

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD SWORN IN

On Wednesday, January 30, 2019, Local 1944 Executive Board members were sworn-in at the Leo W. Gerard Union Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. Congratulations to the new Executive Board!

"It is a great honour to take on the responsibilities of President for Local 1944," said Isabelle Miller, President of USW Local 1944. "It is now time to build a Local that works for our members, and this will be possible through open

dialogue, gender and racial equity, and the restoration of true solidarity. There are challenges ahead, but I believe that if we all work together, there is nothing we cannot achieve."

For more information, read the Hotline at <http://1944.fyi/IVdi8F>.

You can watch the online video at <http://1944.fyi/u0hF4N>.

Discover the pictures on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmApGwmf>.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In February 2019, the Local said goodbye to Brett Barden, who no longer holds the position of Executive Assistant to the President due to structural changes to our Local.

Brett started his position in April 2014. He played an integral part of the merger with the United Steelworkers. He was also key in organizing the 2015 round of Telus bargaining and both of its national tours. More recently, in June 2017, Brett was selected to attend the prestigious Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference, which was a testimony of his many achievements both in the political arena and for the labour movement.

We wish Brett the very best in his future endeavors.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

On the occasion of Black History Month, members were invited to listen to podcasts produced by the Canadian Labour Congress called "Smoke and Mirrors: Uncovering Truths about Human Rights in Canada". They featured conversations with some of Canada's Black thinkers and activists (<http://1944.fyi/dsDhXw>).

USW Local 1944 President Isabelle Miller was a guest speaker of the French podcast, where she shares her thoughts on how unions should play a role in ensuring more inclusivity for their members: "It is important for unions to offer sufficient mentoring opportunities, and to enable people of colour to get education and attend conferences. If a union is not inclusive of all its members, minorities won't take part in the union activities, and as a result, the union undermines itself. Unions need to reach out to people

from other cultures and tell them: 'We want you to take part in our actions'." (<http://1944.fyi/jm29Bk>)

On February 3, 2019, President Miller was a panelist at the 2019 National Black Canadians Summit in Ottawa, "Mapping Our Future – Face To Face With Our Lawmakers". She spoke on the theme 'Labour and Systemic Racism: Black in the Workplace'. The summit enabled Black communities to raise awareness about major challenges they face and to open a national conversation on ways to enhance social cohesion, inclusive and sustainable development.

On February 20, 2019, President Miller was a panelist at USW Black Labor Week, "Black Women Empowerment Seminar" in which women of colour in leadership roles spoke about the hurdles and struggles in achieving their successes.



DURRELL RUNNING FOR MLA

Local 1944 congratulates Steve Durrell, Regional Executive Officer for Alberta, for being named Airdrie-Cochrane's NDP candidate in their provincial by-election during a nomination meeting that took place in Cochrane on January 31, 2019.

Jason Kenney, leader of the UCP in Alberta, showed how little he values the voice of youth in politics by taking a shot at Brother Durrell over his age.

"Alberta is diverse, it's the third youngest province, its citizens come from all walks of life," said Steve Durrell. "Rachel Notley's team proudly reflects and represents that diversity."

Follow Steve on Facebook @SteveDurrell4NDP

RECIPIENT OF THE 2018 JEFFERSON AWARD FOR DISTRICT 3

USW Local 1944 wishes to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Julie Charbonneau, from Unit 51, for being recognized with an esteemed Jefferson Award. In June, Sister Charbonneau was selected as a Jefferson Award recipient for District 3, for her decades of service as a shop steward and getting others involved through community service.

Julie Charbonneau lives in Surrey, BC. An active Local Women of Steel Committee member, she volunteers twice a week at the Lookout Society, in the Greater Vancouver area, where she helps the less fortunate. She has organized several events to help the homeless and persons suffering from addiction and mental illness.

"I am very grateful to be a Jefferson Award winner," said Julie Charbonneau. "I had a wonderful time at the ceremony."

With the help of the Women of Steel, Sister Charbonneau initiated the "Share Hope" campaign in 2017 to distribute much needed amenities to Greater Vancouver's homeless. Following the day of action that was organized last December, Julie and her fellow Sister Elana Felty (Unit 51) organized two more days of action, on August 18, 2018 and November 20, 2018.

"We have done several Share Hope days of action - the key word being "we". I came up with an idea and my brothers and sisters have rallied beside me to make it happen."

