



Donna Hoki, Acting President

THANK YOU FOR YET ANOTHER YEAR OF TRUST, SOLIDARITY AND ACTIVISM

"2019 has been an exciting year for Local 1944. To kickstart the year, in late January your new Executive Board was sworn in at the Leo W. Gerard Union Centre in Mississauga.

Since then, we have undergone a myriad of changes including extensive training, opportunities to participate in the Union either through conferences, Leadership Development or various labour schools as well as other initiatives.

In some respects, we have even changed the way we conduct business, redesigning how we interact with the various employers we deal with but most importantly and especially with you, the members.

We have developed a Grievance Committee and this has become the new normal. In doing so, we ensure that we deliver consistently and without fail for you, our members. We are piloting the use of Zoom in a more fulsome way to answer your call in utilizing technology in a more progressive way.

We are well underway to improving our Local. We are in strong financial shape after two fiscal years of large budget surpluses, we are seeing more participation in our Local than has been seen in a long time, and we continue to push membership engagement to new heights all of the time. These efforts include the recent creation of our new Engagement Committee and its three subcommittees. Thank you to all of you that help everyday to keep members informed and connected to their Union.

Throughout all of the changes, whether

they be process implementation to realize improvements or staffing changes that required saying bye to people that had made us better but also welcoming new friends, we do it all in the name of making lives better for working people.

To all of you that have stepped up in 2019 or have continued throughout many years to put your name forward, to take on the hard work that activism demands, I salute you. Your determination and the incredible amount of energy you have put in makes us a better Union. I am grateful to all of you that show up and do the work to make our workplaces and our communities healthier. I am inspired and look forward to what 2020 brings, because together, we will WIN more fairness in our workplaces!

On behalf of the National Executive Board, I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and the very best in the New Year."

Visit our online store!

Show your Union Pride with Local 1944 clothing and accessories.



T-shirts sizes S to 4XL

Wear loudly & proudly

<https://shopusw1944.ca>



Discover more swag online

All our products are union-made. Please note that all items are tax free. Secure credit card payment available.

75th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

Many members have been attending the 75th anniversary celebrations and seized the opportunity to meet up with fellow Union members. Once again, thanks to Unit Officials for their help, and to our Local Union staff who have been working hard to organize these events throughout the country.

"Such a great time last night celebrating our 75th anniversary with my Unit 502 brothers and sisters! The party was a great success and fun times had by all!"
— Michelle Ravary, Trustee

"Thanks to the members of Unit 213 for organizing this fantastic party."
— Paul Hutchinson, Unit 203 Chair

"I had a great time, thanks a million."
— Anne Shantz, Unit 213

"What a great USW Local 1944 celebration. Great time building solidarity and having fun."
— Juanita West, Local Union Representative Alberta

"Unit 207's party was a great success and the hall looked beautiful with poinsettias on all the tables. The food was excellent – turkey dinner with perogies with all the trimmings, and it all washed down with fabulous prizes, awesome swag and a live band with good musicians."
— Marion Bennett, Unit 207 Chair

All the pictures online at <http://1944.fyi/AvE721>



Unit 207 celebration event © 2019 Ron Palmer Photography
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Unit 207 celebration event © 2019 Ron Palmer Photography
www.facebook.com/RonPalmerPhotography



Unit 60 celebration event



Unit 60 celebration event



Unit 207 celebration event © 2019 Ron Palmer Photography
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Unit 214 celebration event



Unit 33 celebration event



Units 5, 7 and 31 celebration event



Units 203 and 213 celebration event



Unit 502 celebration event



Unit 502 celebration event

Send your 75th Anniversary photos at communications@usw1944.ca

YOUNG MEMBERS GET INVOLVED

NEXT GENERATION FORUM - QUEBEC, OCTOBER 16-19, 2019

"I had the chance not only to participate in the Next Generation Forum in Quebec, but also to be part of the organizing committee.

The Forum was so successful that a resolution was passed at the USW/Metallos 55th Annual Conference to keep it going in the coming years.

Discussions heavily focussed on young people's place within our Union. Amongst the multiple findings that came out of the Forum, the most important priorities turned out to be family and the need for a unionism more accessible to young people, such as youth-focused trainings during USW conferences." — *Maxime Deveau (Unit 604)*



Watch the Next Generation Forum video at <http://1944.fyi/dMKRQg>

"The Next Generation Forum was my first involvement with the Union. Through many topics of discussion, the Forum focused on trying to find solutions, actions in the short, medium and long term, in order to lighten the weight of the more difficult aspects related to our respective jobs.

