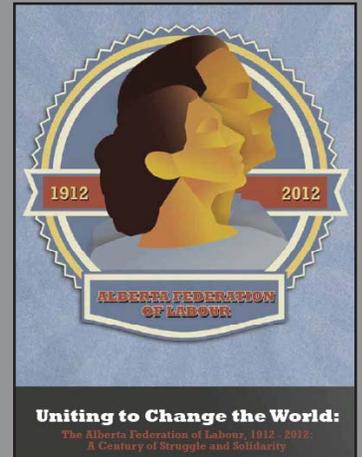


# The Transmitter



## Occupy Wall Street Strikes a Chord with Canadians

Photo: Courtesy of Dave DiMaria



# Message from the President



Dear Members,

The Occupy Wall Street protests have recently dominated the news headlines. Unions across Canada, including the Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU), have expressed their support. Occupy Wall Street is a peaceful movement which communicates an underlying desire for fairness, equality and opportunity in the

economy and our society, in line with union values. Unions have fought hard for workers' rights and we will continue to stand up and voice our discontent as long as corporations and governments persist in putting

families and individuals will not be forced to pay the sales tax for big companies in B.C.

The TWU would like to remind members that the New Democratic Party (NDP) Leadership contest is in full swing. The next NDP leader will be chosen in Toronto on March 24, 2012. Read the article "NDP Leadership Contest" on page 4 for more information on how you can make your vote count.

Please stay tuned as we keep you informed

**"Unions have fought hard for workers' rights and we will continue to stand up and voice our discontent as long as corporations and governments persist in putting profits before people, widening the gap between rich and poor."**

profits before people, widening the gap between rich and poor.

TWU members recently voted on eight resolutions which were approved by delegates during the 2011 TWU Policy Convention. The results of the votes were shared with the membership via an information bulletin. To view this bulletin online, please go to the TWU website at [www.twu-stt.ca](http://www.twu-stt.ca) under the tab "Latest News", dated October 17, 2011. Ballot #8 was the only proposed resolution which was not approved. The proposed resolution read: *The membership dues of the Union shall be 1.9% of gross earnings per four (4) week period. The dues shall be allocated with 1.65% being paid to the Administration Account. The remaining 0.25% shall be allocated the Benevolent Society.* The results of that vote are: Ballots cast – 506, Ballots spoiled – 6, Eligible ballots – 500, Yes vote – 291, No vote – 209. In order for a resolution to be passed, it must receive 66 2/3 per cent support. The 2011 Convention approved a budget based on the existing dues structure. We will continue to operate under that direction and keep a close eye on expenditures.

In British Columbia, unionists across the province celebrated the results of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) vote. Approximately 55 per cent of voters rejected the HST in favour of keeping the federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) separate from the Provincial Sales Tax (PST). This is great news for those who worked hard to have their voices heard. Government and corporations spent millions telling us the HST was about creating new jobs when we knew that was not the case. Now,

of all the TWU's initiatives in the coming months. We encourage everyone to visit the TWU website daily ([www.twu-stt.ca](http://www.twu-stt.ca)), read the Hotline, Transmitter, bulletins, attend local meetings and call your local Shop Steward with any questions and comments.

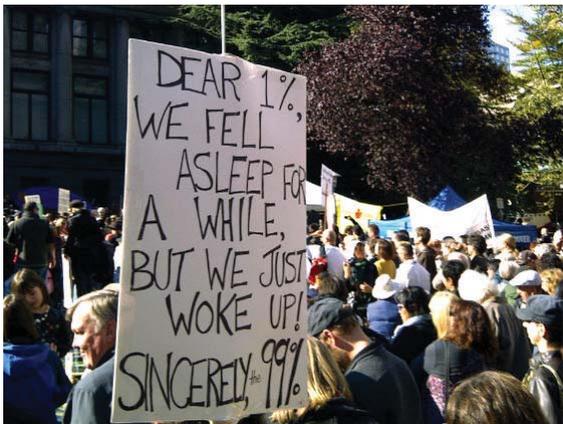
In Solidarity,

George Doubt



President Doubt and his wife, Lesley, walk alongside protesters at the Occupy Wall Street march in Vancouver, B.C.

# TWU Supports Occupy Wall Street



Occupy Wall Street march in Vancouver, B.C.

Photo courtesy of Dave DiMaria

Mass demonstrations for the Occupy Wall Street protest movement officially kicked off in cities across Canada on October 15, 2011. The demonstrations began in New York City on September 17, 2011, and have since spread worldwide.

The movement is mainly protesting social and economic inequality, corporate greed, corporate power and influence over government (particularly from the financial services sector), and of lobbyists. Demonstrators have expressed wide-ranging economic grievances—from income inequality, complaints over layoffs and condemnation of big executive payouts. The participants’ slogan “We are the 99%” refers to income inequality between the top 1%, who control about 40% of the wealth, and the rest of the population.

Unions across Canada have also voiced their support for the ongoing peaceful protests. In a message to TWU members, National President, George Doubt, said, “We cannot turn a blind eye to corporations who put profits before people and the governments that let them get away with it. It is imperative that we stand in solidarity to voice our discontent and to let



Occupy Wall Street, Montreal, QC.