"This experience for me is all part of journey of recovery I began 20 years ago. At a very dark time in my life, one of the TWU's business agents at the time - Jim Christensen, supported and encouraged me onto a path of recovery. He and I made a pact that I would rise up and turn my life around and share hope with others. I have worked the last 20 years to do this in honour of Jim."

"My sole purpose in helping others is to be an example to those who are still struggling. If I can pull myself out of the darkness, there is hope for anyone. I look forward to continue doing service work in my community and helping those who need it most. I am proud to be a member of the United Steelworkers and believe great things can happen when we are united."



WILL YOU BE A JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER THIS YEAR?

Do you or anyone in your Unit go above and beyond to help your community or give back to those in need? You can nominate yourself or another person online for a 2019 USW Cares Jefferson Award at <http://1944.fyi/vocDKB>.

Created in 1972, the Jefferson Awards Foundation builds a culture of service and inspires action by rewarding ordinary people who do extraordinary things in their communities without expectation of recognition. For more information, please visit www.jeffersonawards.org.

Ron Palmer from unit 207, and Nancy McCurrach and Julie Charbonneau, both from Unit 51, respectively won Jefferson Awards over the past three years for outstanding community service. **Are you next?**



DID YOU KNOW?

Labour councils have various responsibilities but mainly are the voice and organization of the labour movement at the community level. This is why it is important for your Local to be involved with labour councils, as a way to make a concrete impact, and improve our workplaces and communities.

USW 1944 AND LABOUR COUNCILS

Congratulations to Paul Hutchinson (third from the left), Chair of Unit 203, for his new position as Vice-President of the Calgary & District Labour Council (CDLC).

We are confident that Paul will defend our members' best interests in the Calgary area.

The CDLC supports 60 affiliated union locals representing 44,000 members; USW Local 1944 is one of the CDLC affiliates. The Executive of the CDLC represents a cross section of local unions, which are allocated delegates based on the number of members in their union. The delegates meet monthly to discuss issues of concern to their members, get involved in the community, educate members and workers, organize workers, lobby governments, campaign for justice, take political action, and support striking workers.

If you want to have your say in municipal politics and in the labour movement, step in and get involved with your labour council!

WORKPLACE NEWS

STERICYCLE CERTIFICATION

In September 2018, Stericycle restructured their operations and closed their Richmond office location. The company showed how little it valued its employees by imposing unfair work conditions: If a member was not able to work from home, they stopped being employed by Stericycle. This ultimatum put our members in financial and material hardships.

In December 2018, the Union served notice to bargain a renewed Stericycle collective agreement. Meeting dates have been set for March 2019, and Local 1944 is determined to negotiate a collective agreement that is beneficial to our members.

Our Stericycle members provide 24/7 call answering services (inbound calls only) and typically take calls in health related fields for Doctors, Organ Transplant, Sick Line for Paramedics and other employers.

STRATCOM CERTIFICATION

Strategic Communications Inc. (Stratcom) management continues to enforce the job performance language in the Collective Agreement. It permits the Company to establish the minimum levels of acceptable job performance, describes how remedial training will be provided if a caller is unable to maintain those standards and outlines the minimum number of disciplinary steps to be followed if a caller is unable to achieve the minimum performance levels.

We believe that work performance should not be synonymous with constant policing by the company.

Our Stratcom members provide campaign, research, fundraising, polling and voter id services. They take calls in the non-profit sector for Environmental, Health, Human Rights, Advocacy, Labour, Professional Associations and Political clients.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

A right denied to one is a right denied to all, so our members need to hear from you! Please share your story at communications@usw1944.ca. Contact your Local Union Representative at <http://1944.fyi/Union-Reps>

JOIN OUR "STEEL ON WHEELS" TEAM TO HELP CANCER RESEARCH

Local 1944 is looking for members to join in our Steel on Wheels team for [The Enbridge^B Ride to Conquer CancerTM Presented by Evraz](#) (or The Ride), on August 17-18, 2019.

This is a 200 km bike ride in Southern Alberta, to raise funds for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. All of the donations received are used in Alberta, powering research, clinical trials and enhanced care programs.

You can participate either by joining our Steel on Wheels team, by raising funds through the Virtual Rider Program, or by registering as a Crew Member or Volunteer.

