

## STERICYCLE COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT RATIFIED: ZERO CONCESSIONS!

Subsequent to reaching a tentative agreement with Stericycle on May 23 after continuing talks with the company on May 22–23, 2019, Unit 63 members from the Stericycle certification attended two ratification meetings in Richmond, BC, on Tuesday, June 11, 2019. After the meetings, they voted to ratify the tentative collective agreement: the results were unequivocal with **100% in favour!**

During these ratification meetings, the Bargaining Committee and National President Isabelle Miller greeted members from Unit 63. Perry Pasqualetto, Local Union Representative, gave a thorough presentation of how the negotiations with the company unfolded. He recounted how, at the beginning of the bargaining, the company had tabled concessionary items and wanted major changes to eliminate Unit 63 members' sick bank time, reduce seniority provisions and limit the Union's ongoing ability to enforce the collective agreement. After much discussion, those company proposals had been removed.

"Today is a very important day in achieving a collective agreement that improves your working lives and provides you with a fair economic increase," said Perry Pasqualetto. "We are proud to have achieved that, and we are also happy that we prevented the employer from taking anything away from you. This is why we endorse this tentative agreement, and we hope you will endorse it as well."

"After the positive outcome with Shaw bargaining several months ago, this collective agreement is another success for our Local Union," said Isabelle Miller, National President. "The changes we continue to make in how we communicate with our membership are directly linked to our successes at bargaining. The Local is already preparing for additional rounds of negotiations taking place later this year, and is focussed on ensuring that we maintain strong momentum going into future preparation for negotiations with Telus. All of our efforts towards building capacity within our membership will play a direct role in how we will deal with Telus come 2021."

"The employer initially proposed a 0% wage increase, and they wanted to eliminate all their past practices with the Union. But the Local secured your rights."

"I'm very happy that we prevented the employer from taking anything away from you", he concluded. "This will be a building block for future rounds of negotiations."

— Unit 63 Stericycle Bargaining Committee: Louise Davis, Shop Steward; Joan Mitchell; Perry Pasqualetto, Local Union Representative; Steve McWhirter, Local Union Representative



**For more information on the changes made to the Collective Agreement, please visit [1944.fyi/6d0dzi](http://1944.fyi/6d0dzi).**

## HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

Share your story at [communications@usw1944.ca](mailto:communications@usw1944.ca) • Contact a Local Union Rep: [1944.fyi/Union-Reps](http://1944.fyi/Union-Reps)

## FAREWELL, ALEX!

June 5, 2019, was the last day we had the pleasure to work with our Sister and friend Alex Fantetti, who had been working for the Local since 2017. She was in charge of multiple tasks, amongst which accounting, processing retirement packages, meeting notices, membership applications, and travel arrangements.

"I am so very lucky to have had the opportunity to get to know and work with all of you and although I am

excited to be starting a new chapter in my life I am sad to be leaving this place and all of you," said Alex.

"Alex has helped the Local out tremendously with her consistent hard work and talent for doing detailed work," said Michael Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer. "She's been a friend to all of us who work with her, and will be missed very much. On behalf of all of us, we wish you well Alex."



# 1919-2019: 100 YEARS SINCE THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

"The Winnipeg General Strike wasn't always something I thought about, or felt a deep connection to, even as a born and raised Winnipegger. While it was part of our schools history books, and I remember going to the Manitoba Museum with my parents and seeing the strike exhibit, it was all fairly obscure to me as a youngster and I didn't truly appreciate it. It wasn't until I became a labour activist did I connect with, and truly understand, what was at stake for the brave men and women in 1919 who suffered loss of life and limb to build a better future for their children, and future generations.

The Winnipeg General Strike showed what solidarity and activism could accomplish. Although the corrupt police and politicians (in the backpocket of business) of the day would eventually crush the strike with violence, labour was on track to make improvements to every day workers' lives. Leaders within the strike who were jailed and injured, would eventually become elected politicians and advance our cause in the halls of legislature. A movement was born.

In our work force today (and society as a whole) solidarity is a word almost never uttered unless within a union context. Communities in our nation rarely band together for a greater good; our declining union membership and participation is a symptom of that greater problem. As Canadians we should embrace our labour history and be inspired by it. Solidarity, dignity, and welfare as a worker is a birthright we enjoy now as Canadians, because of events like the 1919 General Strike. It should never be taken for granted."

