

TELUS: YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE KEEPS UP THE HARD WORK BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS

The Bargaining Committee met earlier this month to discuss the language of the future collective agreement, to build proposals, and to work on the many necessary preparations prior to the bargaining round with Telus starting in a few months.

There were some changes to the composition of the Bargaining Committee as Brother Matt Rizzo, elected as BC – Craft Rep, has had to step down owing to personal reasons. Alternate Brent Armstrong, a BC Craft brother hailing from Williams Lake, Unit 37, took on the position. Brother Armstrong is an access technician. He has been a member of the Local since 1991, and he is currently Chair of his Unit.

The photo below reflects the new composition of the Bargaining Committee.

USW District 6 Director Marty Warren, who attended the meeting as a guest, pledged his support to the membership.

All your Bargaining Updates in one click:
<https://1944.fyi/bu-telus2021>

SPREAD THE WORD! Share our updates on social media using the hashtags #RiseUp and #usw1944

STAY INFORMED! [Sign up](#) to our newsletters and [sign up](#) to our text alerts

UNIT 60 SHAW ABBOTSFORD: YOUR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Members at Unit 60 Shaw Abbotsford can now access their collective agreement on Local 1944's web site.

Would you go on a job without your PPE? **Knowing your rights is your best protection in the workplace!**

Please take some time to familiarise yourself with the language.

READ YOUR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

USW LOCAL 1944 – TELUS BARGAINING COMMITTEE MEMBERS & USW REPS



From left to right and top to bottom: Jayson Little, Staff Rep; Ross Brown, Trustee; Robert J. Briza, Quebec; Ashok Tripathi, Clerical AB; Cory Anderson, Plant AB; Richard Blais, REO AB; Scott Lunny, Staff Rep; Donna Hokiro, President; Brent Armstrong, Plant BC; Omero Landi, Administrator; Marty Warren, USW District 6 Director; Aaron Ma, Ontario; Cande Knoll, Clerical BC (picture missing)

#RiseUp

CHANGES TO OUR STAFF



HAPPY RETIREMENT, JUDI!

Our Administrative Assistant Judi Filion retired this month. Judi has worked for the Local Union since 2015, when she started as a Receptionist. She took on the responsibilities of her latest position as Administrative Assistant in 2017.

Sister Filion had been a fervent labour activist with the BCGEU for over 30 years, from shop steward to bargaining unit chair, strike coordinator, facilitator, and then Secretary-Treasurer, she was active on all fronts! Among many other experiences in the labour movement, she worked with the BC NDP and the BC Federation of Labour.

“Judi has been a vital part of keeping the gears of our Local moving, always doing a huge variety of work,” said Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips. “I’ve depended on all our MoveUP staff as I settled into my own role, and Judi was a big part of my own process of learning the ropes. Thanks to her experience as Secretary-Treasurer at BCGEU, I’ve always been able to depend on her looking at our work and processes with a view toward improving things. I am grateful that she has not been shy about pointing out where improvements can be made. Judi has always been a welcome burst of energy in the office. Everyone at the Local enjoyed working with her and her spirit as well as her great work will be missed. Congratulations Judi, on your well-deserved retirement!”

Judi Filion: “Be proud of what you have achieved, how far you have come, and be confident in your future!”



CONGRATULATIONS, HANS-WOOSLY!

As part of the United Steelworkers’ tradition of hiring Staff Representatives directly from amongst its members and Local Unions’ staff, Local Union Representative for Quebec Hans-Woosly Balan accepted a position as a District 5 USW Staff Representative. He worked his last day with the Local in late March to pursue this new adventure.

Brother Balan started at Telus in 1999, and became a member of the Local in 2005. He was a Loyalty & Retention Specialist at Telus from 2006 to 2012, until he started working at the Local Union office. He was Vice Chair of Unit 602 before getting elected as a Business Agent.

“I wish Brother Balan only the very best in all of his future endeavours,” said President Donna Hokiro. “Our loss is most certainly District 5’s gain. Another Staff representative in the making from amongst our ranks, how phenomenal is that! Once more, congratulations Hans-Woosly.”

