May 1st. We got to witness an unruly visitor attempt to heckle the group and be swiftly taken away and arrested.

In addition to bargaining, the Jaffrey Project, which Emil Anderson Construction is working on continues to run well with much progress.

Until next time. 🍁



Business Representatives Will Suelzle, Matt Baker and Rob Foskett with Taylor Bachrach, Skeena—Bulkley Valley Federal NDP MP inside the House of Commons.

iuoe
LOCAL 115

We are looking for:
Heavy Duty Mechanics

Dispatch: 604.473.5230



Skills Canada BC Competitions

Skills Canada BC (SCBC) helps prepare British Columbia's youth for the highly skilled economy of tomorrow through skills competitions, hands-on programs for students and resources for educators. With approximately 30 years of experience, SCBC is a province-wide organization with grassroots connections across the province – that fosters connections within communities and facilitates exposure to trades, technology, and career opportunities for our youth.

SCBC holds regional competitions around the province. The winners of the regional competitions were able to compete at one of the 48 provincial competitions held at the Tradex in Abbotsford on April 17th. The winners of these competitions went on to the national competitions in Quebec City on May 30th and 31st. The competitions serve two main purposes.

1. To celebrate and reward students for excellence in their mastery of skilled trade and technology skills, in a manner that directly involves industry in evaluating student performance and that keeps training relevant to employers' needs.
2. To create an interactive and engaging environment for the thousands of young people who attend the competitions as spectators.

Thousands of people attended this year's provincial competitions as competitors, students and spectators. Many stopped by the IUOETA booth and tried their hand at operating our electric mini digger or observed the mobile



The IUOE Training Association trades booth at the Skills Canada BC Competition tended by Brother's Gavin Cross, Steve Ervin, and Travis Woolford.

crane competition being held outside in the parking lot. This was the second in-person competition since the competition returned, as COVID shut things down for a few years. It's great to see that this event continues to increase to similar levels that we had seen pre-COVID.

In the next 10 years, it's estimated that a million jobs are expected to open up in BC, and Trades & Technology careers are high on the list. These types of events are extremely important in exposing today's youth to the career opportunities that are available through IUOE Local 115.

The hydraulic mobile crane operator competition was a hit for many of those who attended this year's event. This year we had five apprentices put their skills to the test. The apprentices were tested on their theoretical knowledge, rigging, pre-operational inspection, setup, and crane operation.



The final medalists at the 2024 Skills Canada BC Hydraulic Mobile Crane competition. L-R: Members Faize Alabbas – silver medal, Andrew Ricard – gold medal, and Anthony Kristensen – bronze medal.



Director of Education & Engagement Brian Haugen with Local 115 heavy vehicle apprentices Lukas Arsenault, Hannah Larocque, Melissa Cutchey, and Manvir Sangha.



Thanks to all our volunteers, judges, apprentices and Capacity Crane for supporting Skills Canada BC and this year's crane competition.



IUOETA Administrator Jeff Gorham and BC Crane Safety Executive Director Clinton Connell presenting gold medal winner and Local 115 member Andrew Ricard with a Liebherr LR1300 Lego set.

IUOE Local 115 would like to congratulate Brother Andrew Ricard from Capacity Truck and Crane for winning this year's competition and gold medal. Andrew is doing very well with his apprenticeship and is well on his way to becoming a highly qualified crane operator that the Local can be proud of.

To ensure that the competition is a success it requires extra effort from volunteers and the Training Association staff in which we are very grateful for their contribution. Special thanks to Capacity Truck and Crane for providing their Liebherr LTM 1160 for the competition. Capacity Truck and Crane is proudly 100% Indigenous-owned and operated as a family business since 2010. They became a signatory contractor with Local 115 in June 2022 and we couldn't be more proud to have them as a partner and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

BC Crane Safety (BCCS) was also in attendance at this year's event and our booths inside the Tradex were side by side promoting careers in the crane industry. They were formed in 2005 and are the provincial authority for crane

operator certification in British Columbia. BCCS donated a Liebherr LR 1300 remote control crane Lego Technic set to this year's gold medal winner. This prize has a value of \$900. Thanks to BCCS Executive Director, Clinton Connell and the rest of the BCCS team for supporting this year's event.

Close to 60 different competitions were happening in that one day. Those who attended would have had a great opportunity to see first-hand the many career opportunities in the trades. This year we had the most members ever compete in two different competitions. We had two apprentices compete in the hydraulic mobile crane and four apprentices compete in the heavy vehicle competition.

The heavy vehicle competition saw both heavy duty mechanics and truck and transport apprentices competing.