Photo courtesy of Paulo Rebelo

governments know that we have had enough of seeing good paying jobs leave the country needlessly and benefits continue to be eroded as the gap between rich and poor widens.”

Armine Yalnizyan, senior economist for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, told CBC News in an article published online October 13, 2011, “This is an awakening. The Occupy movement, if it succeeds, is like a kind of second chance to have that conversation we didn’t have [in 2008 amid the recession].” Yalnizyan continued, “Civil rights [protesters] and feminists changed societal thinking. If this movement turns into a real movement, it will change our thinking about the relationship between the rich and the rest of us.”

The TWU will continue to support an ongoing peaceful occupation on these important issues. All TWU members are encouraged to send pictures and stories about the Occupy Wall Street protests in their cities to Diane Pépin, TWU Communications Specialist, at [diane.pepin@twu-stt.ca](mailto:diane.pepin@twu-stt.ca).



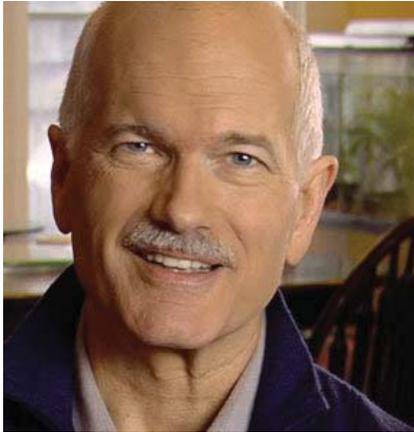
Occupy Wall Street march in Prince George, B.C. Fraser Ruggles (son of Lori Ruggles, Local 18) walks alongside protesters.

Photo courtesy of Lori Ruggles

*With some placards that read, “Corporate Greed is Stealing Our Future”, “Democracy, not Corporatocracy”, and “This Country was built by Men in Denim and is being destroyed by Men in Suits”, the Occupy Wall Street movement occupied the front lawn of Prince George City Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2011.*

*The event was planned by several concerned students from the University of Northern British Columbia and attended by approximately 200 Prince George residents. Members from the TWU, BCGEU, USW and other unions dropped by to listen to some of the speeches and to encourage young activists to continue to voice their concerns despite the lack of mainstream media attention and the ongoing criticism expressed by some in the business community.*

- Submitted by Lori Ruggles



## Goodbye, Jack

When Jack Layton took to the podium on July 25, 2011, to announce that he was temporarily stepping down as Leader of the federal NDP to fight a new type of cancer, it was hard to deny that his physical appearance and hoarse voice were cause for concern. He assured Canadians that he would be “back in September” and we believed him with all our hearts. He had fought cancer before and he could certainly do it again. After all, Jack was a fighter and a relentless optimist whom we had all grown to admire.

No one was prepared for the sad news that he had passed away in the early hours of August 22, 2011. In a moving eulogy, Stephen Lewis, former leader of the NDP described Jack as “radiating an authenticity and honesty and a commitment to his ideal that we now realize we’ve been thirsting for. He was so civil, so open, so accessible that he made politics seem so natural and good as breathing.”

It is still hard to believe that Jack is no longer with us. His spirit certainly lives on as can be seen through the NDP and everyone who shares the sentiment of the parting words in his final letter to Canadians: My friends, love is better than anger; hope is better than fear; optimism better than despair. So let us choose love, hope and optimism.

You will be missed but never forgotten, Jack.

## NDP Leadership Contest

*Submitted by: TWU Political Action Committee*

With the passing of Jack Layton, a Leadership Contest has begun for the federal NDP. The Federal Council of the NDP has now set the rules for that contest and the new Leader of the NDP and Leader of the Opposition will be named in Toronto, Ont., on March 24, 2012.

The NDP’s constitution is based on a one-member, one-vote system. Every member of the federal NDP will have an opportunity to participate in selecting the next Leader. However, in order to participate in the vote, you need to either join the NDP and/or ensure your federal membership is up to date by February 18, 2012. Members of the provincial NDP will not be able to vote in the Federal leadership race unless they become members of the federal party.

The leadership rules are as follows:

- The next leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada will be selected at a leadership convention in Toronto on March 24, 2012.



- All NDP members as of February 18, 2012, will be eligible to vote. It will be a one-member one-vote election. The NDP Federal Council did not revisit the decision of the 2006 NDP convention that established one-member one-vote.
- Each leadership candidate must also pay a registration fee of \$15,000 to the New Democratic Party.
- The spending limit for this leadership race will be \$500,000 per candidate.

“These leadership rules will provide for a vigorous and respectful debate of ideas. They strike the right balance between providing time for the party to grow and ensuring we have a leader in place as soon as possible,” said NDP Secretary-Treasurer Rebecca Blaikie in a press release dated September 9, 2011.

# TWU Human Rights Committee Update

Recently, the chair of the TWU Human Rights Committee stepped down for personal reasons. The Committee thanks Jean Luc Boisvert for his time and dedication to this position as Chair and wishes him all the best. Two new members have been appointed to the Committee as of the September Executive Council meeting. The members are Sheri Rose from local 502, representing Ontario, and Hans-Woosly Balan from local 602, representing Quebec.

