

The Transmitter



Preparing to Vote: TWU Members Attend Constitution Meetings across Canada

Photo: TWU members at a Constitution meeting in Burnaby, B.C., on September 24, 2012.

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Message from the President



Dear Members,

This past Labour Day reminded us of how fortunate we are as union workers in Canada and the quality of life that we enjoy. It is a day to also reflect on our role in society and shared goals. Union members around the world rejoiced when our locked out sisters and brothers from Alma Quebec working for Rio Tinto Alcan

finally reached an agreement with the company. There is strength in numbers and power in unity.

have stepped up efforts to remove mandatory collection of union dues by employers. That law ensures that all members of the bargaining unit share the cost of the Union's work. We cannot stand idly by and watch as our middle class is eroded and governments give increasing tax breaks to corporations and the rich. Tax law should encourage corporations to keep jobs in Canada and the rich should pay their fair share for the public good. Unions offer a powerful voice for workers that is becoming more important as our rights are increasingly limited each day.

“This past Labour Day reminded us of how fortunate we are as union workers in Canada and the quality of life that we enjoy.”

There is a clear advantage for workers to be members of a union and there is also a benefit to the communities where we live. On average, workers in Canada who are union members earned \$5.11/per hour more than non-union employees. That Union advantage translates into \$793 million more every week poured into the economy to support communities and local business.

The labour laws we have in place today have been carefully constructed over generations. These laws help to protect workers and their families. People deserve decent jobs and wages that can support a family.

Governments and some in the corporate elite would like nothing more than to see these laws erased.

The Political Action Committee (PAC) has reached out to all TWU convention delegates, Executive Council members as well as local Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers who received a package informing them about Bill C377 and urging everyone to meet with their local Member of Parliament. The PAC has also been working within the larger labour movement to inform all of our sisters and brothers from across Canada about Bill C377 and its negative effects on unions. We are pleased to know that the federal New Democratic Party discussed Bill C377 at their last caucus retreat and will continue to fiercely oppose Bill C377.

Following the election of a Parti Quebecois (PQ) government in Quebec, and in retaliation for one federal public service union's support of the PQ, a Conservative MP and right-wing think tanks

Many watched with shock and confusion as Premier-elect Pauline Marois was whisked off the stage during her PQ victory speech. We were all saddened to learn about the tragic events that took place outside the Montreal venue. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families of the victims.

The PQ win was overshadowed by this senseless tragedy, but one thing is clear: Quebecers demanded and got change. The PQ has traditionally been supportive of trade unions and we look forward to the party's continued support of union members and workers' rights in Quebec.

Please stay informed of Union news by going to the website www.twu-stt.ca, attending local meetings or talking to a Shop Steward or Union representative.

In Solidarity,

George Doubt

TWU National President

TWU-STT Proposed Constitution Changes – 2012

This following message from the TWU Secretary-Treasurer, Michael Thompson, originally appeared as a TWU Bulletin on August 15, 2012.

Special Meetings which began on September 4th are being conducted across Canada until October 25th to facilitate the process of ratifying the proposed Constitutional changes, structural changes and dues increase; and include a special presentation by members of the Constitution Committee and a Vice-President to highlight and explain the proposed structural changes.

Members not able to attend may request an absentee ballot per Article XIX (5) by submitting the online Absentee Ballot Request Form.

An absentee ballot may be issued by the Secretary-Treasurer of the Union upon the written request of the individual member prior to the specified meeting and shall be for the sole purpose of voting on matters under the jurisdiction

of the Convention or the Executive Council. An absentee shall be considered as a member who is working, sick, on vacation or located in an area making it impossible to attend the meeting where the vote is to be conducted.

You, as a member, have an important choice with respect to how you wish to see your Union funded, and how you wish to see your Union structured. This is your opportunity to be informed and heard on these most important issues.

In Solidarity,

Michael Thompson

National Secretary-Treasurer



Photo submitted by Tom Cusick, local 32.



