

## TELUS MAKES PROGRESS; WHY DOESN'T YOUR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT?

Telus makes progress on plans to grab market share ahead of Rogers/Shaw merger

Source: published March 9, 2022 on Cartt.ca

In the media, Telus proudly boasts of having billions in capital expenditures ready for big projects, but the company sings a much different tune at the bargaining table by presenting and holding fast to concessions.

Earlier this month, Cartt.ca published an [article](#) featuring, Executive VP & COO, Tony Geheran discussing Telus' aggressive effort to grab market share. The article highlights Telus' announcement in May of last year that it would "invest an additional \$1.5 billion in capital expenditures over 18 months" and is even bumping up "investments that we would've otherwise made in 2023 and 2024".

But while the company focusses on rapid expansion, why does it rebuff strengthening its core foundation by reinvesting in its highly skilled and experienced workforce? You, the members.

Strange that a company with billions to expand, comes to the bargaining table with little else than a list of concessions. But, maybe it's a savvy business model? After all, "Telus has been able to build its fibre network at a low cost of capital", as the article highlights. But is that low cost human capital?

How Telus is currently bargaining would lead you to believe they view their workers as low cost human capital. After a global pandemic, you'd figure the company would recognize the tremendous efforts of you, the members, but instead they choose to nickel and dime. And why?

According to the article, Telus fared well during the pandemic, despite the strain placed on the network due to surging bandwidth demand. But Geheran credits the network itself, saying "while the pandemic certainly registered a spike for us our network and the capacity within it was able to absorb it seamlessly."

That seamless resiliency of the network wasn't the technology alone, it was the collective efforts of you our members - braving the front lines and putting in the hours under incredible pressure to ensure the network held strong and the calls were answered. And now at bargaining time, all they are bringing are concessions.

"You don't just plug in a network and presto, everything runs smoothly," says Donna Hokiroy, President of USW Local 1944. "Telus doesn't seem to get that it's their unionized employees, our members, who have worked tirelessly to make Telus great. It's our members that have lined the pockets of those at the top. They pay lip service, but that's all it is, oh and disrespect. There's that."

Telus expects demand will continue to grow. So we, at Local 1944, continue the fight so that the working conditions will improve, along with wages, and benefits will grow and improve accordingly.



**Support your bargaining committee by sending photos of you wearing your mask or holding stickers and tent card to**

[riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca)

# UNION PROUD



Candace Knoll

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Candace Knoll who was recently featured in United Way BC's Volunteer Spotlight for her commitment to volunteer work and community leadership.

"My volunteering journey was inspired by my mother and motivated by my goal to bring the local Black community together. I carry this motivation into my current volunteer work today," Sister Knoll notes in the article.

A member of Unit 51, Sister Knoll is also incredibly active within our Local, sitting on the Civil and Human Rights Committee as well as the Telus Bargaining Committee. She was even nominee for Outstanding Shop Steward for the 2020 Elsie Awards.

Read more [here](#)

## AN EXAMPLE OF SOLIDARITY

Local 1944 would like to celebrate the efforts of Brother Michael Goodmurphy, who in his free time stood with members of Local 1-1937 members and walked the picket lines during the longest-ever strike in the history of the BC forest industry (225 days).

"Labour is stronger when we stand together, labour rights improve when we fight together", says Goodmurphy, member of Unit 35, Campbell River.

But he didn't show up empty handed. "When I visited, I took them food 4 or 5 times."

As Goodmurphy points out, "a contract is only as good as the members who fight for it."



Goodmurphy (third from the left) with members of 1-1937

## TRUSTEES COMPLETE AUDIT OF THE LOCAL'S FINANCIALS

Local Trustees Natasha Aodan, Ross Brown, and Jenn Turner met during the week of March 21-25, 2022 in Lane Street to complete a Trustee audit of the Local's financials ready for review at the next National Executive Board meeting, which will be held on April 20-22, 2022.