Prior to my participation, I was wondering about what a union could do in my workplace and what it meant. Now, I have a better overview of the involvement it can have and in which situations it can step in." — *Maryline Caron (Unit 601)*

USW INTERNATIONAL NEXT GENERATION CONFERENCE

On November 18-22, 11 young members from Local 1944 attended the 1st-ever International Next Gen Conference that was held in Pittsburgh, PA: Katelyn Armstrong (Unit 4), Kevin Lomax (Unit 7), Matt Rizzo (Unit 7), Joshua Babstock (Unit 204), Kyle Johnston (Unit 205), Carla Ayles (Unit 207), Nishant Prasad (Unit 213), Genevieve Wojdyga (Unit 213), Pascale Evans (Unit 604), Terika Peters (Unit 604), and Robert J. Briza (Acting Regional Executive Officer Quebec).

900 young activists from varying countries, locals, and units came together to discuss issues that younger generations are facing today or will face in the near future. They were able to attend workshops on various topics such as LGBTQ+, Automation and Technological Unemployment, Climate Action, Breaking Through the Age Barrier...

"I found the Next Gen Conference very impactful. The workshop I was most fascinated by was the [Steelworkers Humanity Fund](#). [Please refer to the article on page 4]." — *Carla Ayles (Unit 207)*



Canadian Delegates at the 1st ever Next Gen Conference in Pittsburgh

"I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to attend the conference, as Next Gen 2019 International Conference was by far one of the best I've attended. The panels and presentations were very relatable, along with the various courses offered to us. A few of my favourite highlights would be the class on Mass Incarceration that I attended, networking with amazing individuals, as well as our community service day at the Carnegie boys and girls club [Please refer to the article on page 4]." — *Genevieve Wojdyga (Unit 213)*

"The Next Gen conference was amazing. I cried, laughed and loved. I've never felt nor seen so much drive, passion, and motivation in one week. I was able to interact with many brothers and sisters nationwide and realized that we are not all that different, we have one common goal; to create a better future for our Union." — *Terika Peters (Unit 604)*

"These folks here are the future leaders of my Union, and more broadly are the caretakers of our collective futures. It's these folks here that I TRUST, the best bunch of young leaders ever. My sisters, my brothers, my friends representing Local Union 1944 at the first ever International NextGen conference in Pittsburgh." — *Donna Hokiro, Acting President*

More pictures at <http://1944.fyi/zs6Ok9>



Upper row, left to right: Carla Ayles, Joshua Babstock, Robert J. Briza, Kevin Lomax
Middle row: Katelyn Armstrong, Kyle Johnston, Matt Rizzo
Lower row: Terika Peters, Genevieve Wojdyga, Nishant Prasad

STEELWORKERS HUMANITY FUND

DID YOU KNOW?

Through the Steelworkers Humanity Fund, our union dues go towards a wide variety of projects and locations. The SHF is a Canada-specific endeavour.

“Working together to improve people’s lives is my main driving force as a union activist. Through the SHF, we donate money as needed for situations like in the aftermath of wildfires, and we go into communities of workers and have real conversations with them to find out what specific assistance we can offer, whether it be equipment, training, or expertise and information.” — *Carla Ayles (Unit 207)*



Learn more about the Steelworkers Humanity Fund at <http://1944.fyi/SHF>

Steelworkers Humanity Fund
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Fax: 416-487-9308
Email: humanityfund@usw.ca

UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
MÉTALLOS

YOUNG MEMBERS GIVE BACK

Watch the video at <http://1944.fyi/wbFZIW>



From left to right: Regional Executive Officer Quebec Robert J. Briza, Carla Ayles (Unit 207), Genevieve Wojdyga (Unit 213), Nishant Prasad (Unit 213) and Matt Rizzo (Unit 7)

More pictures at <http://1944.fyi/zs6Ok9>

On November 22, 2019, Local 1944 delegates at the Next Gen Conference were able to do some community service and give back to so many deserving people in the Pittsburgh community that hosted them during the conference [See the article on page 3]. Our Next Geners helped the Boys & Girls Club of Western Pennsylvania.

