

In Memoriam: Tom Conway, A Champion for Workers



The United Steelworkers mourned the loss of our International President, Tom Conway, who passed away at the age of 71. He had been elected to the position in 2019, leaving behind a legacy of passionate advocacy for workers and their families, which was marked by his quick wit, formidable bargaining skills, and unwavering commitment.

Brother Conway's journey as an activist began in 1978 when he had joined USW Local 6787 and worked at the Burns Harbor Works of Bethlehem Steel. He had served as a grievance representative for plant-wide maintenance and had been an active member of safety and contracting-out committees. In 1987, he had transitioned to the union's International staff, and in 2005, he had been elected as USW International Vice President.

Solidarity was not just a word for him; it had been his way of life. He understood that by uniting, workers could counteract the influence of greedy corporations and the billionaire class. As president, he had spearheaded innovative initiatives to expand union representation to workers in different fields, from manufacturing to higher education, achieving some of the labour movement's most significant organizing victories.

Brother Conway's commitment had extended to advocating for fair trade. He had tirelessly urged the government to enforce U.S. trade laws to prevent the importation of unfairly subsidized and dumped products that harm domestic industries and eliminate well-paying jobs.

Throughout his career, Brother Conway became renowned for his ability to negotiate contracts across various industries, including steel, aluminum, and oil. He fearlessly faced off against leaders of some of the largest corporations where USW members were employed, often taking charge during moments of crisis. His unwavering dedication to the dignity of work and the power of the workforce had endeared him to his colleagues.

Tom Conway's legacy as a principled trade unionist and advocate for workers' best interests is remembered by many. His passing was felt not only in North America but also on the international stage, where he had made a lasting impact. The United Steelworkers union and the labour movement as a whole mourned the loss of a dedicated champion for workers and their rights.

Rest in Power Brother.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

CBA 101: KEY CHANGES TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW AGREEMENT

In the ever-evolving world of labour agreements, the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) is the lifeline that shapes the relationship between employees and employers.

We have assembled several important changes and helpful tips that may be advantageous for our members.

Here are some valuable tips contained within this agreement:



As with any CBA, employees and members of USW Local 1944 should stay informed, participate in the process, and embrace the opportunities that the new agreement presents.

You can access the English version of the Telus-USW Local 1944 Collective Agreement for 2023-2027 by visiting the following link:

[Telus-USW 2023-2027 Collective Agreement](#)

In solidarity

USW Local 1944

TIP#1 Have a Shop Steward from own unit:

Always request a Shop Steward from your unit for investigative meetings or disciplinary action meetings; If a Shop Steward from your Unit is not available, the Company will arrange for an alternate Shop Steward to attend.

TIP#2 Disciplinary and Non-disciplinary letters removed after 2 years:

Disciplinary and Non-disciplinary letters in your employee file will be removed after two years, provided there are no similar issues within that time. Absences longer than three months extend this period. These letters don't count as part of the disciplinary process.

TIP# 3 VDI Break:

If you work with a Visual Display Unit for 2.5 hours straight, you're entitled to a 10-minute break, which can be part of a relief period, meal break, or duty change. This doesn't affect your regular relief and meal period entitlements as per the Agreement.

TIP#4 Sick Day Increase for East - Short Term Disability:

Telus will provide a Short Term Disability (STD) plan at no cost to you, which can provide income if you're unable to work due to illness or injury. Payments depend on your length of service. "Health Services" includes both Telus' internal department and third-party companies contracted by Telus for these services.

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND

HAPPY PRIDE PARADE

We took great pride in joining the Alberta Federation of Labour in the Labour Day Parade. With District 3 actively collecting feminine hygiene products, and through the combined efforts of Unit 203 and Unit 250, we successfully raised \$240. These funds were utilized to procure feminine hygiene products, which were then added to the district's donation and the entire contribution was delivered to a local shelter.



Unit 250 members Helen Young and Isabelle Chayer joined by D3 staff to show their support



Mary Hutchinson (Civil and Human Rights Chair) with daughter and friend, rallying in style.



D3 Director Scott Lunny (sunglasses) joins fellow steelworkers, Jennifer Turner (Trustee), Robin Navin (Unit 203) and others during the parade.



Robin Navin and Jennifer Turner



Steel Pride in full force and on full display

LABOUR DAY BBQ

District 3 hosted a spirited Labour Day BBQ event. Despite the less-than-ideal weather conditions, the rain couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of our dedicated members as they came together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our local unions. The event reinforced the belief that everyone deserves the support of a union and the opportunity for improved working conditions.



6TH UNI GLOBAL UNION WORLD CONGRESS

The 6th UNI Global Union World Congress in Philadelphia brought together thousands of union leaders globally, with a small delegation of eight from the United Steelworkers, including 1944's President Donna Hokiro. A significant event occurred when over 1000 activists supported SEIU Local BJ32's fair contract on the third day, leading to a tentative deal two days later. Union leaders from around the world united under the theme of global solidarity and passed motions addressing pressing issues. The Congress emphasized the importance of unity against inequality, racism, and discrimination in the digital age.