Natasha Aodan, Ross Brown, and Jenn Turner



# UNION PROUD



Juanita West &  
former Canadian National Director Ken Neumann

## SISTER JUANITA WEST RETIRES

On the afternoon of Friday March 11, Sister Juanita West (Local Union Representative for Alberta) closed the book on what has been a long career involving many years of dedicated labour activism.

“We thank Sister West for her years of service to the labour movement and we wish her all the best in her retirement,” says Donna Hokiro, President of USW Local 1944.

## SPREADING SOME LOVE

We are so proud to announce that Local 1944 has donated \$1,000 toward the *Easter Fun Baskets for Kids Donation Drive* organized by Discovery Toys.

Thanks to this worthy effort, Easter baskets will be delivered to children supported by the Ronald McDonald House.

Each child will receive a high quality, fun-filled basket which will include a DT toy, book or game and some Easter candy treats to help make their holiday a little brighter.



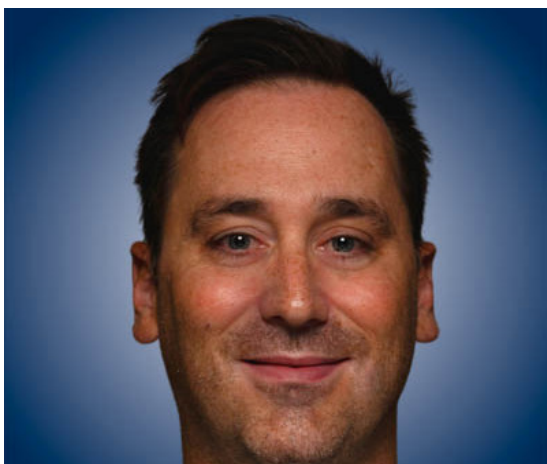
Trustee Ross Brown, Secretary-Treasurer Michael Phillips  
& Discovery Toys' Stephanie Agostini

## NEW COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Having joined us in late February, Johnny King brings 15 years of professional experience in media, communications, graphic design and advertising, as well as a personal passion for advancing the labour movement.

He enjoys spending his spare time with his wife and kids as well as with his lap dog, Henry - a 10 month old great pyrenees.

Johnny's an absolute hoot to work with and we're so happy to have him as part of our team.



Johnny King

# WHO'S NEW IN THE UNION OFFICE



## MICHELLE DEY

Temporary Local Union Representative – Edmonton

Once a temporary Local Union Representative in 2015-16, Michelle returned to the Union Office in January 2022 and is happy to get to know the units in Alberta in both clerical and outside plant.

Having been with the company for almost 35 years, Michelle has plenty of experience with our Local having held many positions throughout the years.

An active Shop Steward since 2003, Michelle's union involvement quickly evolved taking on roles from Councillor to Unit Vice-Chair to Unit Chair to LUDM Delegate to Member and past Co-Chair of the National Health and Safety Committee.

"Being involved in the Union has helped me understand the many differences and similarities of our members," says Michelle. "Facilitating many Shop Steward and Health and Safety classes over the years has given me the ability to listen and understand, to be open to differences, to help to educate members on how to protect themselves as well as their coworkers regardless of where they work."



## STEVE DURRELL

Temporary Local Union Representative – Calgary

An active member of the Union since 2016, Steve has made incredible strides and contributions having been a key Organizer for our newly unionized members at ADT by Telus.

Steve has held many positions in our Union, including Shop Steward, Executive Board member, Health and Safety Committee member, and was the Unit 203 Chair for several years.

"Through training opportunities, social and political activism, and standing up for my coworkers, the Union has helped guide me in personal development so that I was prepared to run for union offices, like Unit Chair and Regional Executive Officer, and eventually take on my new role as a Local Union Representative."

Beyond his labour activism, Steve is also very active in the Alberta NDP and has been cleared and vetted for a nomination race to run again for Airdrie-Cochrane in the next Alberta provincial election.