TWU member Tom Cusick, local 32, begins training for 2013.

TWU members regularly donate their time towards meaningful causes. When Tom Cusick, a Telus cable repair technician from TWU local 32, contacted the TWU about his upcoming participation in the Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer cycling fundraiser, he explained that he was doing it for all of his friends and family who have been affected by cancer.

Among those people is friend and Simon Fraser University rugby teammate, Stefan Lageston, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in December 2010. Tom was inspired by his unrelentingly positive attitude and courage in the face of the diagnosis.

Following the devastating news and after having undergone two operations and radiation treatment, the Lageston family was hit with a second blow when their daughter Charlotte was diagnosed with leukemia in March 2012. Stefan's wife, Taleen, started an online blog called The Adventures of Brain Tumour Man and Superchuck to keep friends and family informed of their progress.

The Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting B.C. Cancer Foundation, is a two-day cycling journey through Canada's Pacific region from Vancouver to Seattle, taking place on June 15-16, 2013. Funds raised will support breakthrough research, exemplary teaching, and compassionate care made possible through B.C. Cancer Foundation, a leader in cancer research and care.

Tom is riding as part of team "Nothing

2013 Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer

Butt Class" and would appreciate all the support he can get. Please be sure to follow the team's progress which will be posted online before and after the race or go to Tom's page to donate. Tom has also informed the TWU that Telus has pledged to match up to a maximum of \$500 per calendar year for donations raised which means that he will try his best to qualify for up to \$1,000 from now until June 15-16, 2013, since two calendar years are technically covered.

Tom's Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer page:

www.conquercancer.ca/site/TR/Events/Vancouver2013?px=3110037&pg=personal&fr_id=1441

Blog: The Adventures of Brain Tumour Man and Superchuck
<http://theadventuresofbraintumour-man.blogspot.ca/>

Charlotte's Army
www.charlottesarmy.com

Labour Day 2012



Labour Day photos from John Hendry Park in east Vancouver, courtesy of the BC Federation of Labour.

Fun games for children.

Thousands in Canada celebrated workers this past Labour Day. From marches to picnics, Canadians from coast to coast joined together in solidarity. Union members waved their banners and flags with pride, knowing the importance and historical role unions have played in changing the landscape of the workplace and improving workers' rights.



Peace and love.



Great music.

The list of benefits directly or indirectly attributed to the labour movement's struggle on behalf of all working people is a long one. Unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, maternity benefits, welfare pensions, and health care, to name a few.

Unfortunately, many workers (union and non-union) simply accept these benefits without thought. The labour movement struggled hard to obtain them and is struggling just as hard to maintain them.

"The Moment of Truth" is dedicated to those workers.

By June Wilson from the book "Down - But Not Out", 1985

The Moment of Truth

If you feel no sorrow
 When you see a fellow man
 Stripped of self-respect and dignity
 Toiling for a master
 Who owns his very soul
 By brandishing the club of fear
 Almost constantly
 If you feel no outrage
 When you see a sister shamed
 And think humiliation is her due
 Then go about your business
 Happy and relieved
 But never join a union
 Union's not for you

If you think that welfare
 Is a way of life
 That adequately covers every need
 Believe that man's misfortune
 Is determined by his worth
 And live your life abiding
 By the rich man's creed
 If the sound of battered children
 And the sound of hunger cries
 Cannot make you change your point of view
 Then hoard your silver pieces
 You earned them with your soul
 But never join a union
 Union's not for you

If you road the coattails
 Of the many who have died
 By accepting benefits that unions won
 Like U.I.C., or welfare
 Or your meagre O.A.P.
 You wear the blood of workers who died beneath the
 gun
 But if you're quite contented
 To reap the harvest sown
 While never having paid a single due
 Then go to meet your maker
 But hide your blood stained hands
 And do not join His union
 His union's not for you

The Value of Shop Stewards in the Workplace

Submitted By: Perry Pasqualetto, Business Agent - Burnaby



The job of a union representative or shop steward is one of the most important, challenging and rewarding jobs within a union. That is because shop stewards are on the front line of our fight to develop a strong and active Union in the workplace – one that can make a real difference in the lives of our members.