“Going out into the community and volunteering at local organizations fired me up. Our group largely helped clean and beautify a local Boys and Girls Club. The inspiration I took away from this day of action will inform the campaign I’m hoping to bring to our Local in the very near future; please keep an eye out for more details about that opportunity to give back within our own communities!” — *Carla Ayles (Unit 207)*

“It felt good to help out for the kids and families in the community, and I came home with many fresh ideas and inspiration. I’m excited to share my report on my experiences.” — *Genevieve Wojdyga (Unit 213)*

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS MOVES ALBERTA

Wednesday, December 11 was called Morning Of Giving as featured on the local Global TV Morning Show.

“It’s my nineteenth Christmas with the Magic of Christmas. I challenged all local Labour Leaders, Presidents, Chair Persons, in the city, to level a \$100 donation. This is a hundred years since the general strike across Canada, so this is a good time.” — *Paul Hutchinson, Unit 203 Chair*

Get into the Magic of Christmas spirit! Watch the Global TV interviews at <http://1944.fyi/oxWQci> and <http://1944.fyi/NilgJP>.



On the left is Paul Hutchinson (Unit 203 Chair)

ACTIVISM IN QUEBEC



From left to right: Local Union Rep QC Hans-Woosly Balan, Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick, Brendan Taylor (Unit 602), Basil Mhlanga (Unit 604), David Matroud (Unit 602), Local Union Rep QC Pierre-Richard Joseph

D5 MÉTALLOS 55th CONFERENCE

On November 20-22, 2019, 6 members attended the District 5 Métallos 55th Annual Conference, in Laval, QC: Basil Mhlanga (Unit 604), Brendan Taylor (Unit 602), David Matroud (Unit 602), Local Union Representatives Quebec Hans-Woosly Balan and Pierre-Richard Joseph, and Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick.

450 activists from across Quebec gathered under the theme 'The Best for Our World', and addressed challenges and opportunities in the fight against climate change, as well as the impact that labour shortages are having on working conditions.

"I was really interested in the panel on Occupational Health and Safety. More than 226 people died in 2018 as a result of a work accident. 83 deaths were linked to homicides, which is unacceptable; the Steelworkers want the government to improve their new reforms, in order to reduce accidents and deaths in the workplace.

Another very interesting topic came from a video, showing retirees traveling from Sept-Îles to Ottawa in 2017, to attend the introduction of a bill that would protect retirees in the event of business bankruptcy. They continued to put pressure in 2018 and 2019, to push the issue forward in Parliament (see Bill C 384)." — *Local Union Representative Quebec Pierre-Richard Joseph*

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



Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick

32nd FTQ CONFERENCE

On November 25-28, 2019, 943 delegates gathered at the 32nd conference of the Quebec Federation of Labour (FTQ) in Quebec City, under the theme *Action In An Ever-Evolving World*. Robert Messier (Unit 602), Danis Bouffard (Unit 602), Maxime Deveau (Unit 604), Alexander Livingston (Unit 604), and Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick were among the 80 Steelworkers in attendance.

"Among the topics discussed during the conference, one was particularly relevant to our industry: the digitization of the economy and its impact on our workplaces. Delegates from our Local had the opportunity to exchange and share their experiences in the telecommunications sector. Several other subjects were discussed, including the minimum wage, the CAQ government's Bill 21 and the long-awaited reform of the Occupational Health and Safety Act. In total, 95 resolutions were debated and voted on by delegates during these four days." — *Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick*



Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick, Robert Messier (Unit 602)

On November 27, delegates rallied in front of the National Assembly to ask the government to stop delaying the reform of the 1979 Occupational Health and Safety Act.

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



Alexander Livingston (Unit 604), Robert Messier (Unit 602)



Max Deveau (Unit 604), Acting Vice-President Pierre-Luc Dick



Danis Bouffard (Unit 602)

ACTIVISM IN ONTARIO

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF LABOUR 15th BIENNIAL CONVENTION

On Monday, November 25, labour activists gathered for the Ontario Federation of Labour 15th Biennial Convention, to discuss the vision and action plan for mass mobilization. Three members from Local 1944 attended the convention: Trustee Michelle Ravary, Herschel Cumberbatch (Unit 503), and Trevor Haarsma (Unit 503).