The Committee is now made up of the following members:

- Isabelle Miller – Quebec/Maritimes HR Officer, Tricia Watt – Ontario HR Officer, Dale Warner – Alberta HR Officer and Tamara Marshall – B.C. HR Officer,
- Pierre-Richard Joseph and Hans-Woosly Balan – Quebec
- Shannon Forward and Sheri Rose – Ontario
- John Bass – Alberta
- Steve McWhirter and Kelly Thompson – British Columbia

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to the Committee's presentation during the 2011 Convention, the Committee met on October 6, 2011, in order to get a head start gathering ideas for the 2012 TWU Convention.

Please note that the Committee is still looking for another Alberta member to join. TWU members are invited to send any ideas they have on topics for next year's convention. The Committee can be reached at the following email address: [humanrightsofficers@twu-stt.ca](mailto:humanrightsofficers@twu-stt.ca).



From L to R: Sheila Gorman, Local 50, Betty Carrasco, V.P., Tamara Marshall, BA - Burnaby, Sabrina Daniels, Local 51, Cindy Orivolo, BA - Burnaby, Sheri Parsons, TWU Receptionist - COPE staff member.

## TWU Members Run for the Cure

Members of the TWU got together to run for a great cause: breast cancer. The disease has affected women and men from every race and culture across Canada and the world. We are very proud of the women and men who ran or walked in the race to raise awareness and funds for the effort.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure is Canada's largest single day, volunteer-led

fundraising event dedicated to raising funds for breast cancer research, and education and awareness programs. It was created in 1992 by a small group of volunteers in Toronto who wanted to raise awareness and funds for the cause. The event now takes place in hundreds of cities across Canada every year. For more information on the Canadian Breast Cancer CIBC Run for the Cure, please refer to the following website [www.runforthecure.com](http://www.runforthecure.com).

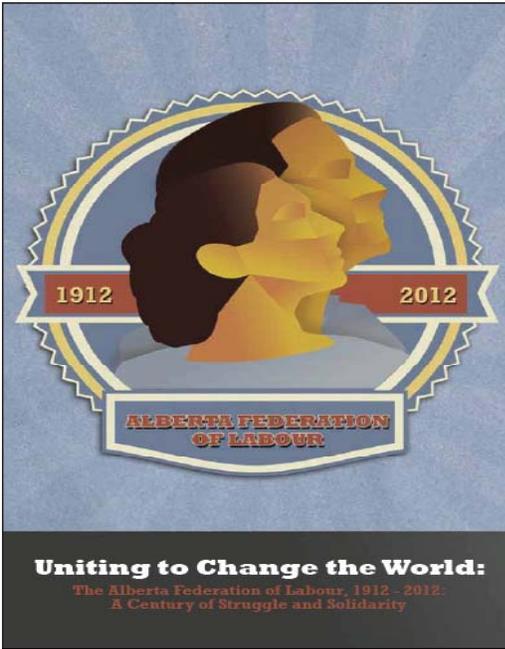
## HST Defeated in B.C.

In a fight that many in the media have compared to David vs. Goliath, the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) was officially defeated in a referendum that saw 55 per cent of B.C. voters choosing to abolish the HST. In total, over 1.5 million British Columbians in 85 ridings voted in the referendum.

"B.C. residents have had the final say, and they did not react kindly to having the wool pulled over their eyes as the Liberals tried to do when they introduced the HST." George Doubt, TWU National President continues, "This should send a clear message to the government that transparency and honest intentions are what the people want and what they deserve."

The B.C. Government, headed at the time by newly re-elected premier Gordon Campbell, announced on July 23, 2009, its plans to implement the HST which would come into effect on June 1, 2010. It is safe to say that a great majority of British Columbians felt slighted as this was never mentioned during his campaign. In fact, the backlash was so intense Campbell eventually resigned two years before the end of his term because of it.

The transition period to return to the former Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Provincial Sales Tax (PST) system is set to take place in the spring of 2013 before the next tentatively scheduled provincial election. In the meantime, the federal conservatives are looking to recoup the 1.6 billion dollars in transitional funding that they gave to B.C. to help implement the HST.



## Project 2012: Celebrating 100 years of Labour in Alberta

The Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) will mark its 100th anniversary in 2012. Project 2012 is a partnership between the AFL and 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 came out of the 2007 AFL Convention where delegates unanimously passed a resolution to sponsor events and projects leading up to the Centennial. Since then, a great many unions, affiliates of the AFL and non-affiliates, have collaborated with the ALHI to research, produce materials and promote activities featuring the history of labour in Alberta. These include:

- A) Community activities
- B) Maria Dunn musical tour
- C) Other anniversary and special events
- D) Museums, archives and libraries
- E) 2012 banners
- F) Special two-day labour history conference by ALHI
- G) Daylong celebration of Labour organized by the AFL on June 16, 2012 at Fort Edmonton Park

For more information on upcoming events throughout 2012 or how you can get involved, please visit the AFL website at [www.afl.org](http://www.afl.org) or call 780-483-3021 or toll free at 1-800-661-3995.