Shop stewards have an enormous impact on our members' faith and belief in the Union. They are the one union representative our members see every day at work. Because of this unique position, the shop steward has the opportunity to energize and mobilize the membership, the source of our Union's strength.

Shop stewards regularly take on a number of roles. They provide leadership in the workplace, organize co-workers to take collective action, communicate with workers, union leaders and management, and represent members. By performing these tasks well, the shop steward earns the confidence and respect of co-workers. This allows them to carry out their primary responsibility; to reach out to members and encourage them to become active and involved participants within their union.

Member involvement in union activities and union actions creates union power in the workplace. A strong union is better able to protect workers' rights and fight for improvements in

wages, work hours, working conditions and quality of life on the job.

Union members who have effective shop stewards in their workplace are:

- Significantly more likely to feel the union is effective in helping obtain job-related improvements;
- Much more likely to feel their union representative cares about them;
- More likely to approve of grievance handling and to file grievances;
- More likely to turn to the union, rather than to management, to solve contract-related problems;
- More optimistic about the negotiating ability of their union;
- More likely to see the importance of the union's organizing efforts; and
- More likely to volunteer to participate in union activities.

Shop stewards are the cornerstone of our Union, and effective shop stewards build a stronger union. To learn more about becoming a shop steward and shop steward training, visit www.twu-stt.ca/en/education today.



Locked Out Rio Tinto Workers Ratify Agreement

On Thursday, July 5, 2012, workers at the Rio Tinto aluminum smelter in Alma, Quebec (approximately 200 km north of Quebec City), voted to accept the tentative agreement bargained a few days prior. The agreement runs through to December 31, 2015, and ensures that there will be no layoffs of workers during the life of the contract. Although the union was forced to agree to a number of concessions including having the Potlines Maintenance Centre disappear as a bargaining unit, the union was able to achieve one of their main goals by limiting the amount

of subcontracting to 10 per cent of the hours worked by the unionized workers.

On January 1, 2012, the company locked out approximately 780 workers in a dispute over using subcontractors to replace retiring workers. The plant had been continuing to operate at a reduced capacity using 224 non-unionized workers. Despite the agreement, the union has announced that it will continue to fight against the secret deal signed in 2007 between the Quebec government, Hydro-Quebec and Rio Tinto. The secret deal says Hydro-Quebec must buy all of Rio

Tinto's unused hydro during a lockout or a strike. It is estimated that Rio Tinto made about \$60 million during the lockout from the sale of electricity to Hydro-Quebec.

The TWU is pleased that the dispute has been settled to the satisfaction of the workers and is proud to have "adopted" five United Steelworkers (USW) workers at a cost of \$500 in total each month to USW Local 1005 (The USW had launched an "adopt a worker" campaign to support their members and families and asked that unions contribute \$100 per month for each locked out worker).

Important Notice to Members of the TWPP

In 2012, the Federal Government announced changes to the Old Age Security (OAS) program that will affect members born on April 1, 1958, or later. Those changes are as follows:

- Starting on April 1, 2023, the age of eligibility for OAS and GIS benefits will be gradually increased from 65 to 67, with full implementation by January 2029
- In line with the increase in age of OAS/GIS eligibility, the ages at which the Allowance and the Allowance for the Survivor are provided will also gradually increase from 60 to 64 today to 62 to 66, starting in April 2023

Currently, the Telecommunication Workers Pension Plan (TWPP) offers integrated optional forms of pension to members retiring under the age of 65. Those integrated options include a combination of their accrued benefit with the maximum Canada Pension Plan and OAS as of the date the member retires. The integrated options allow a member to take a higher amount of their pension

prior to age 65 at which time it reduces for the balance of their lifetime.

Due to the changes to the OAS program, the integrated options that include OAS would negatively impact members when they turn 65, leaving them with a much lower income than expected.