**Labour activism isn't just about helping coworkers,  
it can also be an excellent gateway to personal growth.**

**That's why Local 1944 aims to empower our members  
by offering activists from the shop floor opportunities to grow within our Union.**

**That growth can begin with a Shop Steward course.**



# UNION TRAINING

## Shop Steward Level 1 Training (online)

April 26 - 28

9am - 5pm  
Pacific Time  
Deadline: April 25

REGISTER  
HERE



May 5 - 7

9am - 5pm  
Mountain Time  
Deadline: April 22

REGISTER  
HERE

May 10 - 12

9am - 5pm  
Eastern Time  
Deadline: April 19

REGISTER  
HERE

## More Shop Steward Level 1 Training (online)

May 31 - June 2

9am - 5pm  
Pacific Time  
Deadline: May 10

REGISTER  
HERE

June 7 - 9

9am - 5pm  
Mountain Time  
Deadline: May 19

REGISTER  
HERE

June 14 - 16

9am - 5pm  
Eastern Time  
Deadline: May 26

REGISTER  
HERE

register  
here

# USW NEW LEADERSHIP



Marty Warren



Scott Lunny



Dominic Lemieux



Myles Sullivan

Congratulations to the recently elected members of the United Steelworkers leadership who were sworn in on March 1st.

The USW's International Executive Board was elected during international elections held in late 2021 by the Union's members.

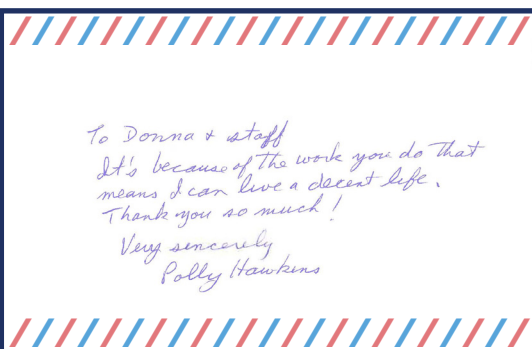
After many years as Director of District 6, Marty Warren replaces Ken Neumann who retired after nearly 20 years in the position of Canadian National Director. Filling the vacancy in District 6 (Ontario and Atlantic Canada) is new Director Myles Sullivan.

Also new to the Director position is Scott Lunny of District 3 (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut). For the past 25 years, Scott has worked within our Union, including as the Assistant to the District Director and as a servicing Staff Representative.

However, it wasn't all change as Dominic Lemieux was re-elected as Director of District 5 (Quebec).

Congratulations one and all!

## A NOTE OF THANKS



"To Donna & Staff,

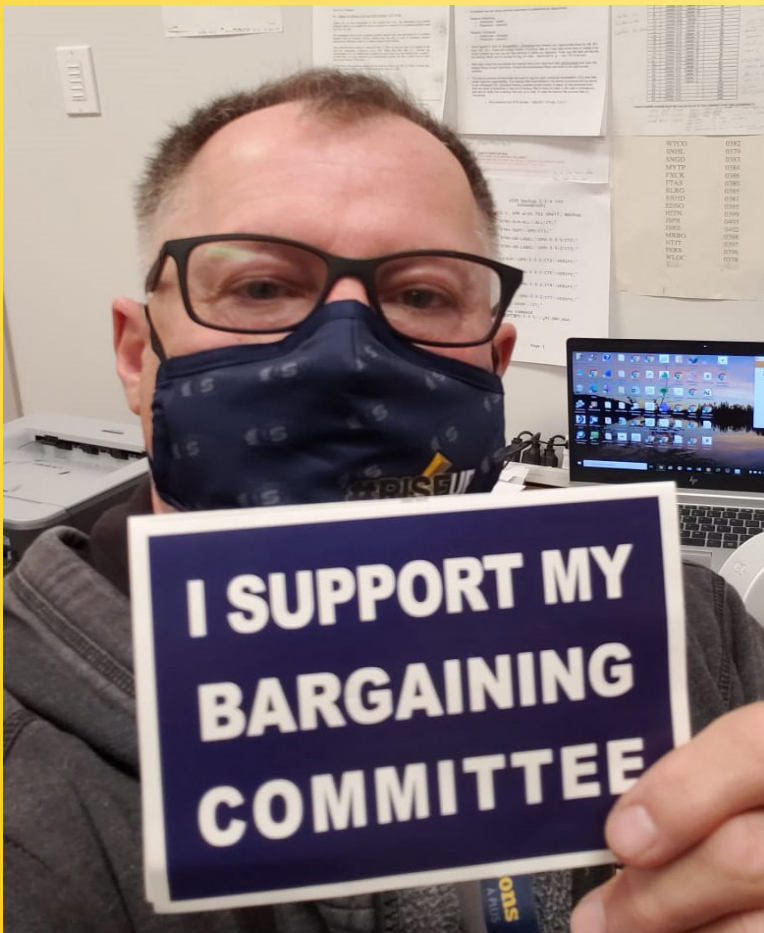
It's because of the work you do that means I can live a decent life. Thank you so much!

