

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND ALLIED WORKERS

SPRING 2010

THE WRITE

ANGLE

VOLUME 3 - ISSUE 1

CMAW TO INTRODUCE SCAFFOLDING CERTIFICATION

Our union is committed to protecting, promoting and enhancing the trades we represent in every possible way. In response to member and contractor demand for better training and opportunities in the area of scaffolding, our CMAW Training Committee has been busy finalizing details to introduce a professional scaffolding certification, this year.

CMAW president, brother Jan Noster, says that professional certification will ensure that members receive the utmost level of training, and also provide contractors with the reassurance they've been demanding. "Certification will help make our union stand out among others, since no such thing currently exists in B.C. It makes our members more marketable," says Noster.



While safety is paramount in all building trades, scaffolding obviously affects the many workers who use it to move from one level of a project to the next.

"Both workers and contractors want to feel secure in knowing that when scaffolding is erected

that it's safe and secure for everyone," Noster says.

Noster also says that while scaffolding is obviously an important skill, a long-time challenge

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President's Post

It has been an extremely busy couple of months, for our CMAW Executive Board, and resident officers.

RAIDING PERIOD

CMAW received one raid application, from U.S. dominated UBCJA. The application, for Sky-Hi Scaffolding Ltd., happened during the Christmas break (Dec. 23 and Jan. 4), and when the crew was at its lowest point in months. On Dec. 29, UBCJA applied for a wall-to-wall bargaining unit representing all trades. Truthfully speaking, this raid application was not between CMAW and UBCJA, and which union would best represent the members. And it was not about better benefits, pensions, or training. In my opinion, it was really just about a behind the scenes deal with the employer and American-dominated UBCJA.

As I write this today, I'm in between Labour Board hearings on this matter. Let me tell you that while the company professed for months that they were neutral, their position has been anything but neutral.

As members, you need to wonder why any employer would solicit you to join a new union. I have no doubt in my mind that the likely outcome, if UBCJA is suc-



JAN NOSTER

cessful with Sky-Hi Scaffolding, is that the members employed there will end up worse off.

During this fight, CMAW has filed numerous grievances and unfair labour practice charges because our job steward at Sky-Hi lost his job, and long-term employees were laid off "due to shortage of work."

As your CMAW president, it is frustrating for me to see UBCJA on one hand signing agreements with contractors, that are below our rates and standards and agreeing to things we would never agree to, and telling the employers that they are cheaper and will have lower labour costs, and then on the other hand also

have the nerve to tell you they will get you more. Bull!

Here's two recent examples of their two-faced approach: The floor layers union took across the board rollbacks on the eve of province-wide bargaining in B.C., and carpenters working for Campbell construction in Victoria saw their pension contributions enabled away to zero.

I want to thank the 45-or-so CMAW members who supported us during this raid, showed up to vote, and attended numerous meetings. Regardless of the outcome, CMAW is strong. We will be here for our members.

TRAINING

CMAW has completed our Journeyman Scaffolding Upgrading Course and will make courses available to our members this year. The course will meet CSA Standards, and will be recognized by most industrial owners in Western Canada. CMAW recently sent several representatives for OSSA (Oil Sands Safety Association) train-the-trainer courses. We have already begun to train our membership in fall arrest, confined space, aerial work platform, etc. These courses will be completely transferable for projects in the Alberta Oil Sands. (See details on page 10.)

For apprentices, we have boosted the bursary tuition reimbursement to \$500 per year. Contact your local union for more information.

BENEFITS PLAN REFERENDUM VOTE

Members voted in favour of switching benefit plans. Therefore, we will be implementing the CMAW Benefit Plan in the months ahead, with D.A Townley acting as the administrator. Some members have asked me why we acted on this issue, and why it was necessary. The answer is pretty simple. The CWBP (your current benefit provider) cut off all benefits to the retirees with no consultation from the elected representatives of this union. We were getting desperate phone calls from retired members around B.C who have long-term health problems, and who could not afford the alternatives. These are same members who built the plan, and contributed to the surplus the benefit plan currently enjoys.

Even though the vote was close, 57 per cent in favour, it is our job to convince those of you who voted against the proposed changes, by proving to you that what we did was the best for the whole of the membership and union. I have no doubt that over the next year; and once the membership has had a chance to do business with

D.A Townley, that most of you will be convinced that it was the right choice. (Details are featured on page 12.)