Hans-Woosly Balan: “The experience that I have obtained thanks to members and other Local Union Representatives made me a better person and Union activist. I believe my time and experience with the Local will help me fulfill my new responsibilities. Thank you to all of you and I hope our paths will cross again in the near future.”



BEST OF LUCK, STEVE!

Last month, former Local Union Representative for British Columbia Steve McWhirter started a new career with another Union.

Brother McWhirter started at Telus in 2003. He was Chair of Unit 51 before being hired as a relieving Local Union Representative in 2014, and becoming a permanent Local Union Representative BC a few months later in 2015. He was part of the Telus Bargaining Committee during the last round of negotiations in 2015-2016. He was also on the Bargaining Committee during the negotiations with MAP Communications (formerly Stericycle) in 2018-2019, as well as on the Bargaining Committee throughout the most recent bargaining round with Shaw Abbotsford from 2019 to 2021.

“Steve has been working at Local 1944 for six years and to me, it’s like he was almost always a fixture,” said President Donna Hokiro. “Steve is on the fast track to becoming a most accomplished Local Union Representative. A fierce and determined activist, I fondly refer to him as our rising star and indubitably one of our best.”

We wish Steve only the very best in his new career, most assuredly deserved.

ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONVENTION 2021

Locals 1-207 and 1944 are the two largest United Steelworkers locals in Alberta. We proudly came together in solidarity and unity to participate in the [Alberta Federation of Labour's Convention](#), held virtually on May 13-15, 2021. Together with the house of labour in Alberta we passed many resolutions to lift up workers in the province.

Gil McGowan was re-elected as President to lead the Federation for the next two years, and Karen Kuprys as incoming Secretary-Treasurer to replace [Siobhan Vipond](#), who after four terms chose not to run again.

"I had the pleasure of attending the Alberta Federation of Labour 2021 Convention. There were affiliated unions from all across the province that met virtually this year to talk and learn about issues facing the labour movement in Alberta.

A couple of big talking points this year were the UCP government continuing attack on workers' rights through [Occupational Health and Safety rollbacks](#) and [Workers Compensation reforms](#) as well as Bill 32 which is attempting to bring American style "Right to Work" legislation into Alberta and force workers to "opt in" to certain parts of their dues structures. While this doesn't affect Local 1944 workers in the province, we all need to stand by in solidarity at these attacks, as an attack on one is an attack on all of us.

We also had an inspiring keynote address from [Jane McAlevey](#) which brought great ideas on how we can organize and provide power to the workers through actions."

— Submitted by Arjay Plain, Chair of Unit 209

"After a rocky beginning and ending to Convention, President Gil McGowan laid out in clear focus and direction to the AFL delegates for the next couple of years. Bill 32, attacks on Alberta public sector (he spoke to where strikes and lockouts will happen), and the next Provincial election. It was very informative and interesting to connect with our union members."

— Submitted by Karen Hannah-Masse, Secretary of Unit 207

"USW Local 1944 was in good company attending the 2021 Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) Convention with our familial Local 1-207. We held daily caucuses and were able to more fully develop our relationships with members of Local 1-207. We had many first-time delegates (including myself) on the digital convention floor.

Of all the resolutions put forward, there was overwhelming support in favour of advancing the interests of labour in Alberta. The AFL is well along the road to continue fighting for all working people in the province. I am super appreciative for the experience that this Convention has afforded us in attendance. The collective house of labour is exactly that: a collective house where all of us can raise the concerns of the working people. The thoughtfulness of the resolutions brought forward at the Convention strike at the heart of the challenges labour faces in Alberta. [Bill 32](#) threatens to destroy unions and the collective houses of labour. I was heartened to see that there is a thorough in-depth discussion as to how to best fight this legislation and the anti-labour governments who continue to draft and push anti-worker legislation.

The event culminated in an [election and the swearing-in of officers](#). Gil McGowan retained his position as President to continue fighting for Albertan workers. Karen Kuprys was nominated for the position of AFL Secretary-Treasurer by our own Local Union President Donna Hokiro. Karen went on to win her election and become the AFL's newly appointed Secretary-Treasurer. I am happy to see a fresh face in the AFL but incredibly sad to see Siobhan Vipond leave. Siobhan's contribution to bettering the lives of Albertan workers cannot be summed up in words. She is an incredible activist who has done an amazing job in her eight years as AFL Secretary. She is moving on to run in the [upcoming CLC election](#) and I have no doubt in my mind that she will win her bid and go on to help build the house of Canadian labour like no other."