Very sincerely,

Polly Hawkins"

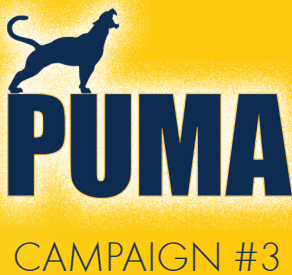


# TELUS BARGAINING: SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE



From left to right: Dave Michie, Amanda Solomon-McPherson, Alex Moffatt, Christine Nielsen, Devon Veenstra, Amber Sather, Cameron MacPherson, Adrian Bartlett, and Marybeth Alviza

Email your photos at [riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca)





# TELUS BARGAINING: SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE



From left to right: Karen Hannah-Masse, Andrii Aksonov, Danis Bouffard, Fraezor Martell, Jordan Morrison, Tasha Corrigan, Julian Smith, Stevan Nikolovski, and Leanne Cole



Email your photos at [riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca)





# TELUS BARGAINING: SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE



From left to right: Jin Petrie, Athena Bistolas, Ivy Bantawig, Dane McRae, Ashok Tripathi, Elizabeth Sigalas, Denetta Ho Shing, Edgar Gallito, and Kelly Barron



Email your photos at [riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca)





# TELUS BARGAINING: SUPPORT YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE



From left to right: Jeffrey Jose, Kyle Anderson, Michel Brunet, Terrance Fidler, Terri Lynn-Tilley, Louise Banville, Shawn Barber, Scott Lunny, and Gordon Dalweg



Email your photos at [riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca)







# PUMA

## CAMPAIGN #3 – #RISEUP

Bargaining is here, and the key to making sure YOU get a fair and improved Collective Agreement is YOU showing your support for YOUR BARGAINING COMMITTEE.

Each member was mailed their very own #RISEUP mask, stickers and tent card. Your Bargaining Committee is asking you to wear/use these items and to take a photo (or many photos) while doing so, the more original the better.

Then send those photos in to [riseup@usw1944.ca](mailto:riseup@usw1944.ca) so that we can show off your support for your Bargaining Committee on social media.

With every campaign, our solidarity and willingness to act in unity is growing. With the whole membership behind your Bargaining Committee, your employer will have to get the message that we won't rest or waver until we get a respectful deal that gets you better treatment at work.

*Your Local 1944 – Telus Bargaining Committee*

To help promote this and future campaigns,  
email [PUMA@usw1944.ca](mailto:PUMA@usw1944.ca) now!



# TAKE ACTION



Together, we can win an Ontario that puts workers first.

That means a province that prioritizes decent work, a \$20 minimum wage, affordable housing, accessible and well-funded public services, racial justice, and climate justice.

In this week's eblast we're **building the fight** for a workers-first agenda.