THE WORK PICTURE

Projects that were cancelled in the oil sands in Alberta will come back on line, and we are expecting to get a major chunk of the CNRL Horizon project Phase 2. Closer to home, the Kitimat Aluminum Smelter has been revived, and currently a major component of the project is up for tender. We're confident that a CMAW contractor will be successful in obtaining this work.

In Prince George, Canfor will be going ahead with a Cogeneration Project; in Castlegar, the Cogeneration Project that was stalled has also been revived; in Vancouver, the condo market is starting to show signs of life again, and we expect Concert and Bosa to pick-up also this year.

In Saskatchewan, we have two projects on the go, a third that hopefully will start this year, and we have good prospects for several upcoming mega projects in the potash industry. In short, I think late 2010 will be much better than 2009. In 2009, our union did approximately 3.3 million hours of employment. This was quite an accomplish-

ment in a recession, and it shows we continue to grow, despite claims both inside and outside our union, to the contrary.

CMAW CONVENTION

CMAW will be holding its biannual convention in Kamloops this year – April 20 - 23.

Our CMAW convention is the highest governing authority of our union. It is at our convention that direction of our union gets set and our priorities for the future are established. For those of you who have taken the time and effort to attend meetings, and shown an interest in how your union is run, I thank you. CMAW is a very democratic union, run from the bottom up. I look forward to seeing you at our convention.

In closing, we have much work to be done, and it can only get accomplished with your involvement and support in your local union.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jan Noster
President
email: council@cmaw.ca

has been that it is not recognized as a stand-alone trade. To date, under the jurisdictional assignment of building trades, scaffolding falls under carpentry.

“While unions are all for recognizing it as its own separate trade, and contractors and members like the idea,” Noster reports, “the concept has always been squelched by large non-union general contractors.”

Our CMAW Training Committee had to therefore look to develop scaffolding certification that would fit into this recognized trade category.

Our training committee is also aware that while some members have been working strictly as scaffolders, many of our carpenters perform both jobs.

With this understanding, CMAW’s plan was to structure certification that would work as an add-on to the Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter Certification.

For those long-time carpenters who have also have many years of scaffolding experience, the committee is looking at a grandfathering component.

“We’re looking at providing these members with scaffolding certification after performing some form of test. We’re still

ironing out the details of how this will work,” says Noster.

To make sure the actual training components of our scaffolding certification program would leave nothing to question, CMAW also consulted with contractors.

“Our goal was to provide members with the best qualifications for the job,” says Noster. “Obviously, the more skills members have, the more likely a contrac-

tor is to work with us, and the more opportunity our members have to be consistently employed.

Members are advised that our CMAW Training Committee is committed to keeping members informed of training developments through upcoming issues of The Write Angle and also through union locals.

Watch for details.



A PASSION FOR CARVING LED STEWART TO CARPENTRY

As a young boy growing up on the Kitimaat Village Native Reserve, brother Eugene Stewart recalls not having toys, but that didn't stop him from making his own. His love of making things, and carving out of wood, is eventually what led him to become a carpenter.

Stewart first remembers carving boats out of gill-net cork, to float in the water. By the time he was 15, he carved a 14-inch canoe, just for fun. Although he didn't like the results of this first project, he kept on trying to perfect his carving skills – mostly teaching himself.

"I did have a good friend who went to the Kasan Carving School in Hazelton," Stewart tells. "He taught me how to carve 'human face masks' and from there I taught myself how to carve all four of the clans represented in my reserve – the raven, eagle, blackfish and beaver."

"I'm part of the Blackfish Clan," says Stewart, who in addition to his interests in native carving also performed as a Haisla traditional dancer, along with his sister, mother, grandmother and other family members. For his



CEP PRESIDENT DAVE COLES (LEFT), WITH EUGENE STEWART

dance performances he would carve all of his own masks.

By the time Stewart was 24, he was also carving finer pieces. "I carved a salmon pendant for a necklace that a guy from Montreal bought to take home to his daughter."

Stewart proudly shared the story of how his carving skills helped him land his first job. "I went to Manpower and was given a number to call for a cabinet-making company.