## AFL/CLC Winter School

The 2012 Annual Winter School co-sponsored by the AFL and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), will be held at the Jasper Park Lodge between January 12-21 (Week 1) and January 22-27 (Week 2).

The Winter School is celebrating its 60th year of offering week-long educational opportunities to union members. Activists from different unions get to share information, ideas, gain important skills, knowledge and strategies, make friendships which all help to build a stronger labour movement. The TWU is very proud to announce that TWU Business Agent, Ivana Niblett, is the Chair and AFL liaison for the 2011-2013 AFL Education Committee.

TWU members who wish to attend the 2012 Winter School must do so at their own expense and on their own personal time.

For more information, contact the registrar, Linda Robinson, at (780) 483-3021 (toll free at 1-800-661-3995), or email [lrobinson@afl.org](mailto:lrobinson@afl.org) or [afl@afl.org](mailto:afl@afl.org). Please refer to the AFL website at [www.afl.org](http://www.afl.org) for registration forms and fees as well as 2012 Winter School course outlines.

### Registration Fees

Single: \$1,510  
 Double: \$1,260  
 Delegate and Partner (partner not attending class): \$2,315  
 Local resident: \$850  
 Youth: 6-18 years - \$450  
 Age 5 years and under - No charge

\*Please note that the final date for registration is December 9, 2011.

# Community Savings Credit Union Scholarships



Community Savings Credit Union has established two continuing scholarships to assist union members in attending the Canadian Labour Congress Harrison Winter School each year. Applicants from BC CLC affiliates for two deserving members are being solicited in the following fields of study:

1. Building Diverse and Representative Labour Leadership: Jan. 15-20, 2012 (Only available to workers of colour and aboriginal workers)
2. Women's Health and Safety in the Workplace: Feb. 12-17, 2012

The scholarship will cover the costs of tuition, single accommodation and meals for each one-week course.

To apply for one of these scholarships, applicants must:

- Be a member of a union, lodge or chapel affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress.
- Be endorsed and recommended by their union.
- Submit a scholarship application form.
- Write a brief letter outlining their union activities and describe what they hope to learn from this area of interest and how it will assist them in their union work or in the broader labour movement.

To obtain an application form, please

refer to the following CLC web page <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/community-svgs-harrison-scholarship-2012.pdf> or contact the Community Savings Credit Union representative, Marie Decaire, at (604) 637-5015.

Applications should be submitted to:

Community Savings Union  
Development  
5108 Joyce Street  
Vancouver, BC V5R 4H1

Applications must be received no later than December 16, 2011. All applicants will be evaluated and the Scholarship awarded by December 20, 2011.

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## We want to Hear From You!

Do you have a story idea or want to contribute to the Telecommunications Workers Union newsletter *The Transmitter*? If you do not feel confident about your writing, we can help you. Just call and tell us your story or idea. It is that simple.

The following are some story ideas for future publications that we are looking for members to contribute to (e.g. photos, opinions, ideas, articles, etc.):

- Occupy Wall Street – Members are encouraged to submit pictures or stories from across Canada.
- “A day in the life of...” – This is a continuing series that publishes articles submitted by TWU members about life at work, unique experiences or related subjects.

- February is Black History Month which celebrates the achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who have made Canada culturally diverse, compassionate, and the prosperous nation we know today. What would you like to see included in *The Transmitter*? A member's profile? A historical figure that contributed greatly to the labour movement? Let us know.

- April 28 is the National Day of Mourning. Have you or any other TWU member you know been affected or injured in the workplace or suffered from work-related injuries? Tell us your story. Help us to help workers stay safe.

Contact: Diane Pépin, Communications Specialist  
Telephone: 604-437-8601 (collect calls are accepted)  
Email: [diane.pepin@twu-stt.ca](mailto:diane.pepin@twu-stt.ca)

# Office Ergonomics

*Submitted by: TWU National Health and Safety Committee*

As an office worker, you do not wear a hard hat or steel toe boots to work. You do not lift heavy objects or operate heavy machinery. In fact, you probably wear comfortable clothing and do not need to put a lot of physical effort into accomplishing tasks. The only machinery you operate is a mouse and keyboard. You generally feel safe and secure, but injury can creep up on you over time if your workstation is not adjusted to your individual needs.