Effective April 1, 2013, the TWPP will no longer be offering integrated options that include OAS. The Plan, however, will continue to offer members the integrated options with Canada Pension Plan. This change will apply to all members retiring on April 1, 2013, or later.

Members who are planning retirement and have in their possession a retirement estimate dated April 1, 2013, or later, that includes OAS in the integrated options may want to review their options again in consideration of this change.

If you have any questions, please contact the administration office at (604)430-1317 or toll free at 1-877-430-3302.

Celebrating 100 years of Labour in Alberta

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) marked its 100th anniversary this year by launching Project 2012 in partnership with the Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI) to draw attention to the role that Alberta's workers, their unions and community organizations have played in building the province.

Project 2012 is a culmination of months of hard work by many unions, affiliates of the AFL and non-affiliates, who collaborated with the ALHI to research and produce materials as well as promote activities featuring the history of labour in Alberta. These included but were not limited to community activities, special events, research, donations, a two-day labour history conference by ALHI and a daylong celebration of labour which took place on June 16, 2012 at



Photo courtesy of the Alberta Federation of Labour.

Fort Edmonton Park.

The TWU is proud to have contributed to Project 2012 and would like to recognize everyone who helped to make this project a reality.

To find out more about Project 2012, please go to the AFL website at afl.org or the ALHI website at labourhistory.ca.



Photo courtesy of the Alberta Federation of Labour.



Photo submitted by Betty Lockhurst, BA - Calgary

Struggles Greater than Ourselves

Strength is found in community as the AFL reflects on 100 years of organizing

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) proudly celebrated its Centennial year in 2012. Organized activities took place throughout the year, culminating in a daylong celebration on June 16, 2012, at Fort Edmonton Park. The following article, written by Ricardo Acuña, Executive Director, Parkland Institute, was released shortly after the event and originally appeared in vueweekly.com. With permission from the author, the TWU has reprinted the article.

This month, the AFL is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Celebratory activities to date have included the publication of a book, unveiling of monuments and plaques, displays in galleries, museums and libraries around the province, a concert tour by Maria Dunn, a labour history conference, a homecoming dinner for current and former staff and elected members, and many more.

But the event that most stands out for me is the full day celebration that took place at Fort Edmonton Park last Saturday. The celebration included music, videos, speeches, retrospectives, games for the kids, a tea for seniors, a beer garden and a terrific meal.

None of those is what made the event stand out, however. What did were the people and the energy they shared. Front-line union members, executives, and staff were expected, but the presence of activists from around the province, community leaders, city councillors, MLAs, artists and musicians, reps from various non-profit organizations, and people from across generations made it more than just another labour event. It was a community coming together and a celebration in the truest sense of the word, and it was fun. Perhaps none of that should have come as a surprise, but it did.

Across Alberta and Canada unions are under attack by governments determined to undo progress made over the last 100 years, and reverse the benefits that workers have fought for

and won not just for themselves, but for our entire society.

At the same time, non-profits, community organizations, seniors, environmental organizations and advocacy groups are also under attack. Programming is being de-funded, activists of all types are being demonized and dissent is being squashed.

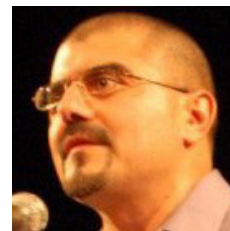
To hear conservative politicians and the mainstream media tell it, unions are obsolete and irrelevant, but the atmosphere and attitudes of people attending Saturday's events revealed a different perception.

Bringing together all of these groups as a community for a genuine day of celebration in the midst of these challenging times is no small feat. It was impressive, and the AFL is to be commended for the accomplishment. Beyond being impressive, however, Saturday's event was important.

It was important because it highlighted the power of community and celebration to folks engaged in the difficult task of bringing progressive change to our province and country. It's too easy to focus on the challenges and the losses, and get caught up in the immediate imperative of our particular issues and our particular organizations.