"This year's OFL Convention was very informative and inspiring. I personally learned a lot about issues that are affecting members in all aspects of labour and unions. Jamie West, MPP Sudbury and Matthew Green MP Hamilton Centre were great speakers. **Delegates elected the OFL's first female President, Patty Coates.** We also marched for a rally to support 'Power Of Many' in Queens Park." – Michelle Ravary, Trustee



From left to right: Herschel Cumberbatch (Unit 503), Trevor Haarsma (Unit 503), and Trustee Michelle Ravary



United Steelworkers District 6 Delegates at the OFL 15th Biennial Convention. Lower row, from the left: 1st Herschel Cumberbatch (Unit 503), 4th Trustee Michelle Ravary, 5th Trevor Haarsma (Unit 503)

NO CUTS TO EDUCATION

"On December 11, 2019, members from the District 6 Political Action Committee joined the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation education workers and teachers' one-day strike at Richview Collegiate in Etobicoke, Ontario."

– Michelle Ravary, Trustee



TAKE ACTION FOR BETTER WORKPLACES

DID YOU TAKE THE SURVEY YET?

The Local Union has been hearing examples of members being instructed they are no longer allowed to use company time for a Bio Break, while other members report they are not having any "blow back".

Examples have been given of members being told "Stop drinking so much water!" and "Your coffee and lunch are the appropriate times to use the facilities". While it is possible to use one's breaks to take care of "business" the reality is, when the urge hits, you may not be able to wait for a break.

Take 3 minutes to provide your feedback at <http://1944.fyi/VY5yp5>.



HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

Because a right denied to one is a right denied to all, Local 1944 members need to hear from you!

Contact your Local Union Representative: 1944.fyi/Union-Reps

Share your story by email at communications@usw1944.ca



CELEBRATING ACTIVISTS



Upper row, from left to right: Omero Landi, Regional Executive Officer BC Jayson Little, Local Union Rep BC Steve McWhirter, Candace Knoll (Unit 51 and member of the NWDLC), Bruce Conley (Unit 7), Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips
Lower row: Regional Executive Officer BC Denise Chisholm, Elana Felty (Unit 51 Chair), Acting President Donna Hokiroy, Nancy McCurrach (Unit 51 Councillor and city councillor Port Coquitlam), and Local Union Rep BC Tamara Marshall

26th ANNUAL LABOUR APPRECIATION NIGHT

Members from Local 1944 had the honour to attend the 26th Annual Labour Appreciation Night on December 4, 2019, in Burnaby, BC. Four outstanding community and labour champions were recognized that night:

Brother Brian Harder, recently retired Health, Safety and Environment Coordinator for USW District 3, was the recipient of the Brian Harder Labour Leadership Award from the Fraser Valley Labour Council. He was instrumental in encouraging engagement and partnerships between local union members, their families and their communities.

Jeannie Kilby, President of CUPE 402, was awarded the New Westminster & District Labour Council Labour Community Service Award.

Victor Elkins, Executive Director of Positive Living Society of BC, won the Vancouver and District Labour Council's 2019 Syd Thompson Community Service Award.

Mervyn van Steinburg, former Director of Partnership and Community Engagement IBEW 213, received the United Way's 2019 Joe Morris Labour Community Service Award.

From left to right: Comedian Morgan Brayton Emcee; Jeannie Kilby, President CUPE Local 402; Brian Harder (retired USW District 3); Victor Elkins, Executive Director of Positive Living Society; Mervyn Van Steinburg, IBEW 213; John Crawford, President and CEO of Pacific Blue Cross



BROTHER ROBERT GREENE HOLDS A LECTURE IN VANCOUVER, BC

Robert Joseph Greene, from Unit 51 in the Burnaby Client Care office, is the author of several books and short stories. He will be holding a lecture in Vancouver, at UBC, in February.

Brother Greene was the first Westerner to address [Russia's anti-gay laws](#) directly to the Russian public, [denouncing](#) the country's failure to fulfill its stated commitment on human rights before the United Nations. He continues his fight for human rights and supports

organizations like [PFLAG](#) Canada.

Members in the Lower Mainland are encouraged to support our talented Brother by attending this free event. Seating in the main auditorium is limited, so please arrive early.

Find more information about the lecture on [UBC's web site](#). Rsvp via the [Facebook event](#).

