

Please note that all the pictures in this issue were taken prior to the enforcement of social distancing in Canada.



In the first days of March 2020, USW National Director Ken Neumann came to visit our office in Burnaby, BC, before meeting with Telus.

From left to right: Assistant to the Director USW District 3 Scott Lunny, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips, Acting President Donna Hokiro, USW National Director Ken Neumann, Administrator Omero Landi

A WORD FROM OUR NATIONAL ACTING PRESIDENT

"As we enter a period of social distancing, it is particularly important that you stay up to date with your Local's campaigns, activities and announcements.

Please make sure that you read all of my [messages](#), as well as current and previous [articles](#). Being aware of what is happening in our workplaces is especially important to help you prepare for your future. Please attend your [Unit's meetings](#) by videoconference Zoom.

You can easily keep yourself informed by subscribing to our [newsletters](#), by checking our [web site](#) regularly, and by liking our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Social distancing doesn't mean that you are alone. Connect with us, and ask your questions at communications@usw1944.ca

Thank you and stay safe." – Acting President Donna Hokiro

BARGAINING UPDATE: SHAW

ROUND OF BARGAINING BEGINS FOR UNIT 60 SHAW ABBOTSFORD

The current Collective Agreement for Unit 60 Shaw Abbotsford members expires on March 31, 2020.

On November 27, 2019, members met to begin preparations for bargaining. They elected their bargaining committee which consists of James Large, Rob Wall, and Keller Reeves, who all have served on previous bargaining committees. The committee is supported by Local Union Representatives BC Steve McWhirter and Tamara Marshall, National Acting President Donna Hokiro, and USW Staff Representative Jayson Little.

The bargaining committee is scheduled to exchange opening proposals with the company and to begin the bargaining process later this year, when the situation allows it.

The terms of the existing agreement remain in effect for the duration of bargaining.



From left to right: Keller Reeves, Local Union Representative BC Steve McWhirter, Acting President Donna Hokiro, James Large, Rob Wall, USW Staff Representative Jayson Little

"Our focus has been, and will always be, on protecting our membership and their families. We are keenly aware that Shaw will always be looking out for what they believe is in their best interest, not yours. This was all too evident in the last round of bargaining with Vancouver and Surrey in 2018. Shaw's antics, messaging and attempted scare tactics rallied our members to stand together and present Shaw with a 98% Strike Vote." – Jayson Little, USW Staff Representative



HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?
 A right denied to one is a right denied to all: Local 1944 members need to hear from you!
 Contact your Local Union Representative. Share your story at communications@usw1944.ca

STAFF MEMBERS GET INVOLVED

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OFFICE COORDINATOR ON HER ELECTION TO MOVEUP'S EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our Office Coordinator, Sister Milena Kollay, was elected to her Union's Executive Board.

"Working at a Union, I saw the important work that my employer was doing, and I decided to see if my Union (MoveUP) had a Young Workers Committee," said Sister Kollay. "I went to my first Committee meeting in 2014, and by 2015 I was a Co-Chair of the Young Workers Committee."

"My main focus has been trying to engage young workers in the labour movement as I know how important it is that we be involved and have our say, not just during bargaining but all the time."

Sister Kollay started working for Local 1944 in 2012 as a receptionist. She then became an Administrative Assistant in 2014, Confidential Secretary in 2017 and now she is the Office Coordinator. She is currently Co-Chair of MoveUP's Youth Action Committee, Delegate to the New Westminster & District Labour Council, and Chair of the BC Federation of Labour's Young Workers' Committee.

Please join us in sending Sister Kollay our best wishes for her continuing achievements as an activist!



Milena Kollay, USW Local 1944 Office Coordinator

HEALTH AND SAFETY: CORONAVIRUS

Symptoms and effects on health

Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms, and may not know they are carriers because symptoms are similar to a cold or flu.

Symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear, including fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and pneumonia. In severe cases, it can lead to death.

Right to refuse

Under the Occupational Health and Safety legislation, employees have a right to refuse work if they have reasonable grounds to believe it compromises their health or safety. Employees must report any dangerous situation to their supervisor.

The employer must then take remedial action by having the workplace health and safety committee and/or representative investigate. If the employer chooses to reassign work, the employee must receive the same wages and benefits they received under their previous assignment.

Employer's responsibilities

Employers are responsible for protecting the health and safety of employees at work and in the workplace. As it happens, if there is a risk of exposure to COVID-19 for employees while working, employers must assess the risk, and implement proper controls through their Hazard Prevention Program.

