



DEFENDING UNION JOBS AND CANADIAN COMMUNITIES

As those employed at Telus are aware, in May Telus offered over 4,000 Voluntary Severance Packages (VSPs) to our Local 1944 members throughout Canada. These VSPs threaten to erode the foundation of good, middle-class, union jobs within our country, and we cannot remain silent. Weeks after the conclusion of bargaining, Telus extended VSPs to thousands of our members, posing difficult choices. We acknowledge that such decisions were personal and we are respectful of our members' autonomy, while at the same time asking members to

think critically about their choice. To aid our members in making informed choices, we provided a comprehensive chart, considering short, medium, and long-term impacts. While the allure of immediate financial gain existed, we urged members to consider the long-term implications for job security, benefits, and retirement plans. Union membership provided crucial job protection, higher wages, and benefits that should not be taken lightly. As we navigated this challenging situation, we stood by our members, offering guidance and support during this critical period.

Telus' decision to offer VSPs to a significant number of our members raised alarming questions about their commitment to the Canadian workforce and economy. Their claim that customers preferred self-serve options contradicted the reality of high telecom costs and the value of knowledgeable, local employees assisting with their needs. Moreover, their push for "significant investment in customer service technology" overlooked the existing chaos within their customer service due to inadequate systems and training.

Furthermore, Telus' track record of misrepresenting job cuts and offshoring operations reflected their willingness to prioritize profits over Canadian employment. The company's use of Canadian revenue to expand overseas while drastically reducing jobs domestically raised serious concerns. It was time to unmask Telus' hypocrisy and challenge their actions that undermined Canadian communities and consumers.

As USW Local 1944, we took decisive action to protect our members' rights and the integrity of Canadian employment. We vowed to reveal Telus' hypocrisy to the public, lobby politicians to maintain high standards of telecom quality and protect Canadian jobs, explore legal avenues to challenge the VSP packages, and empower our members to share their experiences and concerns. Together, we can deliver a powerful message to Telus that compromising the quality of their services under the guise of customer demands is unacceptable.

As we embarked on this journey, we called upon all members to stand together, united in the defense of our union, our jobs, and our Canadian communities. We encourage our members to stay tuned for updates and ways they could actively participate in these campaigns to preserve the strength and prosperity of our union.

In Solidarity,

USW Local 1944

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Earlier this summer, a few outstanding members from Local 1944 had the privilege of attending the prestigious USW's Leadership Development Scholarship four-year program.

Participants were carefully chosen based on their remarkable activism, deep interest, and unwavering commitment within our Local and their respective communities.

Throughout the program, participants acquired essential skills to expand their strategic planning and leadership abilities. They honed their abilities to effectively communicate with the community and media, allowing them to become more powerful advocates for workers' rights.

Across the span of this four-year journey, the participants engaged in four intensive week-long training sessions. These sessions went beyond the conventional classroom experience. Instead, they were designed to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, enabling participants to learn not only from skilled trainers but also from their fellow USW members.



Local activists Robin Navin (centre right), Brian Miller (Second from right) and Mike Goodmurphy (far right) at this year's LDS



From L to R: Ross Brown, Neil Marshall, Jennifer Lyons touring the CARRIE BLAST FURNACES NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK in Pittsburgh and learning about the historical roots of the USW.

Participants were consistently challenged to expand their skill sets, encouraging them to think strategically and lead effectively. One of the most significant takeaways was the art of effective communication – a tool that equips leaders with the ability to engage with their communities and the media.

This aspect proved pivotal in cultivating advocates who could articulate and champion workers' rights with unparalleled clarity and impact.

A cornerstone of the program was its emphasis on collaboration. Participants not only learned in a collaborative environment but were also encouraged to nurture collaborative efforts in their respective spheres of influence.

It is with great pride and admiration that we congratulate this year's graduates. Best wishes!

LOCAL 1944 SUPPORTS ILWU ON THE PICKET LINE



Retired member and Councillor for the City of Port Coquitlam Nancy McCurrach (far right) standing in solidarity with members of ILWU on the picket line.

In a resolute display of solidarity, Local 1944 stood firmly with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada (ILWU) on the picket line, as their call for a fair and just collective agreement reverberated across the maritime industry throughout July. On August 4th, due to the ILWU's solidarity, and support from their allies in the labour movement, including the USW, the ILWU was able to achieve a contract with ongoing wage increases and increased job security. Ongoing bargaining between the ILWU and the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association (BCMEA) had reached a critical juncture

since it began in February earlier this year, and the time had come for workers' rights and dignity to take center stage. As the collective agreement expired on March 31, 2023, ILWU's aspirations were crystal clear – a deal that acknowledged dedication of Longshore workers, safeguarding their jobs, and preserving their rightful jurisdiction.