"What I have learned with USW Local 1944 is that human rights and social justice go hand in hand. I am proud to be a member. A story can empower the fight for social justice. All those who fight for social justice and equality are activists. I believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals, which is why I actively support human rights. I want people to learn from my stories that our love is a human right." — Robert Greene



ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

From 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

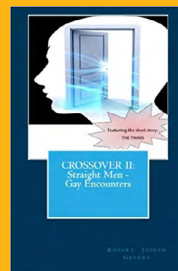
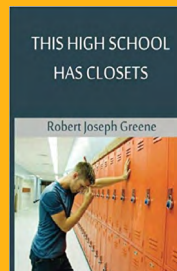
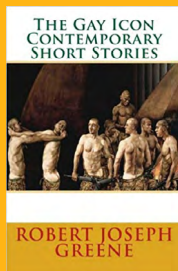
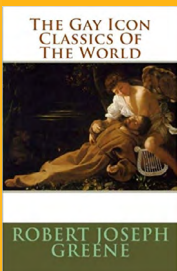
How To Teach Love: Practical Suggestions from a Dedicated Canadian Romantic Writer

Coach House, Green College, UBC
6201 Cecil Green Park Rd, Vancouver

CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Our members reflect the diversity of Canada. We celebrate differences and believe that everyone is entitled to a workplace that is free from discrimination, regardless of race, religion, gender, age, status or sexual orientation.

If you have questions, [email](#) the Civil and Human Rights Committee or fill in the [online webform](#) to submit your application for a vacant position.



OUR MEMBERS GIVE BACK



Members from USW Local 1944 and their friends and families attended the 30th Anniversary Commemorative Brunch. They were honoured to welcome MLA Thomas Dang as a guest to their table.

30th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BRUNCH

"On December 1st, we gathered to mourn the 14 women who were brutally murdered and another 13 wounded 30 years ago on December 6th, 1989, at Ecole Polytechnique. They were murdered simply because they were women.

December 6 has come to symbolize violence against women and girls, and sadly 30 years later, we still fight for gender equality with violence against women and non-males reaching epidemic proportions, in Alberta as well as in other provinces.

Unit 207, USW Local 1944 and USW District 3 bought enough tickets to fill two tables at this commemorative brunch. Our Local Union also donated items from our Women's Committee.

Fathers, mothers and daughters, partners, a Local Union Rep, a Unit chair, a counsellor, and rank-and-file members came.

Thank you all for showing up for your Union and for all women. Together we WILL end violence against women and girls." — Donna Hokiro, Acting President

DONATIONS TO LOCAL SHELTERS IN METRO VANCOUVER, BC

"Amazing things happen when we come together. On December 5, we gathered at our USW Local 1944 head office and put together bundles of toques, gloves, soaps, cookies, water, hats, socks and some clothing items to deliver to some local shelters in our communities. This is the amazing work we do behind the scenes together. We had Health and Safety Committee members who jumped in to help our little assembly line packing the items and Unit 60 brothers as well, they were having meetings at our head office and saw what we were getting ready to do and quickly offered up their helping hands and free time. This is union, this is solidarity, and this is why we do what we do. Thank you all." — Elana Felty (Unit 51 Chair)



From left to right: Denise Chisholm Regional Executive Officer BC, Julie Charbonneau (Unit 51), Michelle Dey (Unit 51), Elana Felty (Unit 51 Chair)

This winter season, please consider donating to a local shelter or food bank. You can also give back by making a [donation online](#) to the [USW Humanity Fund](#).

BE A STEEL ON WHEELS RIDER

In 2020, join us for an Epic Ride!

The Ride to Conquer Cancer

RIDE WITH USW LOCAL 1944!

The funds raised will support the cancer research in your province.

Join or create a team: communications@usw1944.ca
More information at <https://usw1944.ca/ride>

RIDE TO CONQUER CANCER

UNITED STEELWORKERS USW TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS UNION NATIONAL LOCAL 1944

IN 2020, JOIN US FOR AN EPIC RIDE!

Local 1944 is looking for members to participate in The Ride to Conquer Cancer (or The Ride) in 2020, to help the cancer research in Canada. As every member will be affected at some point in their lives by cancer, directly or indirectly, Local 1944 believes that this cause is our cause.

There are four annual rides organized throughout Canada, one in each of the provinces that Local 1944 represents: [Montreal](#), [Toronto](#), [Alberta](#), and [British Columbia](#). You can start to register now for 2020 to benefit from early bird rates and have more time to fundraise.

More information at <https://usw1944.ca/ride>.

"I trained 3 to 5 days a week, usually after work and on the weekend. However, it is a ride, not a race. Dedicated vehicles help Riders out throughout the Ride. Riders, Crew and Volunteers are all in it for the same reasons and all play essential roles for this event to happen. One more detail that can make it easier for you to join in: wherever you live in your province, the organizers can bus you down and back before and after the Ride."

— Sheila Brown-Eckersley (Unit 203)