"I took one of the pieces I made along to my appointment with the owner. He took one look at

the brooch I made and asked me when I could start."

It wasn't too long after that that Stewart became a member of our union, in 1989. He lived and worked in Kitimat, mostly as a scaffolder for Chinook Scaffold Systems, until just a few months ago, when a desire to be closer to his sons and grandchild, made him and his wife decide to move to Vancouver.

Today Stewart is a member of Local 1995, and although his name is a ways down the job board, he's hopeful that the new year will bring more work.

During the last couple of years CMAW commissioned Stewart to carve ornamental talking sticks, presented to guest speakers at our conventions. His work was also admired by CEP president, Dave Coles, who asked him to carve a full size talking stick for their 2008 convention.

Under a tight timeline of only 12 days, Stewart completed the stick. He was also invited to attend the CEP convention, in Montreal, where he addressed the whole group on the story behind the talking stick, and its four crests.

Secretary - Treasurer's Report

This last year has been a very busy year for CMAW, and I'm happy to report that our accomplishments have been many.

Here are some of 2009's highlights:

LOCAL ELECTIONS

For many of you it was once again time to vote for your local executive. Results revealed that members wanted change. We saw some significant changes in leadership with some locals electing an entire new slate of executives.

I'm confident that the new representatives are well aware of the challenges and responsibilities they have assumed and we wish them all well in doing the best they can for their members.

TRAINING

During 2009, CMAW was able to provide members across the province with even more training opportunities.



PAT HAGGARTY

Courses included scaffolding, first aid, confined spaces, H2 alive, rigging and more. Our training committee is still hard at it, as they continue to develop and prepare further courses and upgrades which will provide our members with the required skills to help increase their work opportunities in B.C. and Alberta.

You'll find details a little further ahead in this newsletter.

TUITION REIMBURSEMENTS FOR APPRENTICES

I'm pleased to remind members that CMAW has increased our annual tuition reimbursements from \$300 to \$500.

Apprentices should also know that in addition to this assistance provided by CMAW, government grants are still available. Apprentices are encouraged to pursue all monies available.

See Increased Funding for Apprenticeship Program on page 16.

UBCJA SETTLEMENT

This is a topic I'm sure we'd all like to see go away. The good news is that by this time next year our separation settlement should be completely paid.

We've made the necessary installments throughout 2009, and currently have approximately \$500 thousand dollars remaining to pay.

LOOKING AHEAD IN 2010

CMAW is in the midst of finalizing proposals to present to the BCBCBTU Council in preparation of 2010 bargaining to renew our collective agreements.

I'm sure that all other trades have no desire to repeat the scenario that stalled the last round of bargaining.

Back in early 2005, the construction Labour Relations Association of B.C. attempted to establish what would be bargained at the big table, but were ultimately unable to come to a final agreement.

As a result, the matter was referred to the Labour Relations Board and took months to resolve. Finally, the LRB decided which issues were going to be bargained through the CLRA and which issues would be considered trade issues – and therefore negotiated by the separate trades.

A subcommittee of the BCBCBTU, comprising the president, secretary, and two members of the council executive board was struck at the Dec. 10, 2009 Executive Council Meeting.

The committee's purpose is to ward off any potential roadblocks that might be thrown in the way of proceeding with bargaining. This committee will now work in conjunction with the CLRA and the LRB, once negotiations commence this year.

We all trust cool heads will prevail and that we get an early settlement that our CMAW Negotiating Committee can recommend to our members for settlement.

CMAW CONVENTION

We will be hosting our biannual convention this year.

Our CMAW Executive Board has elected to move the convention outside the Lower Mainland.

Our 2010 convention will take place Apr. 20 – 23 (committees will begin Apr. 19) at the Kamloops Convention Centre/Kamloops Town Lodge.

As usual, election of officers will be held at the convention.

THE YEAR AHEAD

I know that we are all hoping for the economy to take a turn in the right direction so that we can get all of our members back to work.

All indications are that this is going to be a better year than the last, so let's hope for the best.