— Submitted by David Skrober, REO for Alberta, Proud Winnipegger

"Never have the workers of Winnipeg had so much confidence in their cause as today. Never has there been such unanimity as to absolute necessity of settling once [and] for all the two points at issue, namely: 1. The right to collective bargaining, and 2. The right to a living wage." — *Western Labour News*, May 21, 1919



## Did you know?

Basically all of the rights that we enjoy today in the Canadian labour movement can be traced back to the Winnipeg General Strike and similar types of strikes across Canada. This is a non-exhaustive list of what Canadian workers got out of the 1919 strike: the right to have free collective bargaining in Canada, several labour laws, health and safety legislation, the right to strike, the right to organize.

How we understand the past influences how we see the future. Because we cannot take the current workers' rights for granted, we need every worker to stand up and be counted.

## Racial discrimination: A convenient tool to divide workers

During the 1919 strike, many Winnipeg business leaders used messages of white supremacy to racialize workers and undermine the movement; the city's major newspapers escalated those fears with headlines such as 'To hell with the alien enemy.' The Citizens Committee of 1,000, composed of businessmen, lawyers, and politicians who opposed the strike, accusing the strikers of being communists, Bolsheviks. In the game of racial discrimination, no one profits but the corporations.

"In 2019, many people of colour are still not represented in the labour movement," said Isabelle Miller, USW Local 1944 National President. "We need to go out and organize precarious workers, new immigrants coming into Canada, refugees, women."

## The role of women

Women started the Winnipeg General Strike on May 15, 1919, when 500 telephone operators, the Hello Girls, didn't take their shift. They constituted about 10 percent of the strikers. They had their own issues, amongst which equal pay for equal work. While all the workers risked much to go on strike, single working women were particularly vulnerable: when they went on strike, they immediately lost their jobs.

Women played strong and various roles in the strike, acting as strikers and rioters as well as distributors of food, all while struggling to piece together a meal for their families. Women strikers unplugged the telephone lines, took to the streets during riots, and impeded scab labour. They were members of the Central Strike Committee and members of the Women's Labour League. Among the ten strike leaders going to jail, one was a woman, Helen Jury Armstrong. She played a significant role in the strike, representing the issues of women workers and championing the rights of women and equal wages.

1969 plaque donated by the USW



The Winnipeg Strike Committee



More information: [1944.fyi/mslzMD](http://1944.fyi/mslzMD)

# OUR MEMBERS WORK FOR YOU

## 48<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CBTU CONVENTION

From May 23 to 26, I had the pleasure of attending the 48<sup>th</sup> International Coalition of Black Trade Unionist Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

From the start of the Convention to the closing banquet, I felt inspired and motivated to continue my efforts in the labour movement. The speakers were absolutely phenomenal and the level of solidarity was unreal. It was wonderful to be in a room full of activists from different sectors and parts of the world come together for one common goal to continue the fight in the labour movement for people of colour and for all workers.

It still amazes me that regardless of where you are in North America or the world, the struggles are the same. I look forward to implementing the experiences and lessons learned into our Local with my continued dedication to the members of Local 1944.

— Submitted by Brooke Downey, Regional Executive Officer for Ontario, co-chair of the Civil and Human Rights Committee and Local 1944 Representative to the CBTU



More information at [cbtu.ca](http://cbtu.ca)

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The National Women's Committee met in Toronto on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, to discuss a variety of workplace and community issues. We de-briefed following the 2018 National/International Women of Steel Conference as well the 2019 USW National Policy Conference, and we are following through on the various take-aways.

In addition, we are taking on several new projects that will be impactful nation-wide in all sectors and across all Districts.

We are Women of Steel and we champion ideas and issues in defense of women's rights. We advocate for the end of violence and sexual harassment against women and girls; we fight for women's health and safety at work; we push for women to access union leadership through increased activism; we raise awareness on the importance of changing the channel on hatred; we put pressure on employers and governments to close the gender wage gap. Women of Steel also stand with sisters around the world. These are a few of the activities that Women of Steel do.

We closed our two-day meeting with an eye to the future, as we continue to foster dialogue and action to support all women.

— Submitted by Donna Hokiroy, National Vice-President, Ex-Officio and co-Chair of the Women of Steel Committee



For more information or to contact your Women of Steel Committee, please visit [1944.fyi/6WL1d1](http://1944.fyi/6WL1d1).