The USW delegation attending the Congress.

Passionate speeches and actions demonstrated unity and purpose. President Hokiro expressed solidarity with striking nurses from USW Local 4-200 in New Jersey. Motions like "Uniting for a Sustainable World" and "Rising Together for Youth" gained strong support. The Congress underscored the significance of collective action in a globally connected world, emphasizing a commitment to peace, justice, and workers' rights. USW Local 1944 reaffirmed its place in the global labour movement, standing together for a more equitable world.



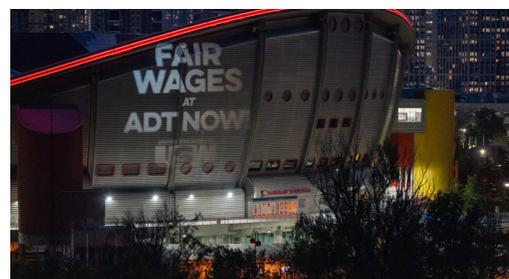
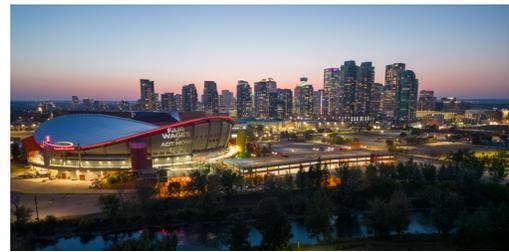
President Donna Hokiro providing words of support to our striking siblings at Local 4-200., "borders will never divide us".



UniGlobal delegates headed to New Jersey to support USW Local 4-200 striking against Robert Wood Johnson Hospital. They are striking for safe staffing.

ADT TELUS BATLIGHT

The Scotiabank Saddledome illuminated the message "Fair wages at ADT now," as a display of unity and purpose. Donna Hokiro, President of USW Local 1944, voiced her concerns regarding ADT by TELUS, which gives priorities to CEO and shareholder dividends at the expense of equitable compensation for dedicated employees. In the face of challenging economic conditions, our Calgary members are actively advocating for improved wages.



2023 DISTRICT 3 SCHOOL

Members Share Their Journey at D3's Summer School

USW District 3 had their Summer School, a weeklong event that took place at St. Eugene Resort in Cranbrook, B.C., from Sunday, September 17 to Friday, September 22, 2023. The District was proud to have held this event at a beautiful location that had been reclaimed and was then owned by the Ktunaxa Nation.

Here are some excerpts from stories the members who participated sent in, recounting their experiences:



"The content was superb and inspiring, so much so that as soon as I got back I applied to my local labour council to volunteer my time. It was great hearing Marty and Scott speak taking the time to answer quite a few difficult questions as it gave me great confidence in the union leadership team. Thank you for choosing me to attend such a wonderful event" - **Tom Phan**



"More than ever, I appreciate the efforts of my brothers and sisters that are working in this space, and that I can lean on them when I need assistance, and hopefully lighten the load when they need it. This feeling of hope and this need for action to members of my own unit, and the units near me, so that we can build ourselves into the powerful and positive force that we need to be to uphold the rights of workers and the vulnerable in our workplace, our communities and the world at large." - **Devon Veenstra**

"I wanted to create energy in the union that attracted me. I wanted to show everyone there how much support and resources we have collectively. I wanted to get people more involved, get people excited. I am happy to say that I feel the rebuild is underway. It's an uphill battle, but I'm ready for it. Thank you again as always for allowing me to participate in these opportunities. I am grateful for all I have been able to learn and experience. I hope I am making 1944 proud as I represent in these events." - **Robin Navin**



"I attended 'Unionism on Turtle Island' at St Eugene's in Cranbrook (former residential school). The experience was amazing. My like minded classmates and instructors were amazing. I learnt so much about indigenous history and particularly the important role that the USW (and our local) has had in fighting for indigenous Rights." - **Allan Wong**

"I thoroughly enjoyed my week, networking and participating in all activities. I also recently accepted a new position on the H&S committee as co-chair. The H&S training was instrumental in my new role as Co-Chair, I will be taking everything I learned to benefit our committee. It will also help with building inspections, especially in my confidence dealing with management." - **Darrel Laithwaite**