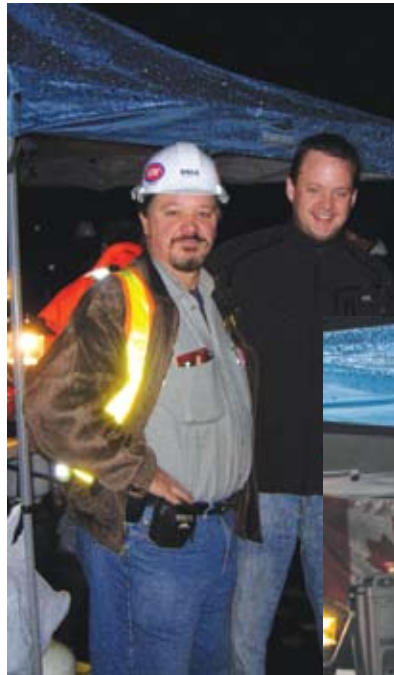
CMAW PROTECTS MEMBERS DURING 2009 RAIDING PERIOD

Our scaffolding sector has been on UBCJA's radar for some time and even during 2009's raiding period (Nov. 1 – Dec. 31) they were visiting job sites trying to entice our members away.

But CMAW anticipated their actions and had organizers, brothers Jim Salidas and Bill White, on job sites talking to members.

"UBCJA was up to their dirty tricks as usual," says CMAW president Jan Noster. "We had our organizers out there making sure that our members weren't fooled by their lies and empty promises."

Noster says that even though the raiding period is over, members who have any questions or concerns about their trade and/or our union are encouraged to speak with either Salidas or White. (See next page.)



CMAW WAS OUT IN
FULL FORCE DURING
RAIDING PERIOD.

LEFT: EUGENIO ZANOTTO, 1995 BUSINESS AGENT;
JOSH COLES, CEP NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY
COORDINATOR



ABOVE, FROM LEFT: COLES, 1995 PRESIDENT, BILL DUCK;
JIM SALIDAS, 1995; AND 506 MEMBER, NUI VAIVAKA AT
CANEXUS CHEMICALS IN NORTH VANCOUVER

FORMER INTERNATIONAL ATTEMPTS TO FINALIZE RAID AT SKY-HI

On Dec. 29, 2009 our former international union, UBCJA, applied to the Labour Relations Board (LRB) to conduct a vote with workers in an attempt to finalize their raid of CMAW's Sky-Hi Scaffolding Ltd.

As a result of this, the LRB authorized an official vote of members in early January.

However, CMAW has reason to believe that UBCJA has not fulfilled all of the necessary legal requirements to conduct a member vote and so we asked the LRB to grant us another hearing, and opportunity to stop the certification transfer.

The LRB authorized an official vote to transfer certification to UBCJA, under the understanding that 60 per cent of all member cards had been previously signed.

The list of names of all those eligible to vote was provided to the LRB by the employer (a legal requirement) and CMAW believes that this list was incomplete.

If CMAW can prove that 60 per cent of all eligible-member cards were not signed, the vote to transfer certification that took place in January would be null and void.

More news to come.

ORGANIZERS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

Brothers Bill White and Jim Salidas were hired by CMAW in the fall of 2009 to prepare for the challenges of this last raiding period. The two were kept busy visiting Lower Mainland job sites reassuring members that CMAW is a strong Canadian union with plans in place to offer scaffolders the best training available.

White, a 30-year certified carpenter who first put a hammer in his hand when he was 16, says he was drawn to the position of organizer because he'd like to see our union grow.

"I'm also very much in favour of having a professional scaffolding certification," White says. "I see it as a way for journeyman carpenters who are also scaffolders, or would like to also be scaffolders, to be further recognized as skilled tradesmen."

"And, member feedback indicates a strong support of the



BILL WHITE

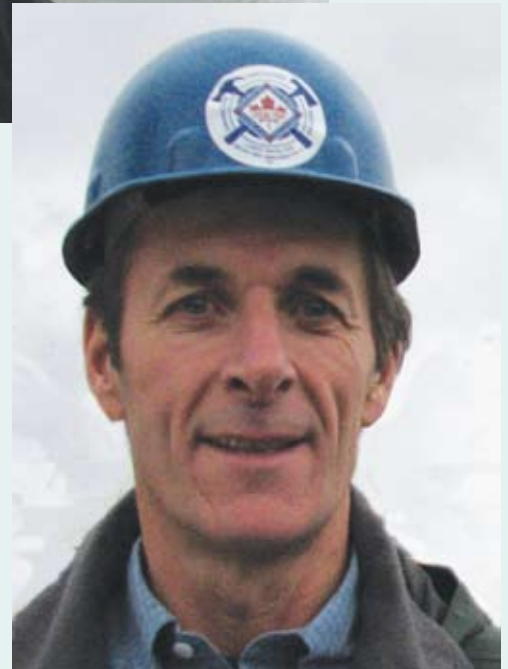
need for scaffold certification and being able to track individual work experiences with related hours."