Coming together to celebrate reminds that we are not alone in our struggles and that we have achieved great things. Coming together as a broad community, with our children, elders and friends, reminds us of why we are engaged in the struggle in the first place and gives us the strength and motivation to keep going.

It was also important because it showed the way forward. The challenges we face today are significant, and in many ways too large and daunting for any one individual or organization to take on alone. Events like Saturday's remind us that we are not alone—that there are many others around us who



share a big picture vision of the society we want. The challenge is for all of us to move beyond our egos and our singular focus on our particular issues and organizations, and to strategize together on how we make progress on the goals that unite us.

The Alberta Federation of Labour was born when Alberta's farmers, urban workers and rural workers came to the realization that in many ways their struggles were one and the same. One hundred years later we need to come to the realization that the struggles of environmentalists, seniors, first nations, the poor and community activists also have much in common with the struggles of unions and workers. Let's honour the example of those AFL pioneers, and the lessons of last Saturday, and begin moving forward together in ways that will ensure that in a 100 years those who come next will also have something to celebrate.

Ricardo Acuña is the executive director of the Parkland Institute, a non-partisan, public policy research institute housed at the University of Alberta.

Reminder: Discipline Letters

The TWU would like to remind all members that Article 10.03 of the TWU-Telus Collective Agreement allows letters of discipline (including letters of warning) to be removed from an employee's file two years after the date of the incident provided there are no incidents of a similar nature within that two year period. There have been a number of members over the summer months who have received increased discipline as a result of previous disciplinary letters still on their file.

A Day in the Life of...

"A day in the life of..." is a continuing series of articles submitted by TWU members about life at work, unique experiences, related subjects or creative stories. This story was submitted by a TWU member and published writer who requested to remain anonymous.

Working as a Telus Service Technician comes with its unique experiences. This next story is one that really tested my personal resolve...

A sheet of glass and a razor on the night stand. Really? You have a stranger rolling around your house, fixing your internet. The modem is in your bedroom because you told me that the modem was in your bedroom and, yet, you still choose to leave your paraphernalia out for me to look at. I think to myself, "Wait, wait, I'm just assuming and generalizing." Assuming? Assuming what? What else do you do with a shard of broken glass and a razor? Homework?

Wrong kind of lines, smart guy.

So what then? Either there's a reasonable explanation for it, or she [the customer] genuinely doesn't know or care that it's been left out while strangers and her kids happily run around the house. Because bad things never happen with loose razors and kids. Or glass for that matter.

No solid green light on the modem.

It's been so long, I'm trying to remember what I was instructed to do during training. Was I supposed to report this?

Unplug, re-plug the power cord.

I mean, am I obligated to legally report this?

Boot cycle starting, have a minute or so to try to figure out the real problem here.

Because my personally walking onto the latest set of "Hoarders" is not the biggest issue here.

Okay, remember the company orientation training ten years ago. Right. Don't bother with reporting grow-ops. They'll just be up and running again in six months and you'll lose your job if the crook with the expensive lawyer decides to file a privacy complaint against the company. I wonder if that's actually true or just the legal department's attempt at limitation of liability.

Focus. Right. Child abuse. The only thing I legally have to report is child abuse. Well, what's the definition of child abuse? I'm not a cop or a social worker. I didn't see any bruising on the little boy when I came in? I wasn't looking. He seems happy and well adjusted enough? Doesn't he?

Still no lights, boot cycle done. Next step, back to the truck for a newish modem and another hard look at him to see if there's anything more that I can see.

I step on mouldy smelling laundry with my dirty boots as I leave the master bedroom.

"I'm just running back to the truck. We're going to start with a new modem and see how we do. I'll be right back."

No bruising. She's not hitting him in front of me. She's not snorting lines at the same time either.

But I know what's going on here. What happens if I pick up the phone and make the call? Who do I call? My boss? Do I really believe he'll have my back when my allegations are questioned? No. No, I don't.

Slap the new modem in. Green. Happy day.

"Okay, we're all fixed up here. Have a nice day."