Pictures from the 2018 National/International Women's Conference at [1944.fyi/HOWAQ2](http://1944.fyi/HOWAQ2). Pictures from the 2019 National Policy Conference at [1944.fyi/82RnzS](http://1944.fyi/82RnzS)

## BCARTW VISITS THE UNION OFFICE

On June 13, 2019, USW Local 1944 President Isabelle Miller and official BCARTW liaison Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips were pleased to meet with executive members of the BC Association of Retired Telecommunication Workers. The BCARTW is an independent Society composed of retired TWU / USW Local 1944 members who are members of the Telecommunications Workers Union Pension Plan. The Society aims to promote the interests and well-being of those in receipt of TWPP pensions.

Attendees from BCARTW were President Rick Fleming, Vice-President Peter Massy, Secretary Jennifer Meloche and Treasurer Dianne Miller. Agenda items included discussing the health and direction of the TWPP, involving BCARTW members in documenting our Union's history, and improving the relationship between the Union and BCARTW.

"I was really happy to have been appointed USW Local 1944's official liaison to BCARTW," says Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips, "I've attended their meetings for the last few years, and have seen that their Union activism is still hard at work in their retirement. You can measure how well a Union respects its history by the strength of its relationship with its retirees, so I'm glad to be able to bring us together."



From left to right: Michael Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer; Rick Fleming, BCARTW President; Isabelle Miller, National President; Jennifer Meloche, BCARTW Secretary; Peter Massy, BCARTW Vice-President; Dianne Miller, BCARTW Treasurer.

# "FAMILY RALLY" IN SOLIDARITY WITH ABI WORKERS

On Saturday May 25, 2019, I attended the Big Family Rally in solidarity to the 1,030 lockout members of ABI.

It was important for me to show my support to our sisters and brothers from Local 9700, as they have been trying to get back to the negotiating table with no prevail. The provincial Premier claims that the workers' demands are not reasonable (shame) and is attacking the USW in the media.

The current attack from the government is not affecting only our Union, it is an **actual attack to all other unions**. We cannot stop fighting this matter because if we do, multinational corporations will use this as a **blueprint to destroy everything** unions have worked hard on to make gains in our history.

Our Local had the opportunity to financially assist twice our sisters and brothers from Local 9700 during this lockout, however it was important to me to travel to Trois-Rivieres, in Quebec, and demonstrate our solidarity. Support from multiple other unions were truly appreciated. As long as our sisters and brothers need our support, I will be there.

— Hans-Woosly Balan, Local Union Representative for Quebec

The march for ABI was proof of the solidarity we have throughout District 5 and the USW at large. While we can't decide the challenges that will come our way, **we can come together to meet those challenges**. I am proud that Local 1944 has decided to stand with our brothers and sisters at ABI, and am optimistic that we will win this fight.

— Alexander Livingston, Unit 604 Vice-Chair

**A blue wave of solidarity in the streets of Trois-Rivieres, QC. Watch the video at [1944.fyi/XYCIVE](https://1944.fyi/XYCIVE)**

There were buses coming from all over Quebec and even from Ontario, coming in support to their brothers and sisters. More than 5,000 people showed up. There were many Steelworkers members, and several other unions joined the march as well as the three major federations of labour in Quebec: FTQ, CSN and CSQ. Local 1944 was represented by five of our members: Danis Bouffard and Widmarc Innocent (Unit 602), Alexander Livingston accompanied by his 4-year-old son (Unit 604), and Hans-Woosly Balan and myself, Local Union Representatives for Quebec.

The march started around 11:15 am with trumpets, fanfares, songs and horns. It was an excellent demonstration of solidarity. We heard inspiring speeches from several USW leaders. This is the third major event organized for ABI employees; the first was held in April this year in Quebec City, followed by another in Pittsburgh in front of ABI and Alcoa's headquarters.

ABI employees have been locked-out since January 2018. The company made this surprising decision when only two major issues remained on the bargaining table: pension plan and union time off. Earlier this year, the Union turned to Quebec Premier Francois Legault to help resolve the conflict. But against all odds, he was on the employers' side after meeting with both parties.

Following Legault's intervention, the company came back with a new offer that was worse than the first, with now more than 104 contentious points instead of two as at the very beginning. The company is making huge savings, benefiting from an earlier law allowing them not to pay for electricity in case of Act of God; the company has saved more than 300 million dollars in electricity since the beginning of the conflict. **It is time for the Quebec Premier to carry out the work for which he was elected** and stop thinking like a corporation president (Francois Legault was formerly the CEO of Air Transat).