Director of Education & Engagement Brian Haugen has volunteered for years as a judge and technical chair for this competition and I would like to thank him for volunteering again this year. Sister Hannah Larocque came in 2nd place this year and earned a silver medal. 🍁



Three-day Grades & Stakes course for Emil Anderson in Kelowna. L-R: Daniel McCauley, Peter Bencsik, Ben Sutton, Tyler Henly, Shawn Irwin, Shea Henly, and Ewan Murray.



HEO apprenticeship class. L-R: Instructor Don Davidson, Charis Betts, Scott Brick, Joelle Nontell, Tyson Boyce, Hunter Smith, Cash Sam, Mateo Jakus, and Instructor Alec Slater.



Benjamin Holmes being presented with his Heavy Equipment Operator BC Certificate of Qualification with an excavator and articulating haul truck endorsement by Training Coordinator Travis Woolford. Benjamin served his apprenticeship while working at AJ Massullo.



Asphalt Laydown apprenticeship class. L-R: Tyson Bittner, Kyle Borman, Jordan Lane, Doug Nicoll, Cody Paulson, Instructor Branimir Shibilev, Instructor Trevor Loewen, Marco Luca, and TJ Murdoch.



Trevor Houston being presented with his Mobile Crane Operator Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement by Training Coordinator Gian Grewal. Trevor did his apprenticeship while working at Cutting Edge Crane Services in Kamloops.



Rigging course held at the Maple Ridge Training Site. L-R: Richard Van Der Werff, Stefan Storz, Instructor Hernan Lama, Richard Powell, John Shortridge, Mark Sherratt, Alvin Kang, Kyle Lundquist, and Brayden Ritchot.



Grader Operator class. L-R: Cody O'Donnell, James Colbeck, Cameron Redman, and Instructor Garry Jobs.



Return your pension confirmation forms

It is the end of an era in the pension and benefits department. Vicki Hastie has retired after 45 years with the Operating Engineers Benefits Plan. Vicki was an amazing asset when it

came to the members and worked tirelessly throughout her career. She was a great resource that will be missed very much. I wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

I am pleased to report continued positive growth and stability. As of the end of March, the pension plan received \$76.5 million in contributions, representing an increase of 1.9% compared to the previous period. With 14.1 million hours worked during this time frame, we observed a steady increase of 0.7%.

These encouraging figures underscore the resilience of our organization and the dedication of our members. Despite the challenges posed by external factors, such as fluctuation in the economy and changes in the industry landscape, our members have remained steadfast in their commitment to building a better British Columbia. The average contribution rate of \$5.41 per hour reflects a modest yet significant increase of 0.9% for the fiscal year 2023, a testament to the ongoing support and participation of our members.

Furthermore, these results highlight the effectiveness of our efforts to retain members within our jurisdiction. While we acknowledge the presence of members from other locals

working under our jurisdiction, we are proud to note that our efforts have yielded positive outcomes. By providing meaningful opportunities for our members, we have succeeded in keeping many of our members working and contributing to the pension and benefits plans.

"Despite the challenges posed by external factors, such as fluctuation in the economy and changes in the industry landscape, our members have remained steadfast in their commitment to building a better British Columbia."

Our fiscal year end is the end of April and we will be sending out the pension confirmations in early June. Please fill out the form and mail it back to us as soon as possible. Your quick response saves the pension plan additional time and resources and ensures that there will be no disruption in your pension payments. If your address has changed or there has been any change in your family status, please reach out to us as soon as possible so that we may update our records.

Work safe, play safe, be safe! 🍁



Pensions Awarded January to March 2024

JANUARY

- Michael Guenette
- Dennis Koch
- James McAllan
- Gerard O'Brien
- Lloyd Quinn
- Calen Rayne
- Rocky Rice
- Kenneth Vankoughnett
- Elden Wilson

FEBRUARY

- Christopher Allen

- Dennis Baker
- Joseph Brulotte
- Stephen Burritt
- Alvie Calhoon
- James Davis
- Donald Faulkner
- Brian Gaucher
- George Gotzen
- Kirby Hanna
- Gary Hockett
- Percy Janzen
- Nikolay Kuchak
- Howard Logan

- Michael Martin
- Kenneth Mason
- Howard McInroy
- Byron Middleton
- Ian Moggach

MARCH

- Renato Aufiero
- Lindsay Barr
- Conrad Collier
- Bret Cox
- Larry Fielding
- Christopher Gilburg

- David Levae
- David Martindale
- Russell Mottishaw
- Gregory Pollard
- Patrick Shaw
- Lawrence Tiljoe
- Raymond Tremblay
- Michel Trufanenko
- Michael Violette
- Michael Whitsitt
- David Williams



Sorting through election noise

As we approach the fall and an election in BC, I reflect on the past and consider the value that every vote has in shaping the province. One question that stands out in making that decision

is "What will the group that wins do to support working people and our families?"