Plus, **RSVP** to the Women's Election Summit, **join the march** for Status for ALL, and more!

## Alberta & Canadian Human Rights

Zoom Webinar

June 1, 2022

6 - 8 PM

- Join us to learn about Human Rights here in Alberta and Human Rights in Canada, and learn the difference between the two.



Presented by:

The CDLC and Workers Resource Centre

Register for this FREE webinar at:

[admin@thecdlic.ca](mailto:admin@thecdlic.ca)

To Join the webinar:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903824079?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903824079?pwd=bHFMT9Wdm5OdVZETW05MkVKYnZwdz09)

[pwd=bHFMT9Wdm5OdVZETW05MkVKYnZwdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89903824079?pwd=bHFMT9Wdm5OdVZETW05MkVKYnZwdz09)

Webinar ID: 899 0382 4079

Passcode: 934382



Calgary & District Labour Council  
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403-262-2390 | [www.thecdlic.ca](http://www.thecdlic.ca)



## DISCOVER OUR COMMITTEES

### Get involved!

Getting involved with your Local will help you to improve your skills, develop your network, and make an impact in your workplace and community.

More information: [usw1944.ca/committees](http://usw1944.ca/committees)



Join a network of activists and ensure that no member is left behind with the Project for United Membership Action (PUMA).

Lobby for laws that have a positive impact on our workplaces and communities with the Political Action Committee.

Become an advocate for human rights in your community and Union with the Civil and Human Rights Committee.

Ensure that our workplaces are healthy and safe with the Worker's Compensation and Health and Safety Committee.

Seize opportunities for mentoring and leadership development through the Next Generation Committee.

Benefit from training and leadership development through the Women of Steel Committee.

Stay involved when you retire by joining the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees.

# MAKING OUR COLLECTIVE VOICE HEARD

## STEELWORKERS TALK POLITICS



# ONTARIO ELECTION 2022

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7:00 P.M. (EASTERN)  
TO HEAR FROM OUR PANELLISTS:



**SARA SINGH**  
MPP BRAMPTON CENTRE  
AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE  
OFFICIAL OPPOSITION



**JAMIE WEST**  
MPP SUDBURY AND  
USW MEMBER LOCAL 6500



**GUY BOURGOQUIN**  
MPP MUSHKEGOWUK  
JAMES BAY AND USW  
MEMBER LOCAL 1-2010

## STEELWORKERS VOTE: LET'S DO BETTER FOR ONTARIO – ELECTION 2022

The United Steelworkers is calling members in Ontario to get involved in the June 2022 election. Volunteering for your local NDP candidate or getting involved in the Steelworkers Vote program, there are many ways to help out to elect a government that will benefit workers!

Read more [here](#).

## \* ATTENTION ONTARIO MEMBERS \*

You're invited to join the next Steelworkers Talk Politics online event to informally exchange ideas and opinions about political issues of the day.

Focusing on the Ontario election, the evening will feature guest speakers.

Register [here](#).

# APPLY TODAY

# STEELWORKERS VOTE

DISTRICT 6  
ONTARIO 2022

## ONLINE AND IN-PERSON CAMPAIGN SCHOOL

### ONLINE

April 6 - 8

### IN-PERSON

Toronto: May 1 - 7

Hamilton: May 9 - 14

Sudbury: May 9 - 14

Cambridge: May 25 - 31

\*\* Public health guidelines permitting

# [usw.ca/voteschool](http://usw.ca/voteschool)

# EQUAL PAY DAY

## April 12, 2022

### HOLD THE DATE



**= \$** [equalpaycoalition.org](http://equalpaycoalition.org)

## EQUAL PAY DAY

A day dedicated to raising awareness of how far into the year the average woman must work in order to have earned what the average man had earned the entire previous year.

On April 12 @ 7pm EST, the Ontario Equal Pay Coalition is livestreaming a province-wide Party Leaders Debate on Women's Economic Equality.

RSVP [here](#).