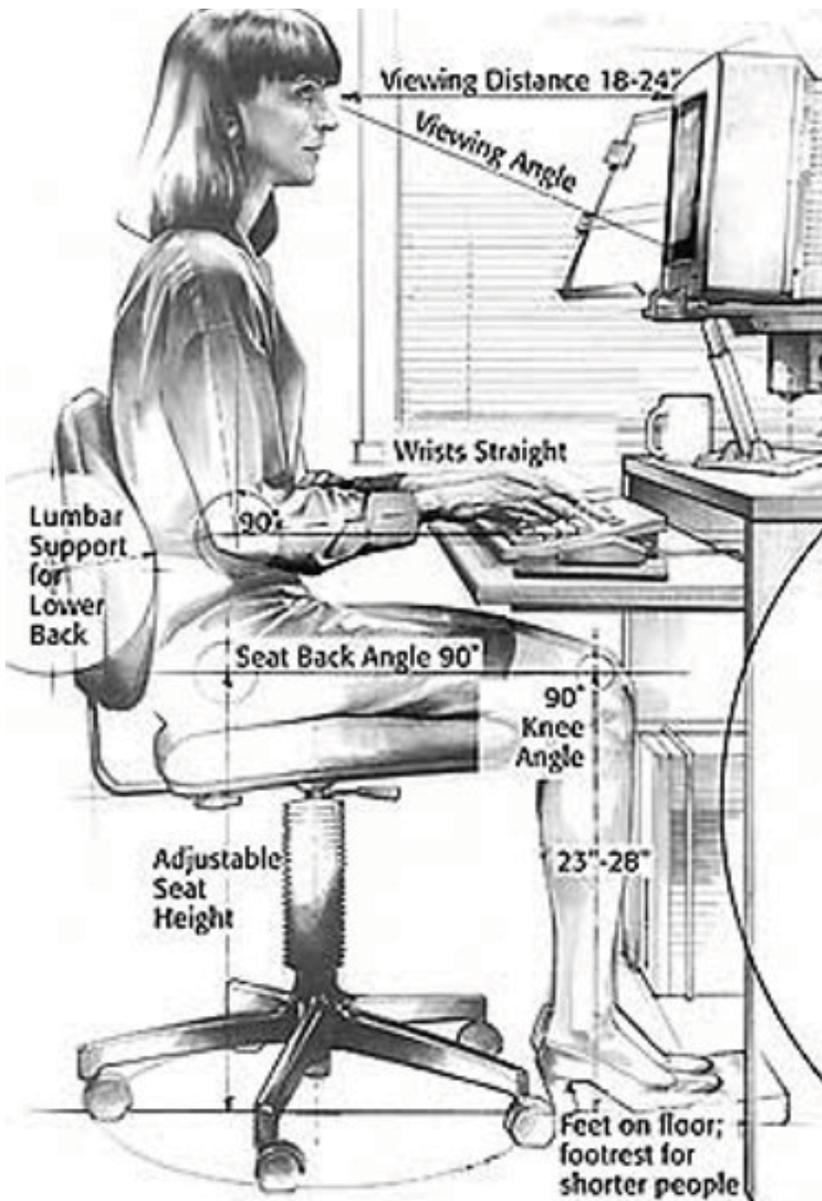
Do you have any of these early signs of Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI)?

- Dull aching
- Loss of sensation (numbness), especially at night
- Aches/pains (may be worse at night)
- Tingling and burning sensations
- Swelling around the wrist/hand
- Dry, shiny palm
- “Pins and needles” discomfort
- Muscle weakness and fatigue
- Muscle spasm
- Joint restriction/loss of movement
- A “crackling” feeling when swollen tendons are pressed tightly

Do not ignore early signs. Prevention and early correction will result in less pain and discomfort and a better chance of recovery, and may prevent more serious injury from occurring.

There are many contributing factors to RSI, but adjusting your workstation to your body (and not the other way around) will allow you to work in a neutral and relaxed posture that does not put strain on your wrists, arms, legs and spine. Doing this will go a long way to prevent or alleviate symptoms. Adjust your workstation as indicated in the illustration for best results.

Other quick tips: Stretch often. Stand up and stretch your legs. Lift your arms over your head. Keep your blood flowing by using your muscles during frequent micro breaks. Focus your eyes on distant objects to lessen eye strain that results from staring at a monitor for long periods. Physical fitness helps prevent RSI and many other injuries and diseases, so get regular exercise when you are away from the office. Your mind and body will thank you.





# TWBP

*telecommunication workers benefit plan*

## TWBP - Did You Know?

If you are a regular part-time employee at Telus, your Company Short Term Disability (STD) benefits may be based on your scheduled minimum hours of work. If you work more than the minimum hours of work (15 hours per pay period), those additional earnings may not be taken into consideration when determining the benefit amount you will receive from the Company STD Plan.

The Telecommunication Workers Benefit Plan (TWBP) provides a non-taxable STD benefit intended to ensure that you continue to receive approximately the same amount of net income you were receiving while you were working.

The TWBP calculates the STD benefit using Annual Earnings. "Annual Earnings" means for a member (except one employed on a temporary basis) as follows:

- a) who is employed on a full-time basis, his daily rate of earnings as at his date of disability multiplied by 260.89; or
- b) who is employed on a less than full-time basis:
  - i) if he has been employed for 26 or more biweekly pay periods, his actual earnings received from his employer in the 26 biweekly pay periods preceding his date of disability, excluding earnings in the final pay period; or,

ii) if he has been employed for less than 26 biweekly pay periods on his date of disability, his actual earnings from his date of employment up to his date of disability, excluding earnings for the final pay period, divided by the number of biweekly pay periods of employment, less one, then multiplied by 26, provided that a Member's Actual Earnings shall not exceed his daily rate of earnings as at his date of disability multiplied by the product of 260.89 and 1.2.