— Pierre-Richard Joseph, Local Union Representative for Quebec



From left to right: Widmarc Innocent (Unit 602 Counsellor), Hans-Woosly Balan (LUR for Quebec), Pierre-Richard Joseph (LUR for Quebec), Danny Bouffard (Unit 602 Chair), and Alexander Livingston (Unit 604 Vice-Chair) and his son



## SOAR CHAPTER 3-14 LOBBIES AT BC HOSPITALS

As adopted in a resolution at the last Canadian USW Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees Conference, SOAR Chapter 3-14 is lobbying the BC Government and local health boards on the issue of pay parking costs at BC hospitals. Some of the changes they hope to bring about are lower and consistent fees across the province, a grace period before fines are imposed, parking meters that allow time to be added and give change for cash purchases, no parking fees for emergency and drop offs, and the introduction of long-term passes for family and friends.

"We have all been to the hospital at some time in our lives. It might be our children, parents, friends or us," said Monty Bartlett, Chair of the 3-14 Political Action Committee. "It is an emotional time that is not made any easier by high parking fees and fines. We hope these measures will ease the burden of hospital visits for you and your families." SOAR chapters engage with other interested groups to call on governments at all levels to implement a more humane parking charge system that provides fairness and equity to all users, with a view to abolishing parking fees.



SOAR Chapter 3-14 Executive, from left to right: Kay Noonan, Birgit Haggstrom, Allan Haggstrom, Lori Travis, Fred Girling, Garry Owen

Visit the SOAR Chapter 3-14 web site at [1944.fyi/SOAR-3-14](https://1944.fyi/SOAR-3-14).

# EXPERIENCES FROM LDS LEVEL 1

"I was very fortunate to attend the LDS Program in Pittsburgh this year. I learned so much from the training and from the brothers and sisters that also attended. I was able to build bonds which will result in lasting relationships with many people from the US, Canada and other people from our Local 1944. I learned that Local 1944 is huge compared to many Locals, that may only have 70 to a few hundred members.

Many brothers and sisters work in right-to-work states, which is very challenging for membership. We are fortunate to work in Canada, where we do not have the challenge of workers having the option to opt out of paying union dues.

My biggest take away was a course on the importance of new hire training. The first day of training is the most important day of training, to learn about the Union and gain lasting engagement from the members. It is an opportunity to build member commitment. We need to talk about the Union in a positive way from day one, and follow up with them after the training. I am excited to bring this knowledge back to my Unit and ensure we are making the right impression on our new members, as well as building a bond with existing members." — Jennifer Dunsmore



"Last month, I've had the opportunity to be part of the LDS Program in Dawson, PA, along with 48 other sisters and brothers from across Canada and the US. One week of intensive training on union history and culture, economics, public speaking, self assessment and much more. It was great to get to know each other and to hear about the different, and yet similar, issues we are fighting against our employers and governments.

From right-to-work states in the US to the RAND formula in Canada and anti-scab legislation in Quebec, the discussions were lively and the debates were very much rewarding. With six members present from Local 1944, we were able to share with everyone the reality of the Telecommunications sector in Canada.

I stepped into this program without any expectations, but I left Linden Hall with a lot of baggage in mind, which I am confident our members will benefit from. I want to thank National President Isabelle Miller and District 5 Director Alain Croteau. I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to three more weeks of training in the years to come." — Pierre-Luc Dick, Regional Executive Officer for Quebec

"It was an honour to attend Level 1 of LDS. Each day was jam packed with collaborative learning activities and presentations on everything from labour history to building union culture. Our cohort was diverse in both background and experience, which gave us an opportunity to hear unique perspectives on some of the challenges we face in our workplace.

I walked away feeling both renewed and appreciative; appreciative of the work our brothers and sisters are doing across North America. It is true that we face a multitude of threats, however I remain optimistic and look forward to working even harder for our membership." — Alexander Livingston

See more pictures of Local 1944 LDS Program students Level 1 at [1944.fyi/FJ396B](https://1944.fyi/FJ396B).

## MARCHES FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY

On May 1, members from Local 1944 attended various marches for International Labour Day. Marches support crucial demands such as good jobs with good working conditions that sustain our communities, a strong labour movement, a society open to diversity, universal prescription drug plan, and good pensions.