I think back to the winter of 1975 when the Social Credit beat the NDP, even though over 60,000 more people voted for the NDP than when they were first elected in 1972. Throughout the province, people were inspired to vote, in part by heavy campaign funding by Big Business that fueled fear and a frenzy. In the end, there was a strong belief that the NDP did too much too fast; unsettling the power structure in BC that was much more comfortable with a right-wing puppet government of the Social Credit (a right-wing coalition).

The NDP, in around three years, passed 400 pieces of legislation; almost one bill every three days they were in office. The focus was on people and families. This included a much-needed modernizing of the Labour Code. However, one of the first things the NDP did when elected in 1972, to the relief of many, was ban 'pay toilets.' Another was banning the strap in schools. This received an astonishing backlash from parents. As mentioned in *The Art of the Impossible*, by Geoff Meggs and Rod Mickleburgh, Premier Barrett fired back to one irate parent: "Why the hell should we use taxpayers' money to beat your child?"

Many of the laws and structures that the NDP put in place to support the working-class in our province are still around today. This includes agricultural land reserve, public auto insurance, provincial ambulance service, PharmaCare, legalized neighbourhood pubs, BC Day holiday, BC Children's Hospital, and full bargaining rights to provincial employees.

After toppling the NDP, the new Social Credit premier vowed to 'get B.C.'s economy moving again' with measures such as a:

- 40% increase in provincial sales tax
- 140% increase in premiums for ICBC
- 100% increase in B.C. ferry fares.

Which it turned out was just the opener on the war against the working-class and small business that the Social Credit, and later the BC Liberals, would inflict for years to come.

The NDP held office again for a few years, then in the 1980's the Social Credit was back and they immediately

increased the property tax for rural homeowners. Then to reward the voters, they raised taxes on gas, car insurance, beer, alcohol, and cigarettes. They cut the highway operation and maintenance budget by 15%. The Human Rights Commission was shut down; its workers were fired on the spot. The Employment Standards Branch was closed.

This heavy-handed approach brought the province to the edge of a general strike under the name of Operation Solidarity which saw up to 80,000 demonstrators clogging the streets of Vancouver. Many remember the day tens of thousands of workers crammed every nook and cranny of Vancouver's Empire Stadium. Just when it seemed the stadium could hold no more, in marched hundreds of uniformed firefighters led by the Vancouver Firefighters band. It was a chilling, emotional moment that no one who was there would ever forget. Hope and optimism were in the air.



40,000 union members and supporters rallied at Empire Stadium on August 10, 1983.

Photo credit: Dan Keeton, SFU Library

As Mike Harcourt said in the legislature five years later speaking about how the Social Credit supports small businesses, (which had the second highest tax level in Canada) "They dropped from it 11% to 9%, but they didn't dare to admit that they'd increased those taxes from 8% to 11% the year before; so they're still higher than they were last year. That is foolishness of the highest order because small business in this province is providing 80% of the new jobs in British Columbia. They should be encouraged, not shackled".

A common theme in BC's back-and-forth political parties is that when the NDP is in Victoria more people can be represented by unions, our market share increases and we can negotiate fair agreements. With the other parties, legislation is changed and workers' rights are limited or eliminated.

I could go on and on, but the point is when you go to the polls this fall take a few minutes to NOT listen to the hype from any 'side'. Think about what is best for the people of our province. Remember this is YOUR province, do what is best for all of us. 🍁

Celebrating our members



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 60-year membership award to Robert Travis.



Business Representative Bryan Railton presents 60-year membership award to Ken Williams.



Business Representative Kent MacPherson presents 60-year membership award to Fred Plotnikoff.



Business Representative Rob Foskett presents 60-year membership award to Kasper Mayer.



Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley presents 50-year membership award to Jerry Templeton.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 50-year membership award to Bruce Hardy.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 50-year membership award to Mike Fusick.



Business Representative Bryan Railton presents 50-year membership award to Barry Sheils.



Byron Richard Burnett, Kenneth Sperling, and John Broughton with their 50-year membership awards.

Celebrating our members



David Wood receives his 50-year membership award.



Allan Carr receives his 30-year membership award.



Business Representative Bryan Railton presents 30-year membership award to Fred Wojak.