SHAW BARGAINING UPDATES

STRIKE VOTE RESULTS

September 18, 19, and 21, 2023

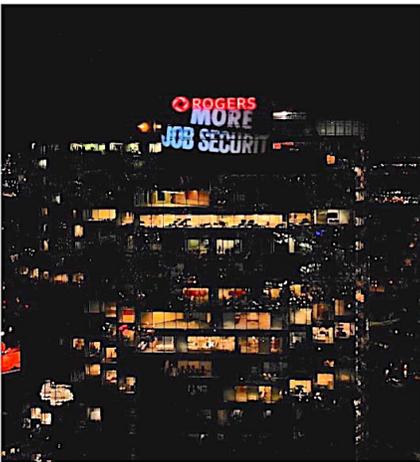
Members of USW Local 1944, Unit 60 at Rogers Communications in Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, and Langley have voted overwhelmingly in favor of strike action, with a resounding 99.6% mandate. Despite 18 days of negotiations, including federal conciliation efforts, Rogers has failed to provide the job security assurances our members seek. These dedicated workers, who have been without a contract since March 23, 2023, are determined to protect their jobs from outsourcing. As USW Local 1944 President Donna Hokiro emphasized “I couldn’t be more proud of the members of Unit 60, they have not only given a resoundingly strong vote of confidence to their bargaining team but also a clear message to Rogers that they are unflinching in their determination to ensure their jobs are secure from contracting out now and well into the future”. Rogers, having committed to benefitting the telecommunications sector and creating jobs, is being held accountable to this promise, including the preservation of our skilled workforce’s contributions in the Lower Mainland.

Strike votes held on September 18, 19, and 21, 2023, reflected overwhelming support, with 99.3% backing in the Vancouver/Richmond certification and unanimous 100% support in the Surrey/Langley certification. Your continued support is invaluable to us as we stand strong for our members’ job security.

- Your Unit 60 Bargaining Team: Jayson, Steve, Andy, Wallace, Curtis, Stacey, and Corey.

BAT LIGHT

October 12, 2023



On Thursday, October 12th, members of Unit 60 Executive Board lit up the Rogers Tower at Metrotown in Vancouver. A clear message was displayed for all to see telling Rogers we want careers, not contractors! More job security, not less!

Your Bargaining Committee and the Company has scheduled meetings along with our assigned federal mediator on Wednesday and Thursday, the 18th and 19th.

Unit 60’s Executive Board and the members of your Bargaining Committee want to thank you again for your solidarity. Your support so far has been fantastic, and we will be relying on you soon to show our strength as the 21-day cooling off period comes to an end.

Stay tuned for more updates and pay particular attention to your CAT Teams.

In solidarity,

Jayson, Steve, Andy, Wallace, Stacey, Curtis, and Corey



WAB KINEW VICTORY



In an inspiring display of grassroots democracy, the dedicated members of our Steelworkers Vote initiative hit the streets once more, this time rallying behind Nellie Kennedy in Assiniboia. Joined by the Manitoba NDP Leader, the dynamic Wab Kinew, our enthusiastic team embarked on a door-to-door journey, engaging voters in heartfelt conversations about the very issues that resonate deeply with working families.

Notably, in a historic turn of events, Mr. Kinew has not only clinched a well-deserved electoral victory but also took the solemn oath as the first-ever First Nations Premier in Manitoba's rich political history. This remarkable achievement was ushered in on the pivotal date of Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023, when the province of Manitoba wholeheartedly embraced a New Democratic Party government.



Unit 7, 51 and 52 BBQ



President Donna Hokiros speaks on how to rebuild activist base.



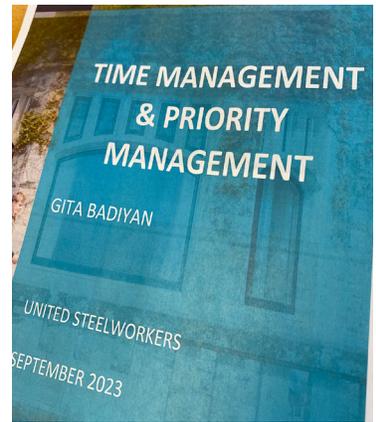
USW Local 1944 Unit 7, 51, and 52 came together for a Q3 joint meeting and BBQ. Members gathered to discuss recent arbitration wins and grievances, as well as the ongoing fight for workers' rights, sharing stories of triumph and solidarity.

President Donna Hokiros took the stage with a powerful message on the agenda: how to rebuild and fortify our activist base. She emphasized the importance of unity and continuous engagement in our Local and the labour movement.



BURNABY STAFF MEETING

During the final week of September, USW Local 1944 staff convened for a series of cross-training sessions and workshops. Among the notable highlights was a comprehensive workshop on **time management and priority management**, led by Gita Badiyan of Royal Roads University. This gathering once again exemplified the Union's commitment to fostering the growth and development of its members while equipping the staff (Reps and Clerical) with essential skills to excel in their roles. In addition to these informative sessions, the team also partook in team-building activities, including an exhilarating adventure at an escape room, strengthening their camaraderie and synergy as a collective force.



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2024
INTERNATIONAL
NEXT GENERATION
CONFERENCE**

**MARCH 3-8, 2024
PITTSBURGH, PA.**



2024 International Next Generation Conference

Please submit your application below for the 2024 International #NextGen Conference!

Deadline is **November 17th, 2023**

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



<https://usw1944.ca>

To update your contact information with USW Local 1944, please [click here](#)

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