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# CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND ALLIED WORKERS

a newsletter from the union of construction maintenance & allied workers

## THE WRITE ANGLE

### CMAW CONVENTION

*Makes Progress for Members*

The week of May 6th, 2012 CMAW held its 4th Convention in Kelowna, BC at the Coast Capri Hotel. One hundred and seventeen (117) delegates representing twelve (12) Locals and many guests attended the event. The CMAW Executive Board met on the Monday and the Committees met on Tuesday with the Convention held the following two days; Wednesday and Thursday.

The Convention had the pleasure of hearing from four guest speakers; BC Provincial MLA for Vancouver-West End and Official Opposition Critic for Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Spencer Herbert-Chandra, Guy Beaulieu from Total E & P Canada, a Calgary-based energy company focused on oil and gas exploration and production in the Athabasca Oil Sands, Jonathan Whitworth from the Washington Marine Group (Seaspan), Bob Matters from the Steelworkers Union who is also the Chair of the Canadian Wood Council and Alain Daughnault from CSD Construction in Quebec.

Spencer Herbert-Chandra touched on

topics such as the sale of BC Rail, HST and lack of training and apprenticeships being offered in BC. His comment was that, "Adrian Dix has made it clear to the caucus, that if they are going to achieve the success they want on education, health care and a whole range of issues such as a strong vibrant economy, they are going to have to choose bite size pieces and set modest but bold goals."

Guy Beaulieu, provided a PowerPoint presentation with his speech and explained the direction in which Total E & P is developing the Joslyn Creek Oil Sands

Project. You can access the presentation from our webpage at [www.cmaw.ca](http://www.cmaw.ca) but you will need to request a password.

Jonathan Whitworth discussed the rapid growth of Seaspan with the announcement of the National Shipbuilding

Procurement Strategy.

Bob Matters spoke of the tragic explosions in two sawmills (Babine Forest Products Sawmill-Burns Lake and the Lakeland Sawmill-Prince George) and the

*"The purpose of holding a Convention is to allow the membership to express their views and set the direction of the Union. When the Convention is in session, it is the highest governing body of a Union."*

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[www.cmaw.ca](http://www.cmaw.ca)

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## CONT'D... CMAW CONVENTION *Makes Progress for Members*

importance of health and safety in the workplace and provided a history of the IWA joining the Steelworkers. Bob elaborated regarding Bill C-45, the 'Westray Bill', the Bill that amended the Criminal Code of Canada to hold corporations, their directors and executives accountable for their criminally negligent acts in the workplace.

Alain Daughnault expressed their solidarity with CMAW and shared the commonalities as he provided a brief history of CSD Construction.

The purpose of holding a Convention is to allow the membership to express their views and set the direction of the Union. When the Convention is in session, it is the highest governing body of a Union. Resolutions are presented, discussed, debated and passed or rejected. For the first time in a while, the delegates attending the CMAW Convention were for the most part on the same page and the flow went considerably well. It was good to see the unity of our Union, CMAW. Most of the resolutions brought forward were for the betterment and growth of CMAW, a common goal that all delegates shared.

The Convention was not without

a few glitches, and the big one was regarding the benefit plans; specifically the Carpentry Workers' Benefit Plan (CWBP) decision to eliminate retirees benefits. We were very pleased that a resolution was presented and carried by the Convention that will have the Carpentry Workers' Benefit Plan offer retired members extended health care benefits at an actual cost basis. We will see if the Trustees of the CWBP act on this resolution that clearly represented the view of the majority delegates attending the CMAW Convention.

### Other notable resolutions were:

- All referenced to CEP were eliminated in the CMAW Constitution and Bylaws
- Changes were made to the Constitution that allowed for Honourary Withdraw and Reinstatements.
- An Alberta Vice-Presidents position on the CMAW Executive Board.
- Clarification was made regarding the Shipbuilding Vice-President's position on the CMAW Executive Board.
- That any newly elected Trustee of the Carpentry Workers' Pension and Benefit Plan nomination must be submitted to the CMAW Executive

Board for affirmation and appointment.

- That the Carpentry Workers' Pension and Benefit Plan Trustees elections fall in line with the local union elections; no later than July 1 following elections in CMAW Local Unions.
- That the current director of Concert Properties who is a retired plan member and a retired trustee not represent the Plans or the Union on the Concert Board when their term expires.
- A resolution passed that allowed for temporary trusteeship of a CMAW Local Union in a time of crisis.

Again, we thank the delegates and guest who took the time to attend; it is a cliché but it really is the 'U' in the Union that makes us stronger.

**We look forward to seeing you at the next CMAW Convention!**



## GIVING HOPE



## CMAW Supports DCM Safety Officer, Mark Penny

On Friday April 27th, there was a horrific crash on Hwy 63 (between Ft McMurray and Edmonton). The crash claimed seven lives. A lone survivor, Mark Penny, lost his wife and unborn child.

Mark works for DCM in Fort McMurray as a Safety Officer. Mark is not a member of CMAW, but the CMAW members working for DCM sprang to action and raised over 20,000 dollars in an effort to support Mark during this terrible time. To update everyone, Mark was released from the hospital on June 2, and will complete his recuperation at home with the support of his remaining family. He hopes to return to work in the fall.

In addition to raising funds for Mark Penny, CMAW members working for DCM have raised money for other members facing hardships, and have also assisted charitable organizations.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all the members for continuing to work hard in making heartfelt efforts to support our fellows in difficult times. It's an honor to work with such a genuine group of people.