Business Representative Bryan Railton presents 30-year membership award to Ryan Rusk.



Business Representative Curtis Laverty presents 30-year membership award to Frank Hinger.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 20-year membership award to Doug McLeod.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 20-year membership award to Darrell Issel.



Business Representative Kent MacPherson presents 20-year membership award to Jonathan Muller.



Merlin Shelley receives his 20-year membership award.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 10-year membership award to Wayne Kozak.



Stuart Craig receives his 10-year membership award.



Business Representative Bryan Railton presents 10-year membership award to Darlene Hoy.

Shop Steward Courses around the Province



Langley



Nanaimo



Prince Rupert

Welcome to our 455 new members

January to March 2024

Lucas Aeichele	Ronald Burgher	Alexander Dimond	Ryder Green
D'Arcy Alexander	Howard Burtch	Christopher Dirksen	Cody Groves
Grady Alexander	Francesco Calla	Vladimir Djuric	Zachary Groves
Thomas Allan	Cougar Campbell	Trenton Doucette	James Gustason
Christian Almond	Billy-Joe Campbell	Joshua Douglas	Igor Gutfreund
Amit Amit	Dylan Campen	Paul Doyle	Oceana Haines
Brian Anderson	Brian Capuyan	Ashley Drouillard	Dennis Hamilton
Michael Andreasen	Ryan Card	Mohamed Dualeh	Maynard Hank
Sheena Antoine	Clayton Carr	Logan Duffin	Riley Harmon
Eduardo Araya	Kyle Carson	Kamryn Dunlop	Jessie Hart
Dharamveer Aulakh	Palmer Carvery	Liam Dunzl	Gary Hartwick
Ian Backus	Tyson Casey	Carson Dutt	Kenneth Hartwick
Michael Baerg	Tony Casselman	Jason Dye	Brad Harvey
Richard Baldaro	Alexander Castro	Christopher Eden	Marshall Haughton
Jeffrey Banks	Giuliano Cavacece	Lauralee Eden	Dalton Heibein
Walter Barrera	Ivan Cera	Vincent Egan	Tyler Heidema
Ian Beleo	Charan Pal Chahal	Jared Emery	Nathan Helfrich
Fraser Bell	Mark Chambers	Tomas Espinoza	Scott Hemphill
Kayden Beltz	Colton Charette	Stuart Farmer	Stewart Henry
Eric Bennie	Keegan Charks	Caleb Fawkes	Nathan Herlihy
Ron Bergeron	Blaine Cheadle	Joel Feenstra	Scott Herman
Rebecca Bernier	Jae Min Choi	Cheyenne Fleming	Kirsten Hill
Wyatt Bezak	Sean Christiansen	Travis Fletcher	Garret Hislop
Auston Bezzeg	Andrew Churcott	Jamie Floyd	Ryder Hodges
Kulwant Bhullar	Elijah Chutskkoff	Riley Foley	Robert Hogstead
Shaelyn Biernaczyk	Charles Clode	Dale Fontaine	Chadd Holbeche
Chase Biglow	Carolyn Clowe	Julie Foraie-Cyr	Richard Holland
Mitchel Bisson	Gary Coey	Dean Forbes	Benjamin Holmes
Sierra Blackmore	Jessica Cohen	Jody Fors	Josh Holtkamp
Angelo Blackwell	Benjamin Collins	Matthew Fowler	Ilan Horak
Cody Blanchard	Randall Colosimo	Francesca Frampton	Edward Horgan
Aaron Boake	Colin Cooper	Brandon Fraser	Austin Horner
Janelle Bourque	Jonah Copp	Cole Fraser	Clinton Hosford
Jeremy Bowman	Kaleb Costigan	Sean Fraser	Talan Huber
Dustin Braaten	Dakota Courtoireille	John Gagajena	Jai Hulinsky
Manpreet Brar	William Credicott	Anita Gagnon	Robert Hunt
Sanpreet Brar	Eric Darveau	Ashley Gallagher	Keenan Husband
Kevin Breau	Dennis Dasmarrinas	Harlit Phil Gaoyen	Louis Hutchison
Morgan Bremner	Verona Davidson	Nathan Garcia	Tyrell Jackson
Kaylie Briggs	Andrew Davies	Hunter Gaspard	Markus Jacobson
Brandon Brock	Brett Davies	Evan Gibson	Spencer Jamieson
Nicholas Bromaroff	Taylor Davis	Gurpal Gill	James Jardine
Brett Browne	Erika DeCoteau	Richard Gogush	Kasim Jarju
Aaron Bruce	James Demchuk	James Goodwin	Hayden Jeffery
Derek Brunner	Kaden Dempsey	Kai Gotzke	Adrian Johnson
Jade Bryan	Toby Dennis	Krista Gould	Reed Johnson
Richard Bryant	Marcel Desrosiers	Buddy Graham	Alexander Joseph
Kenneth Buchberger	Fisnik Devolli	Jason Gray	Stephen Joseph
Nathan Buckler	Gurcharan Dhaliwal	Allan Green	Gurvinder Judge
Shawn Bulkley	Denise Dilny	Gordon Green	Jeremiah Kachowski