Employees must comply with the employer's procedures.

Discrimination

Discrimination on prohibited grounds is punishable under the Canadian law. This may apply to members who may be accused

Please read Acting President Donna Hokiro's message on COVID-19, about the work your Local leadership is doing to monitor the effect of the virus on our workplaces, and about the adaptive and proactive measures that Local 1944 is enacting in response to this exceptional situation.

of carrying the virus based on an identifier that is a prohibited ground of discrimination, such as ethnicity. If you think that you have been discriminated against, you may be able to [file a complaint](#) with the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

How you can help

Ask the government to take action and implement pharmacare and sick leaves for all. Get in touch with your provincial federations of labour and with the

Canadian Labour Congress, who never hesitate to put pressure on companies and those in power in order to improve workers' lives. And more than ever, now is the time to join the movement and add [your voice for Pharmacare!](#)

Resources to stay informed

Government of Canada: [Coronavirus disease](#)
Government of Canada: [COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)
Government of Canada: [Benefits and services](#) or 1-833-381-2725
United Steelworkers: [COVID-19 Resources for Workers](#)
Canadian Labour Congress: [COVID-19 Resource Centre](#)
Alberta Federation of Labour: [news](#) and [resources](#)
BC Federation of Labour: [news](#) and [resources](#)
[Ontario Federation of Labour](#)
[Quebec Federation of Labour](#)

Employees in a federally regulated workplace can contact the Labour Program at 1-800-641-4049 (toll-free).

WORKERS ARE THE ECONOMY. "Remember this: When it comes to bargaining, we have the power when we come together collectively," said Acting President Donna Hokiro. "This outbreak will prove that we must secure health care for all on a much larger scale. Pharmacare must be included in such a plan. It proves that WE the WORKERS are the economy. After this is all over, let's remember and reclaim our power and vow to never relinquish it again."

POLITICS MATTER. "I am extremely proud to have voted to call on Jason Kenney and his government to do the right thing," said Acting President Donna Hokiro. "The austerity of Kenney's government was off-base then and is completely dangerous, reckless and misguided now. He is putting you and yours at risk and is contributing to the rate of contagion as well as the number of those that will die. Protect, safeguard and be in service to the people of the province NOW, Jason Kenney!"

SOLIDARITY

IBEW 213 LEDCOR WORKERS: THE FIGHT GOES ON

IBEW 213 members are still fighting for a fair contract with their employer Ledcor. They have been on a strike since September 30, 2019, but their fight for a collective agreement had started in August 2017 (to learn more about this, read our two articles about [Ledcor scabs](#) and [inexperienced sub-contractors](#)).

Beyond the strike and the fight for decent working conditions and wages, this is about changing the industry. "We were told before the drive: 'Good luck organizing Ledcor, it's not going to happen,'" said assistant IBEW business manager Robin Nedila.

DID YOU NEED PROOF THAT SHOWING SOLIDARITY GETS BACK TO YOU TENFOLD? Since we showed our support to IBEW 213, the Local Union advocates Telus customers to insist that their services be provided by Local 1944 Telus employees, for residential or business telephones, Internet, television, or alarms. Please support their fight however you can.



IBEW 213 members, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips, Local Union Representative BC Tamara Marshall, USW Staff Representative Jayson Little, Regional Executive Officers BC Denise Chisholm

THEY TALK ABOUT US!

"The United Steelworkers Local 1944 have also been big supporters." Read more in the Spring issue of [Trade Talk](#) and meet some of the striking members (pages 5-8).



SUPPORT THE STEELWORKERS HUMANITY FUND

The Steelworkers Humanity Fund (SHF) provides active solidarity with those victim of poverty, injustice, and the consequences economic duress around the world. The economic disruption caused by the current pandemic is already affecting people throughout the country. The SHF enables members to show solidarity and support them.

Earlier this month, the SHF has donated \$220,000 to 112 food banks and community food centres (read more [here](#)). This contribution will be in addition to the annual contributions the SHF makes each November in communities where our members live and work.

You can help! Make a donation at <https://1944.fyi/USWHF>

MEMBERS HAVE THE FLOOR



Ryan Hancher, Kim Pielak, and Gord Dalueg (Unit Chair) from Unit 214, proudly wearing their 75th Anniversary t-shirts!