I walk away, shaking my head, trying to figure out how soon I can get my hands on the case of beer in my fridge and try to forget what I just saw.

The opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author.

Reporting Child Abuse

Anyone who has reason to believe that a child has been or is likely to be abused or neglected has a legal duty to report the matter.

The following are child abuse hotlines for Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec:

Alberta: 310-0000 (This is a toll-free number which can be dialed anywhere in Alberta without entering an area code.)

British Columbia: 310-1234 (This is a toll-free number which can be dialed anywhere in British Columbia without entering an area code.)

Ontario: Toll-free – 1-866-821-7770

Quebec: Toll-free – 1-866-532-2822 or 1-800-263-2266 (French only). After hours or emergencies, call 8-1-1

Children and adults can also call the Kids Help line at 1-800-668-6868 (English) or 1-800-263-2266 (French). Both numbers are toll-free anywhere in Canada and personal anonymity is respected at all times.



CBTU 41st International Convention

Submitted by: Isabelle Miller, BA – Quebec-Maritimes

The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) 41st International Convention took place this year in St. Louis, Missouri, from May 23-27, 2012. It was a pleasure to be amongst the 525 voting delegates in attendance, representing over 50 chapters from 10 Regions. TWU Business Agent, Hans-Woosly Balan and I, were among the 25 delegates from Canada.

My invitation to the CBTU International Convention came from the Secretary-Treasurer of the New York State American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (NY AFL-CIO) at the generous expense of the CBTU. I was asked to share a DVD version of a CBTU presentation that I originally created for the organisation which was distributed to several delegates. A copy of the DVD has been retained for the TWU Education Committee and can be requested for viewing by TWU locals. Brother Balan attended the convention as an organiser of the Ontario Canada Chapter's promotional items table.

The Convention was called to order on Thursday May 24th, with greetings and remarks from representatives of the host city and the governor's office. President William "Bill" Lucy made his final President's Report, formally announcing his retirement as the CBTU's only President and endorsement of NY AFL-CIO S/T Terry Melvin for election of President. Treyvon Martin's family and their lawyer attended and spoke to the delegation about the importance of fighting for solidarity, both in unions and in the larger community. His mother, who is a unionised worker, wanted to thank the CBTU for its support of her family and their assistance in helping her family get justice for the senseless and widely publicised murder of her son, Treyvon, in Florida.

I attended the Women's Luncheon with the Chapter's Women's Committee Representative Marie Clarke-Walker, Executive Vice-President, Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The keynote speaker was Mary Beth Maxwell, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the US Department of Labor,

who brought greetings from USA President Barack Obama, as well as news that President Obama was inducting Addie Wyatt, a CBTU activist who passed away in 2012, into the US Labor Hall of Fame.

Throughout the week delegates heard powerful and informative speeches from invited union representatives. UNITE/HERE President, John Wilhelm, spoke of the "divide and conquer" tactics being propagated between segments of society such as blacks, other visible minorities, whites, LGBT, women, and men, and emphasized the need for workers to rediscover the meaning of solidarity, without succumbing to divisive tactics used not just in politics but in the labour arena as well.

Hector Sanchez of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) spoke of the commonalities between the struggles of Latino and black workers across the Americas, citing that in most cases for statistical purposes between Latin America and the USA, "the L can be substituted for a B and you will show the same results" in terms of wage disparity, poverty levels, high school dropout rates, etc.



From L to R: Isabelle Miller (TWU) and Marie Clarke Walker (CLC)



Isabelle Miller and her husband Liam Joseph.

Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) President, Denis Lemelin, from Quebec delivered a powerful speech to delegates during the Solidarity Greetings. Lemelin discussed the struggles of the Canadian Postal Workers who were legislated back to work by the Conservative government, and enlightened the delegates about the Quebec Student Union Movement who, until recently, were fighting against tuition

increases.