*Chris Grootendorst, CMAW Alberta*

## GO TEAM!

## Aluma System Acknowledges the Winning Team!

On December 30, 2011, while most offices were closed for the holidays, we received a raid application from the UBCJA. They attempted to raid Aluma Systems with a collective agreement that included wage increases yet would sell out some very important and hard-won gains for construction workers overall won in the past. We worked hard and were successful in turning around the Aluma members and ultimately won the vote 29-10. This was a huge vote of confidence for CMAW from the members at Aluma Systems and a debt of gratitude is owed to those workers who supported us. We wanted to personally thank the members at Aluma with a new fridge for their lunch room.



## LOREM IPSUM LOREM IPSUM

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## CLRA Negotiations

In the Province of BC CMAW is mandated through the Labour Relations Board to bargain with the BC Bargaining Council of Trade Unions (BCBCBTU) and the Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA). CLRA represents some employers that are signatory with CMAW.

The CLRA Provincial Standard Collective Agreement has been up for negotiations for some time. The CMAW Negotiating Committee spent a number of months bargaining with the CLRA. After many months of bargaining and agreeing in principal on a number of issues and refusing to give in on the big items; semi-skilled workers, open hiring hall, and open ended subcontracting. The International Carpenters (BCRCC) signed an Agreement with the CLRA that gave employers the ability to bypass the union hiring hall and to hire off the street. Further to this, the company has 100% name request and the ability to reject any union member that is dispatched by

the union. Any member that does not hold a Carpenters Ticket will be classified as a semi-skilled worker and it is up to the employer to determine the appropriate rate of pay, which can be as little as 50% of the Journeyman's rate. Further to this all, contracts in the lower mainland with a value of less than 10 million dollars will be done at \$2.00 off the rate. This Agreement set back the union construction

agreements by at least 50 years.

There are a number of other Building Trades that have not agreed to accept the long list of concessions put on the table by CLRA. Those trades will now be left with only one real option, and that is

through arbitration at the BC Labour Relations Board. The Labourers, Cement Masons, Operating Engineers and CMAW are left with no other option. The Bargaining process through the BC Bargaining Council of Trade Unions does not work for many of the BC construction unions, the reason being



is the unions do not stick together during the bargaining process. In the near future the BC Building trades need to address the dysfunctional BC bargaining process.

*Paul Nedelec, CMAW Secretary Treasurer*





## CMAW Members Annual Education Bursary

CMAW has dedicated an Annual Bursary

Program to honour the memory of Dave Flynn. To find out more visit: <http://www.cmaw.ca/new-members/scholarships-and-bursaries>

### David George Flynn Bursary

David (Dave) G Flynn was a resident of Pitt Meadows. He was a Pile Driver/Bridgeman by trade and he worked around the Province of British Columbia.

In 1985, Brother Flynn served as an Assistant Business Agent and then Business Agent at Local 2404. In 1990, he was elected as a Secretary Treasurer of CMAW Bargaining Council (previously known as BC Provincial Council of Carpenters).

During the founding of the CMAW Bargaining Council and the breaking

away from the American Carpenters Union, Dave was CMAW's rock. His quiet determination and deep sense of right and wrong kept CMAW on the path to become an independent Canadian Union in Canada's Construction Industry.

Unknown too many, during this period, Dave had his own personal struggle. He was battling with Leukemia, a disease which eventually claimed his life. On April 26, 2005, David G Flynn passed away at the age of 51, a comparatively short life, well lived. His passing away was survived by loving wife Sheila (Rowe); children

Carlie, Ryan and Caley; parents George and Ragna Flynn; brothers Clifford and Richard (Ellana); sisters Katie (Lyle), Evelyn (Wayne), Lorraine (Travis), Maggie, Theresa (Rob) and Susie; many nieces, nephews, relatives and numerous friends.



### Waneta Expansion Project July Update

[Based on a steward's report by Jessie Gregory, chief steward with additional files by Doc Livingston]

At the ASL/JV Waneta Expansion Project just south of Trail BC on the US border, CMAW Local 2300 has 79 carpenters on site; 67 Red Seal Journeypersons and 12 Apprentices. At the carpenter shop several crews are working on prefabricating flat panel forms for the Powerhouse. These include forms for walls, columns and slabs. In the Powerhouse area, crews on two shifts are working on the north wall beams formwork as well as installing slab formwork. Crews are also working on wall forms, sump walls, elevator walls, oil water separator formwork.

An Italian-made \$1 million traveling tunnel form has been assembled onsite. The collapsible steel walls of the form create seamlessly lined tunnels which are engineered to withstand hydrostatic water pressure. The giant hydraulically propelled form has exited Tunnel 2 and crossed over to Tunnel 1 and crawled to the bottom of the hole where day and night shift composite crews of carpenters, labourers and ironworkers will form, pour and travel the giant form back up the tunnel to the intakes for final dismantle. Once the form entered the second tunnel and started

it's decent, the construction of the intakes formwork was started with another crew and the mud slab has been poured.

On the columbiapower.org website, Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy and Mines has this to say about the project: "With the excavation portion of the project complete, the Waneta Expansion remains on budget and on schedule for completion in 2015. So far this clean energy project has brought \$80 million in economic benefits and over 300 jobs to the Columbia Basin."

*Below: Waneta Dam (South of Trail, BC).*



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