Members from our Local and the District 3 office showed up in numbers to stand in solidarity with our ILWU brothers and sisters.

At the core of ILWU's demands was the urgent need for recognition of the challenges faced by workers concerning the cost of living. As corporate profits soar, the disparity between the workers' livelihood and the prosperity of BCMEA's member companies remains a glaring concern.

We echo this concern, and welcome a collective agreement that addresses the realities faced by workers during the last couple of years. A fair wage that keeps pace with the cost of living is not a luxury; it is a fundamental right that every worker deserves.

55TH USW NATIONAL POLICY CONFERENCE



Donna Hokiro, president of USW Local 1944, shared with #USWNPC2023 delegates a bargaining update following a challenging round of bargaining with Telus.



Michael Phillips (Secretary-treasurer) spoke to the Freedoms of Choice Policy



USW National Director Marty Warren calling on the federal government to pass anti-scab legislation.



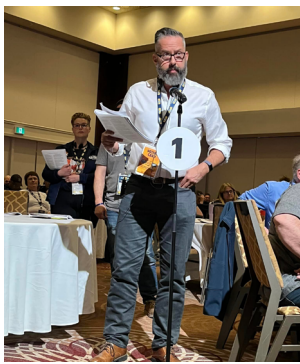
District 3 delegate Cory Anderson speaking to important resolutions during Day 3 of the #USWNPC2023



Leaders of the Canadian Labour Congress Convention: Siobhan Vipond, Bea Bruske, Donna Hokiro and Lily Chang.



Kevon Stewart, Donna Hokiro and Cory Anderson



Jayson Little speaks on Anti-Scab legislation during the resolution debate



Panel on mobilizing for a better future



NDP leader Jagmeet Singh provided some remarks during a panel session.

<https://usw1944.ca>

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

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ROGERS BARGAINING UPDATE

Engagement was high at the Unit 60 Town Hall meetings in late June and early July that the Bargaining Committee members hosted to fill members in on where we find ourselves in negotiations. Attendees were reminded of the general bargaining process before details of our current round were expanded upon. While we all remember the hard-fought battle that took us to the brink of job action in 2018 to secure jurisdictional language around service work for the Installer classification, members were told of the employer's current objective to claw that back and given some insight on why. When pressed at the table, the company's bargaining team suggested how much more difficult procuring contracting services are these days. Contracting companies are leveraging the demand for their

services by demanding minimum employee counts and duration to secure a contract. Translated, this means more job security for contractors over USW members. Further explanations by the company detailed how they were looking for efficiencies in the routing system. Having a contractor with a work order be able to do a nearby service order would make routing more efficient, they say. Those of us who have experienced the debacle of automated routing over the past decade know that the inefficiencies existed long before 2018. We are steadfast against relinquishing job security to allow the company to test yet another theory on how to best tweak their routing software's productivity.



Members of the Bargaining Committee

This led to discussion on the thick black lines Unit 60 is adamantly seeking to imbed in its renewed Collective Agreement, namely what a contractor can do and cannot do. We believe that our highly skilled Unit 60 members have an intimate knowledge of the cable system in the Lower Mainland and are the obvious choice as the technical workforce to service and maintain the network in all aspects. Put simply: If Customer Premise Equipment is in the home or business and needs servicing, this is #OurWork. If there is any work to be done on active plant, this is #OurWork. If the employer requires new plant built to expand its network, that is a place they may use contractors.

As was shared in Bargaining Update 7, the Bargaining Committee made an official request to enter the Federal Conciliation process, which has now begun, and we believe that Unit 60 members clearly understand what they're looking for in a contract that they can rely on and be proud of. Your collective solidarity and resolve will deliver a contract you deserve.



Unit 60 delegates and members during their town hall meeting on Tuesday, July 4th in Vancouver.



Unit 60 delegates and members during their first town hall meeting on Tuesday, June 27th at Aria Banquet and Convention Centre in Surrey, BC

MORE MEMBERS SIGHTINGS AND UPDATES



Unit 60 members and their families enjoying a baseball game at the Annual Day at the Ballpark BBQ.



Our Executive Board with District 5 Director Dominic Lemieux and Education Coordinator Dayna Sykes at USW education centre in Pittsburgh.



ADT and USW members at a BBQ event in Calgary, held in support of ADT workers and their Bargaining Committee.