Michael Kalicum	Dale May	Matthew Palmer	Joseph Scott	Quinn Thomson
Anthony Kang	Kris McBryan	Charanvir Parmar	Chelsea Scoular	David Timm
Rajkumar Kathiresan	Rylun McCabe	Carter Parnell	Robert Seath	Justin Toews
Navdeep Kaur	Joseph McCollum	Christopher Paterson	Indra Senanayake	Folkert Tolsma
Paula Kelly	Jordan McCullough	David Paterson	Matthew Senger	Matthew Tom
Faith Kennedy	Jason McDonald	Quinn Paul	Ronson Shakotko	Trenton Tonks
Jordan Kidlark	Joel McGarvie	Jayden Pavey	Andrew Sharp	Sara Traves
Dillon Kiley	Ethan McGeough	Dan Pederson	Chris Shaw	Nathan Truong
Ryan Kiley	Penny McIntyre	Thomas Peloquin	Cole Shepherd	Mickey Turncliff
Rudolf Klausner	Robert McLaren	Taylor Person	Jeremy Sheppard	Richard Ulmann
James Klymiuk	Andrew McLaughlin	Jason Phippen	Mark Sherratt	Victor Valcourt
Kyle Knezacky	Daxton McNary	Nathan Piatt	Pargat Sidhu	Justine Vande Caveye
Brett Kocis	Austin McRae	Nicholas Pich	Ravinderjit Sidhu	Cody Vanderveen
Kevin Kopp	Jeffrey McWilliam	Nicholas Pirillo	Russell Sillito	Bjorn Vangeloven
Mykyta Koshkalda	Juan Pablo Melendez	Rayana Plant-Figueroa	Jeff Silveira	Justin Vanrietschoten
Allen Kossatz	Juan Melendez Sr.	Jay Ponting	Akashdeep Singh	Rene Villegas Zepeda
Jamie Koval	Josee Menard	Matthew Popadynetz	Amritpal Singh	Rebeca Villeneuve
Michael Krehalev	Keenan Mercredi	Noah Popp	Arwinderpal Singh	Angelea Wade
Anthony Kristensen	Janio Alfonso Meza Martinez	Youssef Radwan	Harmanpreet Singh	Lee Wagner
Dawson Kubik	Peter Mihajlovic	Gurshan Rana	Jangbir Singh	Clifford Walkem
Felipe Kuntze Ostrevski	Jan Mikkelsen	Owen Rasmussen	Karanveer Singh	Len Walker
Vaughn Kutzy	Peter Miskelly	Franklin Real	Pritpal Singh	Kaitlin Walsh
Brian Lake	Craig Mitchell-Hermann	Lance Regner	Deepak Sivia	Philip Ward
Jack Lambert	Rajat Mohan	Phillip Reid	Illia Slobodianiuk	Neil Ward
Stephen Lawn	Isaiah Molag	Krislynn Reimer	Justin Smailes	Michael Watkins
Ryan Leadbeater	Kayla Moody	Vincent Richards	Daylin Smith	Kenneth Wensley
Alysa Lee	Taila Morissette	Brandon Riggs	Nicholas Smith	Michael Werstiuk
Brad Leishman	Trent Morris	Lee Robbins	Jack Sommer	Klaus Weschta
Kenneth Lenart	Joyson Mukkannikkal George	Gavin Roberts	Owen Sorenson	Brittani Wesley
Jessica Leslie	Kyle Mummery	Dale Robertson	Iain Sou	Jon Wheatley
Daniel Lester	Tanyer Munro	Mason Robinson	Brylan Span	James White
Greg Lewczuk	Jacob Near	Nicholas Robinson	Corey Sparkes-Wilson	Paul White
Sam Lewin	Tyler Nelson	Brian Robson	Connor Spence	Owen Whittaker
Jason Liebelt	Christopher Nemeth	Xochitl Rodriguez-Chavez	Sky Spink	Zander Whyte
Daniel Lightbody	Dale Nichol	Tyler Romas	Vaugh Spooner	Kyle Wicklund
Leighton Loewen	Robert Nicolle	Nathan Rossetti	Patrick Stencell	David Wicks
Sandeep Lohia	Mitchell Nixon	Jason Rudanec	Codie Stevenson-Rosluk	Benjamin Wilde
Glenn Lomond	Natasha Noah	William Rumley	Dale Strong	Russell Williams
Eric Lucas	Peter Noakes	Chris Ruttan	Tyler Stuart	Dale Witherly
Joel Lucas	Serapio Noche Jr.	Wes Ryan	Albert Stubbs	Henry Wood
Ivan Lumbera	Cassidy Norell	Jeffrey Ryder	Colin Sutherland	Jason Woodward
Jonathan MacDonald	Jamie Norman	Gurpreet Saini	Brian Swain	James Wright
Brandon MacKay	Jamie R. Norman	Jacob Salo	Chanse Swedgan	Steven Yaretz
Harley MacKinnon	Isaac Novak	Charlie Sampson	Paul Szustakowski	James Zandberg
Joe Madeiros	Phoenix Novalee	Kevin Sampson	Yousaf Tariq	Safouh Zantah
Spencer Mahy	Sheldon Odd	Gurbeer Sandhu	Jack Taylor	
Irma Maldonado Vazquez	Mione Odendaal	Gary Sankey	Mark Taytay	
Anca Marciuc	Daniel Ogus	Rohitvir Saroya	Jamey Theriault-Boucher	
Tharen Markle	Joseph Oram	Gerald Schaad	Juctice Thibodeau	
Justin Marshall	Heath Ostrander	Brad Schmied	Colby Thompson	
Harkevan Matharu	Alvin Pabalan	Jeff Schouten	Cole Thompson	
Karla Mather	Mark Padgett	Mykel Schwindt	Oceana Thompson	
Tammy Mather	Darrell Paget	Payton Scoble	Shayne Thompson	