White is no stranger to CMAW. He's a 33-year member, and a member of Local 1995, since day one. He has also been on the local's executive in varying capacities for last nine years.

Brother Salidas is a 20-year union member and long-time member of Local 1995.

He is a scaffolder by trade who began learning the skill when he was just 20 years old. During the last few years, Salidas has been working in management for various union contractors.

He says that having a professional scaffolder certification is exciting. "Having worked for union contractors I know the value they would also put on this," he says.



JIM SALIDAS

The two organizers would like members to know that they are available to answer all questions and concerns. "We're here to help and if we don't have the answer, we'll get it and get back to you, asap," says Salidas.

Jim Salidas can be reached at 604-349-3770.

Bill White can be reached at 604-619-1551.

MORE TRAINING PLANNED FOR 2010

CMAW TO BECOME ACCREDITED OSSA TRAINING AGENCY

CMAW has not only been working to develop and introduce scaffolding certification, but our training committee has also been making strides to offer Oil Sands Safety Association (OSSA) courses to members.

OSSA, is a non-profit organization, made up of representatives from Syncrude Canada, Suncor Energy, Shell Albian Sands and Canadian Natural Resources, as well as volunteer members from labour providers, area contractors, and education providers. The organization formed to implement safety practices and training standards for the Oil Sands Industry.

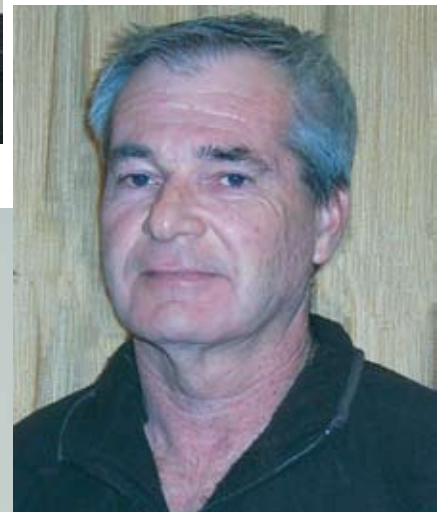
OSSA's objective is to create an incident-free workforce.

CMAW Training Committee member, and Northwest B.C. vice president, brother Ken Lippett says that OSSA Certification is a valuable asset for workers, particularly at this time.

OSSA certification, which comprises a series of approved safety courses, is a mandatory requirement in the Alberta Oil Sands, and courses are recognized by Alberta and BC WCB.

Lippett says that having our members OSSA certified is another way to ensure that if work is scarce in one area, members have all the necessary prerequisites to step into a job elsewhere.

“With hiring expected to pick up this spring, these certifications would enable those out of work, who are able to make the decision to go work in the oil sands, job ready.”



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: PAUL NEDELEC, KEN LIPPETT, DAVE CROSBY, AND RON KNELLER

In order to provide in-house training, CMAW first needed to become an Accredited OSSA Training Agency.

CMAW's first step in this process was to establish a core group of OSSA certified trainers to become qualified instructors who could then conduct courses for our members.

Lippett also advises that OSSA certifications are valid for only three years, and then a worker needs to recertify, so training is an ongoing process.

With this understanding, our union training committee knew they needed to find the right individuals to train as trainers. The committee decided that first and foremost these individuals had to be accessible on CMAW's schedule, and so they decided that the best option was to select CMAW officers to be trainers.

"We believe this will serve members best. Having CMAW officers as trainers enables us to ensure that we have instructors when and where we need them," Lippett says.

Four CMAW officers were selected to complete OSSA Certification training: Lippett himself; Kootenays vice president, Paul Nedelec; Central B.C. vice

president, Ron Kneller; and Local 2020 president, Dave Crosby.

In January, these individuals attended "train-the-trainer" sessions with the Alberta BC Safety Association in Edmonton.