USW Local 1944's delegation to the Canadian Labour Congress with President Bea Bruske and Secretary-Treasurer Lily Chang and Executive Vice President Siobhan Vipond.



NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and former USW National Director Ken Neumann at the CLC



USW's "bat light" projecting a clear message "Fair wages at ADT now" onto the Telus Spark Science Centre building and the Scotiabank Saddledome.

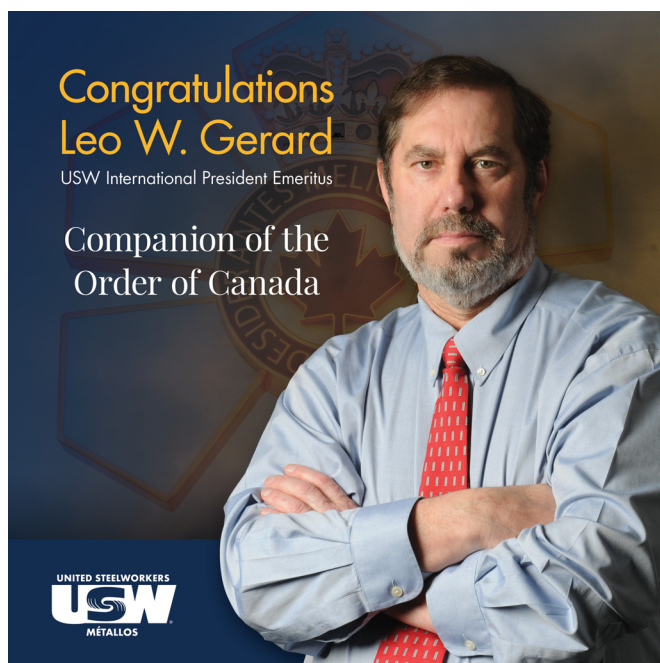
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PROFILE : LEO GERARD RECEIVES ORDER OF CANADA



Former USW International President Leo Gerard has been awarded the Companion of the Order of Canada, the country's highest civilian recognition, for his exceptional contributions to labor advocacy during his tenure as the seventh International President of the United Steelworkers (USW). Governor General Mary Simon made the announcement, acknowledging Gerard's indomitable force in the labor movement and his lasting impact on workers' rights globally.

Gerard's journey began in Lively, Ontario, where he followed in his father's footsteps as a union organizer. Joining United Steelworkers Local 6500 at 18, he rapidly ascended the union's ranks, becoming the chief steward of his 7,000-member local union. In 1977, the USW recognized his exceptional leadership and employed him, leading to various positions, including Ontario Director, Canadian National Director, International Secretary-Treasurer, and ultimately, International President in 2001—a role he served for 18 years.

In response to the honor, Gerard humbly shared, "I want to acknowledge the undeniable fact that this tremendous honor deserves to be shared by so many others, from my family to the members of my great union, to the countless other labor, social justice, and political activists whom I was privileged to work alongside for five decades."

His ability to effectively represent working people while engaging with those in positions of power was remarkable. Gerard played a vital role in establishing Workers Uniting, the largest global union with 3.4 million members, by joining forces with Unite the Union in the UK and Ireland in 2008.

He also championed the integration of the labor movement with environmental organizations, promoting sustainable industry, family-supporting jobs, and environmental protection. This vision led to the establishment of the BlueGreen Alliance in the US in 2006 and the co-founding of Blue Green Canada by the USW in 2008.

In recognition of Gerard's dedication and commitment to workers' rights, Marty Warren, USW National Director for Canada, stated, "Leo's impact on the lives of so many is indisputable, and it is entirely fitting that his achievements are being recognized by his appointment as a Companion of the Order of Canada."

The honor celebrates Gerard's lifelong commitment to the union and his unwavering pursuit of justice for workers worldwide.



Leo Gerard addressing activists on the importance of bargaining.



Join us and show your Steel Pride!

If you're interested in joining the USW at this event, please click [HERE](#)

Join us for a Labour Day BBQ at the USW Calgary Office, 4000 Glenmore Court S.E., on Monday, Sept. 4 from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Open to ALL Steelworkers and their families

Please [RSVP HERE](#)



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Show your Union Pride with Local 1944 clothing and accessories. Wear loudly and proudly.

<https://shopusw1944.ca>

T-shirts sizes S to 4XL

The image shows four t-shirts: two dark blue ones with 'I AM UNION STRONG' and 'L'UNION FORCE' text, and two grey ones with 'I SUPPORT' and 'WOMEN-STEEL' text. There are also two yellow buttons with 'We Can Do It!' and 'Nous pouvons le Faire!' text. The USW logo is at the bottom center.