At the end of the Solidarity Greetings came time for delegates to review and pass resolutions. Of the resolutions presented by the Canadian delegation, one was referred to the Constitution Committee and the others all passed unanimously, with particularly great discussion on the pension and back-to-work resolutions with warnings of cross-border impacts.

Elections for all International Executive Committee Positions in CBTU took place on the last day of convention, and marked a historic change when President Terry Melvin was acclaimed. All Officers were also acclaimed and our Executive positions within the Ontario Canada Chapter Executive were retained. Following the awards banquet on the last night of Convention, delegates were embraced by keynote speaker Rev. Jessie Jackson, ending off a fantastically productive convention.

Plant Steering Committee Update

The Plant Steering Committee (PSC) was created in order to assist the Union with networking platforms that are paramount to the Union's success and preparation for bargaining. One of the most important mandates of the PSC is "to gather information and coordinate information sharing between locals with Plant members."

Accordingly, the PSC works on the following initiatives:

1. To exchange grievance information, so that committee members are informed about possible issues
2. To discuss new initiatives from management and their impact on Plant members
3. To discuss the "top burning" issues in Plant and what can be done to address these issues in the workplace

The PSC's meetings are held via teleconference with the first being held last fall. The PSC has met a few times this year as well.

PSC members bring a diverse level of job knowledge and skill to the discussion. The current PSC members are from Transport, Access Technician, Network CO, I&R and TTV departments. Keeping in mind that a steering committee cannot work without delegate involvement, a more geographically diverse representation of Committee members from across Canada is needed.

PSC members currently include:

- Brent Armstrong, local 41
- Roger Fairhurst, local 36
- Greg Kadey, local 204
- Ben Laakso, local 503
- Mike Lucas, local 16
- Karen Philips, local 7
- Kelly Thompson, local 7
- Perry Pasqualetto, Business Agent

If you would like to become a member, please visit the PSC posting at www.twu-stt.ca/en/committee-postings.

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TWU Retirees – BCARTW and Local R55 Update

BCARTW Launches New Website

The BC Association of Retired Telecommunications Workers (BCARTW) has launched an updated website, www.bcartw.ca. We want to make this website a place where retired members of the TWU come to share stories, photos, and other information.

We all have funny, hilarious, or touching stories from our days at work. There are many human interest stories. We have members who have excelled in community service, sports, leadership, or who, in so many other ways, have made a difference in the lives of others.

This can be a place where people come to reconnect with old friends or perhaps, make new friends. Throughout the year, many groups get together at retirement parties,



Switch Board circa 1950.

reunion luncheons, dinners, picnics, and other gatherings. We welcome you to share these events with us. We can post the notices on our website and calendar of events. After the event, we can post the stories and photos on our site.

In short, this site can be a fun, dynamic, interesting, and informative website. We encourage you to send us your stories, photos, notices, post comments, and promote the site to your friends.

Calling all Retirees

Are you a retired member of the TWU and are you receiving a pension from the Telecommunication Workers Pension Plan (TWPP)? If you are not already a member of the BCARTW, we invite you to join. Information about the society and the application forms are available on the website www.bcartw.ca. If you would like to talk to us, we can be reached at 1-888-898-5755.

Are you already a member or not retired yet? Please pass this information on to any retiree you know. We also welcome retired members who have not started collecting their pension as associate members.

Local R55 Supports TWPP Trustees Position on Pension Updates

At the annual general meeting of Local R55, the membership voted unanimously to support the TWPP Trustees' policy of providing annual updates for active members and for allowing early retirement at age 55 with 25 years of service. If sufficient surplus funds are available, an ad hoc increase for retirees would then be considered. These updates would be funded from the TWPP surpluses.

Financial Inequality Hurting Health of Canadians

Governments have a role to play in ensuring citizens live healthy lives.

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) released results of a poll indicating that the health of Canadians is suffering due to the widening gap between the rich and poor in Canada. Results show that one in four Canadians earning less than \$30,000 a year say they have put off, or stopped buying, prescription drugs because they can't afford them; one in four has skipped meals.