Max Deveau at the International Labour Day march in Montreal, QC

"We need to wake the government up to these issues," said Isabelle Miller, National President, "and we can only do so by demonstrating that we are ready to take up the fight in the defense of workers' rights."



Alexander Livingston at the May Day march in Pittsburgh, PA



Hans Woosly-Balan, Isabelle Miller, Jennifer Dunsmore & Alina Gherghinoiu



Pierre-Luc Dick at the May Day march in Pittsburgh, PA



May Day march in Pittsburgh, PA

# EDUCATION

The Local recently canvassed Unit Officials and Leadership Development Students and graduates from within District 3 to apply to participate in District 3 Facilitator Training.

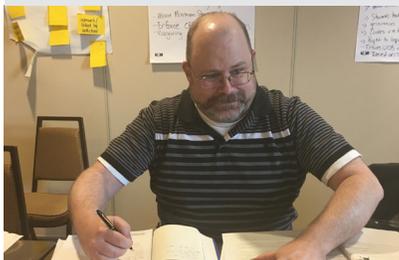
"Our Local Union is prioritizing and engaging our membership," said National President Isabelle Miller. "For quite some time, many of you have been asking for more opportunities to be mentored or further develop your skills as activists. Ensuring our future leaders receive the education they need is a top priority for our Local's Officers."

## Meet our newly graduated Facilitators!

"I am currently holding the position of Chair for Unit 502, I am also on the National Women of Steel Committee. I chose to take part in the Facilitator Training as through the years of being a Shop Steward and moving into different positions within my Unit, I have educated myself and empowered myself. Choosing to be a Facilitator was not even a thing I had second guesses about as I wanted the opportunity to educate my fellow members and pass along what I have learned and empower them to take action and protect themselves. I feel knowledge is key, and I wanted to pass that along."  
— *Natasha Aodan, Unit 502*



"I recently had the privilege of attending the Facilitator Training in Calgary. I learned a lot from the class, and a lot more from my classmates. The breadth of knowledge, and the dedication to furthering our Union's combined membership, is phenomenal. Union education is one of the best ways to build a strong foundation as we build a more active and engaged membership. Why facilitation? Over my 13 years of Union learning, it was time to help train the next leaders get started in activism."  
— *Paul Hutchinson, Unit 203*



"Currently, I am a Counsellor of Unit 502. I have been an activist for the last 12 years. I jumped at the chance to become a Facilitator as I have held many positions over the last decade, and this would give me a new opportunity to meet new upcoming activists. Now that I have completed the Facilitator Training, I am looking forward to inspire new activists and build solidarity within Local 1944. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to meet other Steelworkers and being a positive representative of Local 1944."  
— *Simnel Perez, Unit 502*

"I hold many positions: D5 NextGen Committee, Director at CR-FTQ-MM, Counsellor at Unit 604, previous co-chair, previous bargaining committee member, etc. I've always wanted to be an instructor since, in my opinion, when you can be considered to be knowledgeable enough, our first duty is to give back to new members so they can learn from more senior members on the how tos and the necessary skills to be successful. I have facilitated three classes as of today, and I can't wait to give others. It's a passion and a privilege for me to give back and I'm lucky enough to be in this position."  
— *Max Deveau, Unit 604*



"I'm a National Executive Board Trustee and Unit Vice Chair for Unit 502, in Scarborough, ON. I have served on the National Health and Safety Committee, Education Committee, and currently on the Political Action Committee. I am also a graduate from the USW Leadership Development Program and "new" education facilitator. Ever since I took my first USW course, I wanted to share my love for the Union with other sisters and brothers as a Facilitator. Seeing the excitement and energy of members participating in a course always makes me proud to be a "United Steelworker!"  
— *Michelle Ravary, Trustee*

## OUR MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED OUR TRAININGS TESTIFY

"I attended the Shop Steward Level 1 Training in Scarborough, ON, on May 14–15, 2019. Thank you so much for accommodating me to be able to attend this training. I learned a lot and after 15 years I realize how apart we are as workers and how we need to come together to be able to defend our rights. I always felt I was alone and battling and fighting for my rights, now I learned the union is behind us and we have great resource we can always use which is a collective agreement. I look forward to being more involved. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to connect with others since I work from home, and also being away for cancer it's been a while since I was connected with my coworkers."  
— *Mehrshad Riazati, Unit 502*