Do you wear your Local 1944 swag?
Send your pictures at communications@usw1944.ca

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to have gone to the CLC Winter School! The setting was magnificent, the education was informative and engaging. I was honored to hear Jagmeet Singh speak. The comradery was amazing, not just between my USW colleagues but also between other union members in my class as well as our extremely knowledgeable instructors, Vanessa Wolf and Lori Strom. I wish I could go every year!"
— Kara Montgomery, Unit 26

"I would like to thank you for the generous retirement gift as I enter the next chapter of life. Your support has been invaluable." — Cheryl Tart, Unit 3

"Dear Brothers & Sisters, thank you so much for your generous retirement gift. I so appreciate this and cannot thank you enough. Thank you for all the hard work that you have done and continue to do for our Union. Sincerely and in solidarity" — Lisa James, Unit 50

SENIORITY LISTS FOR USW LOCAL 1944 MEMBERS

TELUS

YEAR	SENIORITY	CLERICAL	PLANT	TRAFFIC	SPECIAL	TOTAL
1970	50	0	0	1	0	1
1973	47	0	2	0	0	2
1974	46	3	7	1	0	11
1975	45	2	2	0	0	4
1976	44	5	8	0	0	13
1977	43	6	6	0	0	12
1978	42	5	7	0	0	12
1979	41	10	12	1	0	23
1980	40	28	31	3	0	62
1981	39	38	56	9	0	103
1982	38	7	5	1	0	13
1983	37	4	3	1	0	8
1984	36	7	5	1	0	13
1985	35	17	10	3	0	30
1986	34	13	15	0	0	28
1987	33	28	13	3	0	44
1988	32	38	39	5	0	82
1989	31	42	43	4	0	89
1990	30	57	74	0	0	131
1991	29	19	18	0	0	37
1992	28	31	13	0	0	44
1993	27	10	4	0	0	14
1994	26	86	17	3	0	106
1995	25	62	16	3	0	81
1996	24	47	31	0	0	78
1997	23	101	54	1	0	156
1998	22	81	28	2	1	112
1999	21	59	42	0	0	101
2000	20	99	69	0	0	168
2001	19	53	41	1	0	95
2002	18	82	11	0	0	93
2003	17	123	73	1	0	197
2004	16	134	87	0	0	221
2005	15	144	150	0	0	294
2006	14	265	153	0	0	418
2007	13	302	131	6	0	439
2008	12	307	128	6	0	441
2009	11	106	43	0	0	149
2010	10	188	78	5	0	271
2011	9	457	147	3	0	607
2012	8	334	92	4	0	430
2013	7	341	119	0	0	460
2014	6	292	211	0	0	503
2015	5	347	235	0	1	583
2016	4	99	158	0	0	257
2017	3	314	176	2	0	492
2018	2	114	105	0	0	219
2019	1	380	157	12	0	549
2020	0	5	47	0	0	52
TOTAL		5292	2972	82	2	8348

SHAW

YEAR	SENIORITY	TOTAL
1974	46	2
1976	44	1
1980	40	1
1981	39	1
1982	38	2
1983	37	3
1984	36	1
1985	35	1
1986	34	1
1987	33	1
1988	32	2
1989	31	7
1990	30	3
1991	29	3
1992	28	3
1995	25	3
1996	24	6
1998	22	2
1999	21	7
2000	20	11
2001	19	97
2002	18	3
2003	17	6
2004	16	5
2005	15	27
2006	14	15
2007	13	25
2008	12	28
2009	11	25
2010	10	61
2011	9	25
2012	8	37
2013	7	15
2014	6	8
2015	5	3
2016	4	5
2017	3	26
2018	2	3
TOTAL		475

STRATCOM

YEAR	SENIORITY	TOTAL
1997	23	1
1999	21	1
2000	20	2
2001	19	1
2002	18	2
2003	17	2
2004	16	4
2005	15	1
2006	14	1
2007	13	3
2008	12	4
2009	11	1
2011	9	3
2014	6	2
2015	5	3
2017	3	2
2018	2	2
2019	1	1
TOTAL		36

MAP COMMUNICATIONS

YEAR	SENIORITY	TOTAL
1987	23	1
1992	22	1
2003	17	1
2009	11	1
2011	9	1
2013	7	1
2015	5	2
2018	2	1
TOTAL		9




Join your unit Meetings from anywhere using your laptop, desktop, phone or tablet!

ALL UNIT MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED BY ZOOM WEBCONFERENCE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Access your Unit Meeting in one click!

Simply follow the link provided in your meeting notice, and enter your meeting ID. You can also call-in using the toll-free number.



Stay connected. Stay safe.