In short, this means that TWBP determines your STD benefit using your annual earnings not your scheduled minimum hours of work.

Members of the TWBP who are regular part-time employees should contact the TWBP office if they are in receipt of Company STD benefits that pays an amount that is less than the net earnings they were receiving prior to their date of disability. The administration office will review and confirm whether or not you are entitled to an STD benefit from the Plan. The administration office can be contacted by telephone at 604-430-1317 or toll-free 1-877-430-3302, or see our website at [www.twplans.com](http://www.twplans.com) for further contact information. If you are not already a member of the TWBP, and would like further information on how to apply, please contact the plan office.

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## A Big Deal, but a Bad Deal for Canada

The Canada-European Comprehensive Economical Trade Agreement (CETA) is big deal and Canadians should pay close attention. So far, negotiations have been quietly taking place behind closed doors. But this trade deal threatens public services, gives extensive powers to corporations and limits local democratic control for municipal governments.

CETA is a corporate power grab. It will take power from local governments and gives it to large multinational corporations whose primary interest is in profit, not service delivery.

If CETA is signed, we could see large multinational corporations take over delivery of essentials like water, transit, energy and health care – whether our local communities like it or not. That's because the proposed

agreement may include a dispute resolution system that would give large European corporations the right to sue Canadian governments for public policies with which investors disagree. Policies that promote buying local goods and services, hiring local workers or ensuring services like wastewater treatment are provided locally could be deemed unfair.

This deal is important because it's the first time that a trade agreement will include municipal activities like purchasing, infrastructure projects and the delivery of municipal services. Because it expands the rights of corporations, it could lead to increased privatization.

CETA will cause drug costs to skyrocket. The European  
*"A Big Deal, but a Bad Deal for Canada" continued on page 10*

*“A Big Deal, but a Bad Deal for Canada” continued from page 9*

Union wants to use CETA to make it harder for Canadians to have access to low cost prescription drugs. A study by the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association warns that this deal could potentially add nearly three billion dollars to Canadian medication costs annually.

CETA puts Canada’s water up for sale. CETA could open up public municipal water systems across Canada to privatization. At the request of Europe’s large private for-profit water corporations our governments are considering including drinking water and wastewater services under CETA.

CETA threatens local job creation. Our tax dollars should be used to create jobs and business opportunities. One way governments to this is by deciding to purchase the goods and services they need from local companies. But under

CETA, European corporations would have unrestricted access to purchasing contracts – and that means creating jobs in Europe, instead of here in Canada.

It’s time to stop this deal and protect our public services.

What do Canadians think about CETA?

- 77 per cent oppose the deal if it causes prescription drug prices to rise
- 60 per cent oppose the deal if it opens up government purchasing to EU corporations
- 52 per cent oppose the deal if it opens up water treatment services to competition from European corporations.

Source: CUPE/Environics Research poll May 2011

*Article provided by the Canadian Association of Labour Media.*

## TWU Retired Members Receive WL Lifetime Stampede Pass

*Congratulations to retired TWU members, Rick and Lorrie Rhodes formerly from Local 37, who are the proud recipients of the Williams Lake Stampede Association’s 2011 Lifetime Stampede Pass. The following is an excerpt from an article that originally appeared in the 85th Annual Williams Lake Stampede newsletter, written by Liz Twan.*

The Williams Lake Stampede Association is proud to honour two long-serving volunteers, Rick and Lorrie Rhodes as the 2011 Life Time Stampede Pass recipients.

Lorrie first volunteered back in the early 1980’s; beginning as an organizer/judge with the Fall Fair, which in those days was run by two-purpose board; Stampede and Fall Fair.

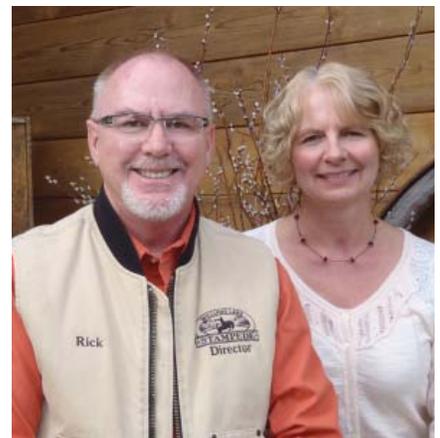
Then, she got involved with Stampede helping to organize Barn Dances and in the late 1980’s when they started having casinos; Rick joined to help run the casino – the couple did the chip counts, money counts, balancing and banking as well as numerous other tasks for all four days of Stampede, sometimes working almost round the clock (10 a.m. to 4 a.m.) – it was exhausting!

After the casino ceased, they ran the grandstand beer gardens, then expanded to the back of the grandstand (eventually called the “Let-R-Buck Saloon”) and with Vince Hoffman began the Karaoke contest (very successful) while continuing to oversee the Barn Dances as well. Tasks included; acquiring liquor licenses/beer tokens, ordering beer, transporting beer – to grounds/barn dances (keeping it cold/four days), arranging security, liaison with RCMP,

enlisting volunteers to pour beer, arranging empty can/storage, counting money/depositing it; a mind-boggling array of jobs.