"I am currently the Regional Executive Officer for Ontario. I am also a member of the Human and Civil Rights committee and on the CBTU committee. I am super excited that I have completed the Facilitator Training as teaching is one of my passions. I love to share knowledge with others. I am now looking forward to being able to share knowledge with my fellow members in Local 1944, as well as the other locals in the USW. I am looking forward to spreading awareness throughout the USW of the awesome members Local 1944 has."  
— *Brooke Downey, REO*



"I started out by coming to meetings for a year or two before stepping up to the role of Shop Steward and Secretary-Treasurer of Unit 51, after some encouragement from fellow Stewards. As a member of the Unit Executive, I sought to encourage others to get involved and stay informed. I am also actively involved with the New Westminster & District Labour Council as a member of the Political Action Committee (PAC), and as a PAC member for Local 1944. I support various non-profits within the Lower Mainland in BC. I have been a member of the Telus Diversity and Inclusion Council, and I am now an active member of several equity-seeking resource groups. Recently, I was selected to participate in the Leadership Development Program for the USW as well as the Facilitator Training program within District 3. As an activist and future leader, I am excited to keep stepping up and support both the membership through teaching others how to be Shop Stewards and the Union Executive by continuing to be an energetic new leader."  
— *Alina Gherghinoiu, Unit 51*



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

Your Local 1944 Worker's Compensation and Health and Safety Committee met on May 28 and 29, 2019, at the Local head office in Burnaby, BC.

Members received Policy Committee training from legendary Health and Safety Officer Betty Ryan from Employment and Social Development Canada. She gave an enlightening presentation followed by an invigorating discussion about topics such as Policy Committee mandates and upcoming changes in federal safety regulations in the form of Bill C65.

The committee also welcomed Regional Executive Officers Jayson Little and David Skrober into the fold. We look forward to their contributions to a strong, confident safety culture in our workplaces.

We will be filling some alternate positions on the Committee so please look for your opportunity to apply in the next few months.

– Submitted by Corey Mandryk

**STAY INFORMED! Check out the [Committee's page](#) on our web site and the [Committee's Facebook page](#).**



From left to right: First row: Ron Palmer, Michelle Dey, Greg Kadey, Karen Hannah-Masse, Katherine Leung. Second row: Mike Lucas, David Skrober, John Sambrooke, Corey Mandryk, Jayson Little, Danis Bouffard

## UNIT MEETING ATTENDANCE

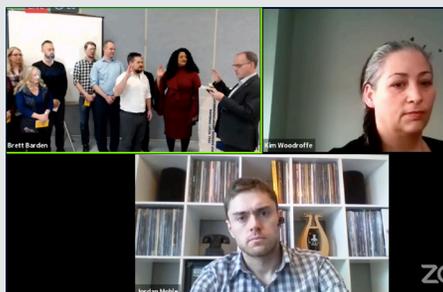
In August 2018, your National Executive Council (which is now called the National Executive Board) adopted a resolution to use the Zoom videoconferencing system for its monthly meetings. The initial goal was to be able to meet without having to travel, thus saving thousands of dollars annually. The success was not instantaneous but after some tests we eventually adopted it.

Since then, things have changed. The Unit Meeting Notices that are sent to members now contain a link that allows them to join in the meetings remotely by using this technology. Why not? After all, who doesn't have a webcam, a smartphone or a tablet these days? You don't have any of these? No problem, it is also possible to call the meeting by phone using a toll-free number.

In May of this year, thanks to Zoom, I had the opportunity to attend the meetings of the three units in Quebec. This allowed me to meet with members living in different areas and share with them about the current situation of our Local. The approved budgets 2019-2020 and current finances were discussed, as well as the 2019 USW National Conference and the teamwork achieved by the National Executive Board over the last few months.

It was great being able to interact with members on various issues experienced by our Units, including member engagement and education which are certainly part of it. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done before the negotiations with Telus in 2021, and I strongly believe that together we will succeed. I encourage you to contact your Unit Officials if you have any questions or suggestions.

– Submitted by Pierre-Luc Dick, Regional Executive Officer for Quebec



Thanks to Gabriel Depont and Freyelle Mehari from Union Savings, a program offering exclusive discounts for union members and their families, for their presentations at the Unit meetings, greatly appreciated by our members.