— Submitted by Richard Blais, REO AB



From left to right and from top to bottom: Richard Blais, REO AB; Donna Hokiro, President; Scott Lunny, Staff Representative; Ray White, Local 1-207 President; Ivana Niblett, Local 1-207 1st Vice-President; Arjay Plain, Chair of Unit 209; Matthew Skiba, Unit 208; Misty Lafond, Local 1-207 Financial Secretary; Dave Baraniuk, Local 1-207 Conductor; Ashok Tripathi, Chair of Unit 207; Karen Hannah-Masse, Secretary of Unit 207; Laura Rincon, Unit 203; Rick Merrick, Local 1-207 3rd Vice President

USW LOCAL 1944 SCHOLARSHIPS 2021

INFORMATION & APPLICATION [HERE](#)

**SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FINANCIAL AID
FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION NOW!**

The annual USW Local 1944 scholarships offers members' children 3 educational scholarships of \$750, and 4 scholarships of \$1,000 for any post-secondary public institution.

Apply before Sunday, August 1st, 2021

THE LOCAL GIVES BACK

LOCAL 1944 GIVES ANOTHER \$2,000 IN SUPPORT OF THE UNION PROTEIN PROJECT



In October of 2019, members of the Executive Board passed a motion to make a yearly \$2,000 donation to the Union Protein Project for 3 years.

The Union Protein Project (UPP) is a community partnership in British Columbia. The Local's \$2,000 donation will contribute

to the UPP's mission to address the shortages of protein in the province's food banks, at a time where the economic effects of the pandemic have led to the highest level of unemployment in decades. Our very own Staff Representative Scott Lunny is President of the UPP.

Did you know? Children make up over 45% of people relying on BC food banks.

How you can help: There are many ways you can step up to support the UPP, either by making an individual [donation](#), by becoming a [volunteer](#), or by buying [pepper here](#) to support their partnership with 50MillionMeals.

ABOUT THE UNION PROTEIN PROJECT

The Union Protein Project is a BC non-profit society started in 2006 by unions and the United Way.

Food banks in British Columbia regularly experience shortages of protein-based food and struggle to ensure that vulnerable people get this key nourishment. Protein is critical to a healthy diet and crucial for mental and physical development. A lack of protein makes it even harder for vulnerable people to improve their lives.

How does it work? Local Unions and union members donate cash, that the UPP uses to subsidize food bank purchases of canned salmon and peanut butter.

[Visit their web site to learn more](#)

USW SCHOLARSHIPS

HIGHLIGHT ON THE NEW USW INDIGENOUS SCHOLARSHIPS

The USW Indigenous Post-Secondary Scholarships were created this year to award six scholarships of \$1,500 each to qualified Indigenous USW members and their families who are pursuing post-secondary education. These scholarships are open to active or retired USW members, or their children, grandchildren, or immediate family members who self-identify as First Nations, Inuit or Metis, and will attend a post-secondary educational institution in Canada.

Priority will be given to applicants who live in remote regions and will attend school far from home in unfamiliar locations. Members from British Columbia, Alberta, Quebec and Ontario are eligible.

[More information and application here.](#)

2021 SCHOLARSHIPS

Members and their families are eligible for USW scholarships and paid internships such as USW Indigenous Scholarships (see yellow text box), USW Post Secondary Scholarship, Lifelong Learning Scholarship, Rudychuk Scholarship Placement Program, David Ellis Scholarship and District 6 Scholarships.

Don't miss your opportunity to apply for Steelworker Scholarships. Fill out your forms today. Many scholarships have June 30 deadlines.

Visit the [USW Scholarships](#) web page regularly as information is being updated for 2021.

new items available!

Visit our online store!

Show your Union Pride with Local 1944 clothing and accessories

<https://shopusw1944.ca>

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XS TO 4XL

All our products are union-made. Secure credit card payment available.

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