IUOE Service Awards January to March 2024

LOCAL 115

10 years

Omar Abdel-Al
Franco Apa
Derek Arason
Marcel Bachand
Matej Bagaric
Katherine Bandet
Brandon Bier
Terry Blyth
Mark Bolt
Robert Borrill
Chris Boyko
Lucas Brunner
Zachary Bulmer
Aaron Bzdel
Dave Callaghan
Dale Carleton
Steven Cavalheiro
Lyn Champagne
Kristopher Colter
Robert Corley
Clay Crawford
Nathan Cripps
Jordan Cumming
Michelangelo Cusano
Matthew Dill
Lyle Dixon
Rick Duncan
Kyle Egan
Mitchell Elias
Michael Ellis-Jones
Muhammad Faisal
Robert Farrow
Ryan Feilden
Randy Forsyth
Daniel Foster
Eric Gagne
James Gagnon
Todd Graham
Rafael Guia
Jocelyn Harel
Clayton Harris
Krystal Hibbs
Terry Hughes
Joseph Hunt
Steven Jones
Trevor Jones

John Katountas
Ban Kha
Young Il Kim
Shawn Kirouac
Pamela Lanceley
Kurtis Little
Michael Lowe
Reese Mabey
Tyler Maida
Rylan McKimm
Thomas McMurdie
Graham McPhalen
James Michalcak
Steven Miller
Jared Miltimore
Scott Mitchell
Travis Nooski
Jason Olson
Jamie Ostapovitch
Scott Oswald
Tony Paolino
Tye Parnell
Cody Pearson
Justin Perrier
Harold Poole
Colton Poulin
David Pretty
James Quibell
Yamani Rajabu
Brady Reeves
Bradley Rinaldi
Robert Saunderson
Shawn Smythe
Samuel Sztuhar
Kyle Taylor
Cory Therrien
Lorne Walter
Martin Wicks
Garret Wilkinson
Travis Woolford

20 years

Michael Anderson
Jason Armstrong
Jason Arsenaault
Rick Bachand
Stephen Baher

Anton Baxter
Chris Campbell
Wesley Clements
Robert Coultish
Steve Driscoll
Aleksi Efremov
Tore Engqvist
Mario Fagela
William Forsyth
Mitchell Fromberg
William George
Jagpal Gill
Stacy Grigg
Dennis Hegan
Albert Humphrey
Timothy Joe
Mark Jordison
Hanna Korycka
Andre Laprairie
Austin MacInnis
David McDonell
Pete Metcalfe
Brent Morrow
Jefferey Munro
Ajit Parmar
Rodney Peter
John Roberts
John Robson
Monty Ross
Albert Smith
Joseph St. Louis
Charles Sunberg
John Tinsley
Terry Tollefsen
Harjit Toor
Wesley Van Overschot
Brian Wayment
John Williams
Bill Wright