The group of new instructors are now beginning to roll out training to members.

Members will be advised of training opportunities through our local union offices.

A graphic titled "OSSA CERTIFICATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS" enclosed in a double teal border. The text is in teal and black. A large, faint "OSSA" watermark is visible in the background. Below the title, it states: "The minimum OSSA certification's required by employers, are:" followed by a bulleted list of three items: "• Confined Space/Confined Space Monitor", "• Fall Protection", and "• Aerial Work Platform".

OSSA CERTIFICATION COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The minimum OSSA certification's required by employers, are:

- Confined Space/Confined Space Monitor
- Fall Protection
- Aerial Work Platform

MEMBERS VOTE FOR FUTURE OF BENEFITS PLAN

Members who belong to the Carpentry Workers Benefit Plan (CWBP) were recently asked to participate in a referendum vote and decide whether they wished to remain with their current plan provider or transfer to a new plan provider.

The potential switch to D.A. Townley was fueled by a CWBP decision to cut retired members from their plan. Recognizing that this was unjust to the members who helped create our union, CMAW established a committee charged with looking for a new carrier that would cover all members – both active and retired.

Here's how things transpired: In October 2009, CWBP wrote retired members to advise them that their coverage was being terminated, stating that the plan could no longer afford them.

These seniors were offered no option to pay more – they were simply told to look elsewhere for benefits.

So CMAW struck a Benefits Committee charged with going out to look for comprehensive coverage options for all members.

Several plan providers were considered and a review was conducted to find out what these plan providers would be prepared to offer members, and for what price.

Benefit providers being reviewed were also told that MSP needed to be part of the basic benefits package.

After reviewing the proposals, our executive committee decided that D.A. Townley was the most attractive option for both active members, and retired members.

Our CMAW Executive Board was convinced that members would be very pleased with what this carrier could offer, but before making the decision to transfer to this new carrier, asked members who are currently part of CWBP to participate in a referendum vote.

Members were mailed details of the potential new coverage and invited to cast their vote, for or against, transferring their benefits coverage from CWBP to D.A. Townley.

(The deadline for the referendum vote was Dec. 31, 2009.)

Members voted in favour of switching plan providers.

CMAW is currently in the process of amending our collective agreement to have funds transferred to the new plan carrier.

Members will soon receive enrollment cards and contact information for D.A. Townley.

Please watch for this information. If you have any questions, contact your local union office.

LETTERS OF CONCERN POURED INTO CMAW, AS RETIREES LEARNED OF BENEFITS CUT

RETIREED MEMBERS VOICED THEIR CONCERNS AND DISTRESS OVER CWBP BENEFITS CUTS. PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS POURED INTO OUR CMAW COUNCIL OFFICE.

LONG-TIME MEMBER AND DISABLED RETIREE, JOHN NORMAN AND HIS WIFE ANN, WROTE THE FOLLOWING LETTER:

Nov 4th 2009

Dear sir,

Thank you so much for your letter about the CWBP cuts to retirees. This is a lifeline for us as we thought nobody cared what happened to us at all.

I am writing this on behalf of my husband as he has Parkinson's Disease. He retired when he was 60 yrs old with full pension after working for 36 yrs. He is now 68 years old.

When he got the letter from the benefits plan, he was devastated, and we had only a few weeks to decide what to do, or we would have been out in the cold. We decided to go with Green Shield on plan C, as a couple, and the fee was \$202.

However as we got accepted they sent a letter of an increase to \$231 and we hadn't even started yet. We stayed with them as we were already accepted and it was too late to change.

How the people at the Benefits can sleep at night I really don't know, as it was a cold and calculating decision to get rid of all the retirees. We all know that \$39 wasn't enough but why did they not keep us in and increase the amount? We are on our own now and not with a group plan. We would have preferred to stay with the carpenters and paid the extra to them.

This wasn't our only blow from the union, as after my husband had retired for a while he lost 45 per cent of his pension. Due to the books being cooked by 7 members and again the retirees were hit. I was told we may get some back in 5 yrs, what a joke, as its nearly 7 years now and no pay back.

My husband was a hard working man all his life and was always a union man and never missed paying his union dues. He retired early because of his hand shaking, unknown to us it turned out to be Parkinson's Disease.