Rick and Lorrie designed, printed and laminated all the rodeo passes (sponsors/directors, royalty/volunteers/parking) for ten years (1993-2003), they ran the bar at the annual Stampede Dinner and Auction for a few years. Rick helped Graham Smith install a new sound system in the main grandstand in 1994 and to install/maintain the grandstand/infield office phone system. Lorrie was on the Queen committee (with Deanna Derrick).

Rick was born and raised here, and Lorrie has lived here most of her life. Between them, they have three adult children and four grandchildren. Both are retirees from Telus and reside at Tye Lake where they enjoy life on the lake (boating, quad’ing, skiing) when they aren’t travelling.



# Stanley, my Bargaining Friend

*“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 Jacqueline Straw, Local 502, member of the TWU Bargaining Committee.*

Since I embarked on the commitment to the bargaining process between the TWU and Telus as a TWU Bargaining Committee member, I have made some great friendships; some that will last a life time. Please allow me to introduce Stanley...

I met Stanley at the Westin Bayshore Hotel where I was staying on the 14th floor overlooking Coal Harbour and the spectacular mountain views in Vancouver, B.C. One day, Stanley and I crossed paths. That was almost one year ago. We first met when I opened the door to my room to find Stanley helping himself to my welcome package of cheese, crackers and an assortment of fresh fruit. You can imagine my surprise.

After an initial exchange of what the heck did he think he was doing, over time, we became firm friends. He would visit me for breakfast where we would devour Starbucks' muffins. It quickly became a ritual for the two of us to spend time at lunch admiring the view from the 14th floor while enjoying an assortment of fresh fruit and nuts.



Stanley was always waiting for me to return in the evening, rain or shine. Supper would consist of roast turkey or grilled trout bought from the local market, accompanied by a baked potato and fresh vegetables (Stanley's favourite). An evening snack might consist of a biscotti from Starbucks.

Everyone got to know Stanley. He soon even began to enjoy mini carrot muffins from my fellow Bargaining Committee member, Dave Turcotte, when I was not around. When it came time to continue on with the ratification tour, I had to say goodbye to Stanley. I do not know how to say good bye. Not because of our lunch dates and not because he is such a good companion, but you see, Stanley is a seagull.

Now, Stanley will be standing on the balcony of room 1488 wondering why the new occupants are not onboard with his newly acquired lifestyle.

Goodbye, Stanley. I will miss you.

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## Third Annual TWU Toad Rock Motorcycle Rally



Photo courtesy of Keith Streng

TWU active and retired members got together last July 22-24, 2011, for the Third Annual TWU Toad Rock Motorcycle Rally for a few days of motorcycle and camping fun. The motorcycle rally, rated the #1 motorcycle ride in B.C., is open to all current and retired TWU members. Non-riders are also welcome. Information on next summer's rally will be available on the TWU website a few weeks before the event. Stay tuned...



# Letters of Appreciation

## Retirement Thanks

I want to say thank you very much for the retirement gift of \$1,000! It has been an amazing run and there is so much to thank the Union for. In the last 38 years, I have been through three strikes and watched the union do nothing but fight for and do what's best for the employees. Stay strong and keep the faith.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Selman  
Formerly Local 5

Way back when I retired, computers were just coming into vogue, I declined to go on course because I was most certainly going to retire come my 55th birthday which I did, thanks to our Local 7 stalwarts: Bill Clark, George Yawrenko, and Bob Donnelly of #1. And I was smart enough to top up my CCP contributions as well as participate in the employee share purchase plan at BCT, as well as my wife's RBC share purchase plan.

Over the years, we dabbled in land and real estate, which we parlayed into RBC guaranteed investment certificates; we have, still, our original investment, plus another 50 per cent because we were getting 10 per cent interest long term, way back then.

To this end, we live comfortably. We are Gypsies in the summer, traveling in

our down-sized camper van motor home. We have gone to Yuma, AZ, every winter for the past 24 years. By land, we have traveled, by continuous road, in North America to the northernmost point of travel, Inuvik, NWT. The most westerly point, Anchor Point (Homer), AK, incidentally is 900 miles west of Los Angeles, CA, on the longitude. The most easterly that we traveled is St. John's, N.L., if you consider the ferry ride part of the highway system. If not, Main-à-Dieu (near Louisbourg), Cape Breton Island.

I gloat, no! Thanks to our pensions, investments, good luck, good management, which my cohorts at work will remember that I always expounded on, we consider ourselves very fortunate and successful. Is it any more daunting now, in this day and age, than it was for me? Consider our father's, or grandfather's day and age. They, too, accomplished some goals.

Thanks again to our TWU heroes. Believe in and support the TWU.

Sincerely,  
Ray Beck  
Formerly Local 7

A heartfelt thank you for my honorary life membership certificate and to the TWU Benevolent Society for the retirement gift of \$1,000. It was a good ride for

36 years with BC Tel/Telus.