30 years

Don Ayotte
Zachary Bengert
Craig Bridge
Dale Bryant
Dino Burtini
Clifford Hawthorne

Reginald Hicks
Richard Kurtenacker
Kyle Lindsay
Christopher Pitcher
Gerry Plamondon
William Ralphs
Don Rowley
Shuichi Sakaguchi
Douglas Seed
Donald Stratford
Don Tennant
Chris Van Der Vlist
Alison Walker
Daniel Webb
Eric Wong
Joseph Wong

40 years

Arley Christman
Don Doberer
Doug Lamdin
Reagan Laprairie
Robert Marsh
Charles Mears
Merle Miller
Ronald (Wes) Ostrensky
Fred Pavan
Michael Roberts
Dwayne Sorenson
Kerry Taylor
Rick Woods

50 years

Bruno Bonamin
Geoffrey Cornwall
Tom Davies
Brian Elder
Egbert Flinterman
Joe Godmaire
Charles Jones
Darryl Lewis
Robert Maud
Kirk McIntosh
William McLeod
Jim McNeill
Donald Morris
Dean Nendick
Wayne Oben
David Parnell
Gary Porter
Elmer Quiding
Robert Sen
Laurie Stretch
Gordon Trottier

60 years

Harold Blows
Joseph Buholzer
James Erickson
Asaph Ginter
Ken Hansen
Howard Heigh
Jack Webb





Bursaries and Scholarships

Education is important to our members and their children, which is why a number of scholarships and bursaries are available to union members and their families. Some of the awards that are available:

IUOE Canadian Conference Bursary

Awarded annually to a dependent of a member of a Canadian local of the Operating Engineers.

Bursary Amount: Ten bursaries of \$750 each. Two of these are allotted to British Columbia.

Criteria: The bursary recipient must be entering their first or subsequent year of a full-time course of study (at least 2 years in length) leading to a diploma, certificate or degree from any recognized public Canadian college or university.

Applications Deadline: August 1.

M.L. Parr Award

Awarded annually to a son, daughter or legal ward of a member of the IUOE Local 115 entering first-year studies at a recognized Canadian college, university or vocational school as a full-time student.

Bursary Amount: Total \$2,000. May be divided between more than one applicant.

Applications Deadline: September 30.

Donald Smith Scholarship

Awarded in memory of the late Donald Smith, a longtime member of IUOE Local 115.

Bursary Amount: Up to \$1,000

Criteria: Awarded annually to member of an IUOE Local 115 member family (son, daughter or legal ward, member or member's spouse) who is in full-time attendance at UBC, SFU, University of Victoria, University of Northern British Columbia or BCIT pursuing studies in engineering, industrial relations or law at either the graduate or undergraduate level.

Applications Deadline: September 30.

CSCU-OECU Pioneers Memorial Bursary

Established in 1989 by the Operating Engineers Credit Union, which merged with Community Savings Credit Union in 2009. Provides assistance to students in academic, vocational or technological programs at BC educational facilities.

Bursary Amount: Varies with financial need.

Criteria: These awards are designed to help disadvantaged youth pursue higher education. Applicants should therefore demonstrate a strong and justified financial need for assistance.

Applications Deadline: Applications for students starting school in the spring/summer semester are accepted between May 1 and June 15. Applications for students starting school in the fall are accepted between September 1 and October 15.

For details on where to apply, visit:

iuoe115.ca/membership/scholarships

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SCAN ME

In memoriam



Members who have passed away January to March 2024

Name Years of membership

JANUARY 2024

Peter Bartsoff	18
Frederick Belway	31
Ivan Cartwright	52
Allan Enns	36
William Erickson	69
Herold Gill	50
Clifford Green	56
Wayne Hanna	43
Terrence Hanrahan	59
John Hubert	50
Chris Jost	17
Anssi Kivinen	55
Wayne Lillos	55
Gordon Melnick	58
Arthur Murphy	56
Mark Olsen	47
Ivan Pendleton	21
Don Peterson	25
Dennis Sorenson	44

Jack Van Dyke	58
Thomas Webster	49
Fred Wishlow	59

FEBRUARY 2024

Alice Antunes	<1
Melvin Branson	48
James Byle	21
Joseph Dilalla	45
Richard Elder	58
Wayne Etson	55
Cornelius Friesen	47
Mark Guthrie	12
William Hatley	34
Vernon Haugen	31
Stephen Hubbard	42
Gerald Lasai	11
Rae McMonagle	63
Lawrence Michiel	21
Norman Miller	54

Robina Moyes	<1
John Pavich	65
Russel Prouse	58
Paul Sperling	58
Stephen Sydorak	5
Jacques Tremblay	50
Wayne Way	52

MARCH 2024

Raymond Bouchard	50
Donald Delisle	43
Lyle Finch	45
Dominic Gelowitz	<1
Reid Giraud	3
Trent Lefteruk	4
Leslie Lohr	49
Allan Martin	2
Martin Sadler	6

Changing financial institutions?