The poll was released as the CMA gathered for its yearly meeting, and

echoed themes raised in the speech by doctor and leading health policy expert from the United Kingdom, Sir Michael Marmot. Marmot is also the past president of the British Medical Association and a key adviser to the British government. In his address to the medical community, he said that governments have a moral responsibility to "make it easier for people to be healthy."

Marmot suggested that all government policy should be evaluated "for its likely impact on the lives people are able to lead," and, by extension, its impact on their health. Marmot is

well known for leading the landmark Whitehall study of British civil servants, investigating the relationship between health and social circumstances.

His speech also focused on the role governments must play in creating the conditions for people to live healthy lives.

"That includes giving every child the best possible start in life, creating fair employment and good working conditions and a healthy standard of living for all," he said.

Article provided by NUPGE/
CALM

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BENEFITS: 604-430-3300
FAX: 604-430-5395
WEBSITE: www.twplans.com



Thank you for the generous \$1,000 retirement gift, my TWU pension, and my Honorary Lifetime Membership. In my 31 years with BC Tel/Telus, I have seen many changes within the Union. I experienced two office closures, and three surplus situations. Needless to say, each experience was a bit unnerving and caused some anxiety. Because of the dedication and efforts shown by the TWU Councillors and Officers in each instance, all anxiety and nervousness would eventually be nullified. I was able to carry out a successful and most enjoyable career with the company.

I shall be forever grateful to all the TWU members that I had the honour to work with and the pleasure of knowing, and to all those members who tirelessly worked for all of us. It's because of them we all enjoyed safer working conditions, good benefits, decent wages and equality. I wish success and good fortune to the TWU and all members, past present and future.

In Solidarity,
Gary Hessler
Formerly from local 35

We would like to thank you very much for our \$1,000 retirement gift that my wife and I just received. We both have put in 30+ years with BC Tel/Telus and feel very fortunate to have been represented by you throughout all those years. It's because of you that we are able to enjoy our golden years.

All the best,
Randy & Sally Shillingford
Formerly local 5

I would like to thank the TWU Benevolent Society for the \$1000 gift on my retirement. Very much appreciated.

Thank You!
Sue Milton
Formerly local 8

I would like to express my gratitude to the TWU upon receiving my retirement package last month. I also appreciate the \$1,000 retirement gift I received as well as my application to join local R55 for retired members.

I have worked for BC Tel and Telus for over 30 years and have been very proud to be a TWU member. Many benefits, wage gains and concessions over those many years were the direct result of the tireless work of the TWU.

I have had the privilege of working with many wonderful and dedicated people over those years and have many fond memories from my working career.

I look forward to seeing some familiar faces

Letters of Appreciation

through meetings and events arranged by my new local for retirees. A special thanks to Grace (Grace Jones, Member Services) for guiding me through my choices and options. It was very helpful.

Again, many thanks for your years of support from a grateful member.

In Solidarity,
David Campbell
Formerly from local 10

Thank you so much for everything you do all through the year. Have a wonderful Labour Day.

Yours in Solidarity,
Alistair and Polly Hawkins
Local 10, local 31

4th Annual TWU/Toad Rock Motorcycle Rally

Submitted by: Keith Streg, local 36



Pancake breakfast.

The 4th Annual TWU/Toad Rock Motorcycle Rally was held on the weekend of June 22-24, 2012. Although the weather wasn't the best, it was a lot of fun. The annual event has turned into a popular camping weekend with an increasing number of campers and trailers joining in. We hope for better weather and more motorcycles next year. The location near Ainsworth Hot Springs is absolutely beautiful. Many attendees took the opportunity to also head to Kaslo and Crawford Bay to marvel at the scenery. Thanks to Sandy and Clayton Hunter for hosting the Saturday pancake breakfast. Toad Rock is a unique camping experience with small cabins for rent as well as great camping sites in a very laid back atmosphere offered by the owner, Mary Laird. We hope to see some new faces next year for the 5th Annual Rally.

THE TRANSMITTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TWU

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