Cathy Pereverzeff  
Formerly Local 32

I would like to thank the TWU for the cheque I received as a retirement gift. After 35 years of work, it is truly a joy to be retired, and I am very grateful for my pension. Thanks for all your hard work over the years, and I wish the members of the TWU only the best in the future.

Lynn Cullen  
Formerly Local 7

I would like to thank the TWU for the \$1,000 retirement gift and Honorary Life Membership, marking my recent retirement after 30 memorable years with BC Tel/Telus. Also, many thanks to the Union for all their hard work and support, and making my much appreciated pension possible.

Sincerely,  
Pam Reimer  
Formerly Local 7

Today I received my first OAS (Old Age Security Pension), which is good because my TWU pension fell from \$835 to \$361, and which is great because I am drawing less from the union reserves. Thank you so much for the last five years. I could not have done it without you all.

Linda Fox  
Formerly Local 50

*continued on page 13*

## TWU 2011 Scholarship Recipients

Four \$1,000 and three \$750 awards went to children of TWU members entering their first year of post secondary education. All of the recipients demonstrated academic excellence, strong leadership qualities and a dedication to the community.

The TWU congratulates the following scholarship recipients:

- Byron Duenas from Surrey, B.C., will be studying Applied Science at the University of British Columbia. (\$1,000)
- Michelyn Rutledge from Prince George, B.C., will be studying Health Science at the University of Northern British Columbia. (\$1,000)

- Kaylin Sambrooke from Delta, B.C., will be studying Political Science and French at Simon Fraser University. (\$1,000)
- Kylie Wilson from Kelowna, B.C., will be studying Communications at the University of Calgary. (\$1,000)
- Korrie Grant from Delta, B.C., will be studying Arts at Simon Fraser University. (\$750)
- Amanda Hogan from Campbell River, B.C., will be studying International Relations at the University of Calgary. (\$750)
- Kristin Rudlang from Coquitlam, B.C., will be studying Science at Simon Fraser University. (\$750)

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I just wanted to express my appreciation to the members of the TWU for the gift of money and the lifetime membership certificate I received. Thank you very much. I can't help but reminisce about an old union brother since passed, Bill Clark, who started the ball rolling that has made my early retirement possible. It is amazing what we can accomplish if we only just stand united for a cause. I have met a lot of great people and made many great memories along the journey, and now, I'm adjusting nicely to the whole idea of being a former employee of CT&S/BCTel/Telus in locals 31 and 9. I am grateful to have been part of a very supportive Union during my 36 years. I hope that both current and future members will come to appreciate the TWU legacy as well.

In solidarity,  
Mark Biles  
Formerly Local 9

Thank you for the very generous gift on my retirement. Many thanks for all the support during my disability. I will never forget the good works of the Union.

With eternal appreciation and gratitude,  
Maria Parolin  
Formerly Local 7

I just wanted to say thank you for all of your hard work over the many years. I am very fortunate to have been able to enjoy all the benefits of belonging to a Union during my working years, and now an exceptional pension plan and the wonderful gift of \$1000. Keep up the good work. It is much appreciated. I will also join the BCARTW & TWU Local R55.

In solidarity,  
Doreen Burlock  
Formerly Local 51

I just wanted to say thank you to the TWU for the very nice gift of \$1,000 plus the honorary lifetime membership I recently received upon my retirement. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Union representatives who were always available to offer their support and guidance along the way. I wish the Union continued success in making the workplace better for all of us.

Joan Hart  
Formerly Local 51

I thought I would just put a few words to say how great it was to see so many people at my buy-out (a tradition which I hope is never allowed to fade away). I never really knew how so many people felt about me. It was a real shock. I was especially pleased to see Stan Cook (the aviator) who came all the way from Penticton, Brian Mariott (the general), Ray Lee whom I first met

back in the early 90s when I first came to Vancouver Island, Jim Beggs, a man of strong principles similar to myself, Bob Stewart, who came to my arbitration and stood up for me, and my good friend and ex-partner of 18 years, Dan Colin. There were many there who have been so helpful and supportive over the last six years. Thank you all. I now have my own retirement mug to place beside the two that were given to my father. They hold a special place in my house and my heart. I will miss the work but not the politics. I wish all the best to the new young men and women who are still working towards their retirement goals. The years may seem far but they will pass quicker than you can imagine. Keep the faith brothers and sisters. Maintain the traditions of the past, stay strong as one, and don't forget the buy in and buy out. It makes for a good party and opportunities to reminisce and enjoy old friends. Party on!

Richard Rowsell  
Formerly Local 35

#### General Thanks

More often than not, you hear from people who are angry with the situation right now. This is just a note to let you know that you're doing the best you can and we are grateful for everything you do all year round and not just Labour Day.

With much appreciation,  
Al and Polly Hawkins  
Al - Local 7, Polly - Local 31

#### Scholarship Thanks

I'd like to thank the Telecommunications Workers Union for awarding me one of this year's scholarships. I'm working towards a Bachelor of Arts at SFU in Sciences Politiques through the French Cohort Program and this honour will help me to achieve that goal. I appreciate it very much. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Kaylin Sambrooke  
(Daughter of John Sambrooke, Local 1)

## THE TRANSMITTER

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