Receiving direct bank deposits
from the OE Pension or Benefits Plans?

Be sure to provide us with your new account
information.

604.291.8831 or toll-free at 1.888.486.3115
email: iuoe@iuoe115.ca



IUOE Local 115 Offices

District 1 & Main Office

4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5G 3T3
Phone: 604.291.8831 Toll free: 1.888.486.3115
Fax: 604.473.5235 Email: iuoe@iuoe115.ca
Website: iuoe115.ca

Business Manager: Brian Cochrane

President: Wayne Kemp

Assistant Business Manager: Josh Towsley

Director of Organizing: Bryan Railton

Dispatcher: Kyle Egan, 604.473.5230

Organizing Representatives:

Frank Baratto, 604.312.4227

Gavin Cross, 604.908.0874

Cody Poirier, 778.980.1380

Benefits & Pension Plans

Administrator: Lee Riggs

Training Association

Administrator: Jeff Gorham

Training Coordinators: Steve Ervin Gian Grewal

Travis Woolford

District 1

Business Representatives:

Steve Barnicke Frank Carr Gavin Cross Michelle Dey
Brian Haugen Leanne Hughf Sean Maurer John Munro
Will Suelzle Simon Thomsen
Phone: 604.291.8831 Toll free: 1.888.486.3115

District 2

Business Representatives:

Kyla McCormick
Nanaimo Office: 35 Wharf Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2X3
Phone: 250.754.4022 Fax: 250.754.5513
Victoria Office: Please call to set up an appointment

District 3

Business Representatives:

Curtis Laverty Brian Lefebvre
785 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3J3
Phone: 250.554.2278 Fax: 250.554.1766

Districts 4 and 5

Business Representatives:

Matt Baker Wayne Kemp Konrad Tarry
Craig Young (Dispatcher)
3339 8th Avenue, Prince George, BC, V2M 1N1
Phone: 250.563.3669 Fax: 250.563.3603

District 6

Business Representatives:

Rob Foskett Kent MacPherson
103 Centennial Square, Sparwood, BC, VoB 2G0
Mailing address: PO Box 1567, Sparwood, BC, VoB 2G0
Phone: 250.425.2161 Toll Free: 1.888.605.9955
Fax: 250.425.2166

Meeting Notices

District 1

BURNABY: 1st Thursday of every month
7:30 p.m. at 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby
Except March & September due to General Membership Meeting
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 3rd Saturday in March &
September 9:30 a.m. at 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby

District 2

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

NANAIMO: 2nd Monday of odd months

6:00 p.m. at the Coast Bastion Hotel, 11 Bastion St.

VICTORIA: 2nd Wednesday of even months

6:00 p.m. at the Pro Patria Legion Branch 292, 411 Gorge Rd. E.

CAMPBELL RIVER/COURTENAY:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

District 3

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

KAMLOOPS: 2nd Thursday of even months

7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall, 785 Tranquille Rd.

KELOWNA: 2nd Tuesday of odd months

7:00 p.m. at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave.

District 4

PRINCE GEORGE: 2nd Wednesday of every month

8:00 p.m. at Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick St.

PRINCE RUPERT, TERRACE, KITIMAT, SMITHERS:

Members will be advised of meeting dates and times.

District 5

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

FORT ST. JOHN: 2nd Tuesday of odd months

7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 10441 100th Ave.

DAWSON CREEK: 2nd Tuesday of even months

7:30 p.m. at the George Dawson Inn, 11705 8th St.

TUMBLER RIDGE:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

WHITEHORSE: Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

District 6

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

CASTLEGAR: 1st Wednesday of odd months

7:00 p.m. at the Super 8 Inn, 651 18th St.

CRANBROOK: 1st Tuesday of even months

7:00 p.m. at the Labour Centre (Boardroom), 105 9th Ave. South

Teck's Line Creek Operation:

Members will be advised of meeting dates and times.

Please contact your District Office to register for the next meeting in your location.

Fuelling Our Economy with BC Operators



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