## CHECK OUT OUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of Local 1944 and their families are eligible for scholarships.

### Did you know?

There are 9 scholarships available!

**Why wait? Apply today!**

More information at [usw1944.ca/scholarships](http://usw1944.ca/scholarships)



**The Columbia Institute is currently accepting applications for the USW Local 1944 Scholarships, until August 1, 2019. Learn more at [1944.fyi/GSSzb1](http://1944.fyi/GSSzb1) APPLY NOW!**

# OUR MEMBERS GIVE BACK

## THE AMANDA TODD LEGACY SOCIETY HONOURS LOCAL 1944 WITH A PLAQUE

On Thursday, June 13, 2019, Carol Todd, founder of the Amanda Todd Legacy Society and Telus Wise Ambassador, came to Local 1944 headquarters in Burnaby, BC, to hand over a plaque in recognition of our members' continued support.

Carol's daughter, Amanda, took her life October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, because of the horrendous cyberbullying she endured.

"Bullying is all over," said Carol Todd. "The electronics come with mental health issues along with physical health issues, such as hearing and eyesight loss, and brain tumors. Amanda became the voice for all the victims of cyberbullying."

"Carol founded the Amanda Todd Legacy Society and continues to talk to students across the country about the dangers of online harassment, anti-bullying strategies, and the importance of those being bullied to speak out so they can be helped," said Nancy McCurrach, Unit 51 Shop Steward and Pink Shirt Day Organizer.

"Thank you Carol Todd for presenting our

Unit and Local with this commemorative plaque on behalf of the Amanda Todd Legacy Society," said Sister McCurrach. "It is my honour to have introduced you to our National President Isabelle Miller. In memory of Amanda, we will always cherish this plaque. It is heartbreaking the extent of the bullying that happened to Amanda. It is also very maddening and disgusting that similar creeps that stalked Amanda still exist."

The funds donated to the Amanda Todd Legacy Society support the functionality of the organization, which in turn supports parents whose children committed suicide because they fell victim to cyberbullying.

Meeting with Carol Todd was an emotional moment: "It is up to adults, parents and teachers to shape the world kids live in," said Isabelle Miller, National President. "It is sometimes hard to keep them away from electronic devices, but it is our responsibility to trigger the conversation about cyberbullying with our children. If they are bullied, they need to know that they are not alone in this situation."



More information about the Amanda Todd Legacy Society at [amandatoddllegacy.org](http://amandatoddllegacy.org)

**#uswcares** To date, Unit 51 has 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 end cyberbullying. "This year, our 9<sup>th</sup> annual 'Pink Shirt Day at Work' campaign was a resounding success," said Sister McCurrach. "Unit 51 raised \$999.00 to go the Amanda Todd Legacy Society."

## DONATION TO A FLOOD VICTIM IN QUEBEC

On June 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, Isabelle and I went to visit one of our members, Alexandra Chabot-Sarrazin from Unit 602, who was affected by the flood that occurred in last April.

She lives in Sainte-Marthe-sur-le-Lac, which is nearly an hour west from downtown Montreal, QC. As the water was getting higher and higher, the police knocked on her door one day and told her that she had to evacuate immediately, no time allowed

for picking up anything. She had no choice but to leave with her two children and dog.

For three weeks, she was kept away from her home, where she recently moved in a few months ago. It was a sad situation when she got back, and as of today, she still does not know the magnitude of the damage since the city does not allow them to rebuild yet. Over 60 houses in her area will have to be demolished completely, but she is hoping for the best regarding the repair of her house.

Sister Chabot-Sarrazin was extremely appreciative as we presented her with a cheque from Local 1944. She thanks the Local for this donation.

— Submitted by Pierre-Richard Joseph, Local Union Representative for Quebec



## STEEL ON WHEELS



## JOIN LOCAL 1944'S TEAM!

This summer, the Steel on Wheels team of Local 1944 members will be cycling over 200 km in 2 days for **The Enbridge® Ride to Conquer Cancer Presented by Evraz**. The funds raised will support the Alberta Cancer Foundation so join us for what will be an amazing event!

**JOIN USW LOCAL 1944 FOR AN EPIC RIDE!**

To join our team, send an email at [theride-ab@usw1944.ca](mailto:theride-ab@usw1944.ca)  
More information about The Ride: [usw1944.ca/ride](http://usw1944.ca/ride)



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