"Having participated in 10 of the 11 years, I can say it is an

inspirational, emotional and challenging weekend," said Sheila Brown-Eckersley, from Unit 203 in Calgary. "I began this journey in 2009 as a way to recover from my Mother's death from Pancreatic Cancer. Finding out that 50% of Canadians will hear the words 'You have Cancer' has motivated me to continue."

Are you interested in joining The Ride? Contact us by email at theride-ab@usw1944.ca. This will be a great opportunity to build strong relationships with other union activists through community action.

For more information, please visit <https://usw1944.ca/ride>.



TRIBUTE TO OUR SISTER AND FRIEND KATE WOOD

One of USW Local 1944's staff members, Kate Wood, passed away on Saturday, February 23.

Kate was the Local's Network Administrator and the longest serving member of our current staff, having started her position in June 1991. She provided continuity and constant professionalism during changing and challenging times, while at the same time helping the Local to adapt and evolve.

Kate pioneered our Local web site when the Local was starting to go digital, and led the implementation of our latest web site. Kate managed the databases and server. She helped the Local's annual conventions run smoothly, and ensured that staff had the technological tools to effectively serve our members.

Kate was also our friend, and we are devastated that her passing was so sudden and that it occurred a month and a half before she was set to retire. Her amazing work for our Local deserved a well-earned retirement.

Kate's loyalty to our Union stood the test of time, and for this we are forever grateful. She is already dearly missed.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to our Steelworkers' 2018 scholarship winners from Local 1944! Jessica Darroch (Orillia, ON) and Tea Maxwell (Ponoka, AB) won the 2018 USW Post-Secondary Scholarship (\$1,000). Sean McLean (Kamloops, BC) won the 2018 USW Lifelong Learning Scholarship (\$1,000).

This year, don't miss the opportunity for financial aid for post-secondary education! Apply at www.usw.ca/members/scholarships.

SOLIDARITY WITH USW HECLA WORKERS

On January 28, 2019, members of USW Local 1944 and other Steelworkers from District 3 rallied in Vancouver in solidarity with USW Local 5114 members (Mullan, Idaho).

USW Local 5114 members have been on a two-year-long strike because their employer, Hecla Mining Company, refuses to sign a fair contract.

More pictures at <http://1944.fyi/WSecf>



SHOP STEWARD LEVEL 1 COURSES OFFERED IN MONTREAL & RIMOUSKI

The USW is working with Local 1944 to offer Shop Steward Level 1 courses in Montreal (March 25–26, 2019) and Rimouski (March 28–29, 2019).

“Eye opener.” “Wonderful.” “Empowering.” — said our members who attended the courses in Alberta and British Columbia last year.

“The feedback we got was very positive,” said Paul Hutchinson, Chair of Unit 203. “Our members appreciated the educational content and the empowering feeling the course gave them.”

Seize this opportunity for education now! Fill out the online application at <http://1944.fyi/ssapplication>.



PINK SHIRT DAY

On February 27, our members celebrated Pink Shirt Day.

Not too sure why Pink Shirt Day matters? Read our article at <http://1944.fyi/cgjAOH>.

Shout out to Unit 51, in British Columbia, who organised their 9th annual “Pink Shirt Day at work” campaign with resounding success (see box story).

“Together, Unit 51 raised \$999 to go to the [Amanda Todd Legacy Fund](#) and sold 56 shirts for \$560 going to School District #43 and Kidsport. Thank you to everyone that helped out! Collectively over the past 9 years we have raised \$11,710.70 to go to various charities to end bullying; the Amanda Todd Legacy Society, Boys and Girls Club of BC and Kidsport!”

— Submitted by Nancy McCurrach
Unit 51 Shop Steward



More pictures at <http://1944.fyi/Q0xcF2>

MEMBERS WITH A TALENT

Discover beautiful pictures of our Telus members in Campbell River, BC, taken by Kelly Corder from Unit 35: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm8v1ZT8>.

You have a talent too or you have a story to tell? Share with us at communications@usw1944.ca.



DISTRICT 6 SCHOLARSHIPS

Our members in Ontario and the Maritimes have the opportunity to apply to USW District 6 scholarships, as the District offers three of its own scholarships in addition to the Canada-wide scholarships that the USW offers. USW Local 1944 members and

their family can apply to both.

Learn more about the available scholarships for 2019 at <http://1944.fyi/UeCXXr>.

District 6 receives many applications each year, so make sure to send yours as soon as possible.



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