When I read the letter in the newsletter, I have my hopes up again that something will be done in time. I thank you for fighting for all retirees.

Ann Norman
(On behalf of my husband,
John Norman, member ID 6481)

Maple Ridge, B.C.

LOCAL 506 REPORTS



NEXT STOP, ABU DHABI

In November, the last of the three fast ferries which were purchased at auction by the Washington Marine Group in 2003, set sail for the Middle East.

You may recall that the ferries were built in the late 1990s under B.C.'s then-NDP government, at a budgeted cost of \$210 million, and an eventual cost of \$450 million.

When Gordon Campbell and his Liberals were elected, they took the ships (which were said to be plagued with problems) out of service and put them up for auction.

The Washington Marine Group – one of the companies that was awarded the contract to build the ferries in the first place, and also the company that employs Local 506 members – purchased them for just \$19.8 million.

They later managed to sell them to a luxury yacht company in Abu Dhabi for \$53 million!

PCSA TO PROMOTE B.C.'s SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY

In the fall of 2009, shipbuilders on the West Coast of Canada formed an unprecedented alliance to provide a unified voice to all levels of government in an effort to promote B.C.'s shipbuilding industry.

The Pacific Coast Shipbuilders Association (PCSA) members, (which includes the majority of industry and labour associated with the shipbuilding industry in B.C.) are capable and committed to providing quality service and best value to the Canadian Government in their quest to build and maintain Canada's maritime security and defense fleet.

The National Shipbuilding Policy (announced in July 2009), which includes programs to construct more than 50 ships for the Federal Shipbuilding Programs, has the capability to provide approximately 70 million person hours over the next 30 years, and is valued at more than \$40 billion.

LOCAL 1928 REPORTS

Local president, brother Louis Acker, reports that while 1928 has certainly felt the effects of a poor economy, complete with layoffs at several companies, the outlook for 2010 is a little brighter.

Acker says that he's sure some members would like to put 2009 behind them. "Fortunately it wasn't all bad," he says. "Some companies actually increased their number of employees. For instance, Kingspan (formerly Zeroloc) added about 30 new people to their work crew.

And Acker says that this year, the Olympics brought a little more work to Local 1928 and a line-up of post-Olympic trade shows, which will be taking place at the Vancouver Convention Centre and Tradex, will hopefully also keep many members busy.

"It should be a busy year for the local on many levels," Acker says. "We also have several of our collective agreements up for renewal in 2010."

The local's secretary-treasurer, brother Pat Haggarty, elected last spring, says he'd like to remind members that the 1928's

CEP affiliation provides strike-pay protection should negotiations lead to this possibility.

"Obviously, we hope to avoid striking, but knowing that there's strike pay protection is a great safeguard during times of negotiations," he says.

"Other locals that have chosen not to affiliate with CEP don't have this protection."

This year could also lead to a possible office move for the local. "The building we're in at

2806 Kingsway in Vancouver – where the mortgage was formerly held by CMAW and then sold to Carpentry Workers' Pension & Benefits to help pay the UBCJA settlement – has been sold again," Acker says.

"We'll obviously be looking to get the best rental value, and if this means we need to consider a move, that's what we'll do," says Acker. The location for a new office has not been decided.

TRAINING BURSARY FOR APPRENTICES NOW \$500

CMAW's training bursary has increased from \$300 to \$500. For information on how you can take advantage of this bursary, speak to your local business rep.

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT 40024635
Return undeliverable mail to: CMAW, 305 - 2806 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC V5R 5T5

INCREASED FUNDING FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Last fall, B.C.'s Skills Development Apprenticeship Program received an additional \$15 million in federal funding, for a total of \$21 million, to assist those wanting to complete apprenticeship-training programs during the economic downturn.

Enhancements to the Skills Development Apprenticeship Program include:

- Tuition support for apprentices.
- Expanded eligibility to include apprentices who had established an EI claim within the past 36 months.
- Basic living expenses.
- Increases to incremental supports (may include daycare, transportation, living away from home).

For details, visit www.gov.bc.ca and search Apprenticeships – British Columbia Employment Labour Market Services.



This newsletter is published quarterly for the 6,000 members of the Construction, Maintenance & Allied Workers Bargaining Council.

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