

Gaining Ground

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Positive changes for OE Members

**BUSINESS MANAGER
BRIAN COCHRANE REPORTS**

What a difference a year makes! As we head into spring, your union is making major progress on the changes IUOE Local 115 has fought for at the provincial level.

This report is to summarize what was reported at the General Membership Meeting (GMM) held on March 17, 2018, where there were 124 members and 4 guests in attendance.

The meeting began with an address from Harry Bains, the Minister of Labour for British Columbia. Minister Bains has always been a friend of IUOE Local 115 and even more so since his appointment to cabinet in the summer of 2017. We have highlights from his address on the next page.

I began my Business Manager's report to the membership on the topic where we left off in 2017—the Site C dam. The BC Liberals left this project in a mess. Premier Horgan and the NDP have pledged to complete the dam, with better project management, better conditions for workers and more training for apprentices. The NDP government also understands that the BC Building Trades unions like ourselves, will want to organize non-union workers at Site C. This is a contrast from the Liberals, who fought tooth and nail to block our access to the site for organizing and work opportunities for our members.

“Premier Horgan and the NDP have pledged to complete the dam, with better project management, better conditions for workers and more training for apprentices.”

IUOE Local 115
Business Manager
Brian Cochrane

IUOE Local 115 is also in a better position to win a share of the Site C work through our signatory contractors going forward. We have an agreement with the preferred proponent Aecon-Flatiron-Dragados-EBC (AFDE) Partnership for the spillways and generating station. This package is valued at \$1.7 billion, and we have been working with several companies that are bidding as subcontractors to the job.

The changes at Site C are part of a transition to a new, labour friendly model for B.C. public construction—a Community Benefit model. Your Union has been communicating our Community Benefit vision for years, as it is the best



Labour Minister Harry Bains speaks to members.

way to maximize value for British Columbians on their public investments. I was proud to be in attendance with Premier Horgan on March 8, 2018, when he announced his plan for Community Benefit Agreements on the upcoming Pattullo Bridge and Highway 1 (Kamloops to Alberta) projects. He also has directed BC Hydro to have future work be performed once again under the Allied Hydro Council (AHC) model which is good news for our members and BC Building Trades. The AHC Agreements have built every major BC Hydro project for the last 50 years, and our new Government sees the value we bring to these projects.

These are good news announcements for members of Local 115, and I can't tell you how refreshing it is to meet with a Premier and a provincial government who listens and wants to work with us.

The NDP government took another big step in

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February with the launch of a review of the BC Labour Code. Since the Liberals gutted the Code in 2001, there has been a host of bad decisions which have negatively impacted our membership. Having the opportunity to restore some balance back into the legislation we work under is long overdue, and demonstrates another positive direction that we see from our new government. Since the announcement, IUOE Local 115 has wasted no time in developing and filing a submission with the review panel highlighting the many problems with the current Code. OE staff, along with your Table Officers will also be presenting our concerns directly to the LRB panel at various locations throughout the Province as a part of the process. I can assure you that we are working hard to make sure that we get the changes we need to organize new members and better serve our existing membership. There is a lot at stake, and we have 16 years of catching up to do!

In recent months your union has been more engaged with the new provincial government than we have been in a very long time. I look forward to working with this government and the BC Labour movement to fight for new opportunities to expand union membership in B.C. The Government has a mandate to create more opportunities for apprentices, women and indigenous people and we will work with them on all of these as we move forward on major public infrastructure projects.

As you are aware, the government has recently changed the political funding rules so that unions and corporations can no longer contribute to political parties. This will mean that we need to get involved and individually be responsible to financially support parties and MLAs who show that they support us with creating the landscape for good union jobs. 🍁



IUOE Local 115 GMM:

Labour Minister Harry Bains highlights \$15.8 billion NDP has committed to new construction

Harry Bains, the Minister of Labour and MLA for Surrey-Newton, appeared as a special guest at IUOE Local 115's March 17 General Membership Meeting.

Minister Bains served for many years as an elected official in a union and at our meeting he praised IUOE Local 115 members for their "ongoing commitment to pushing for positive changes... proof that labour must stand up for its rights."

The NDP government has made a \$15.8 billion commitment to new construction projects, with Community Benefit Agreements to be used across the board, from hospitals to highways, BC Hydro dams and transmission lines.

Minister Bains presented highlights from the provincial government's 2018 budget. The budget provides for a record investment in housing. The Minister said this is "so the next generation can start to dream again about buying a home."

The Minister confirmed that the minimum wage in B.C. will

continue to rise until it reaches \$15 per hour. "There are a few people who are benefiting from the economy, but many are not," he said. "Nobody who is working full-time should be struggling to put food on the table."

After changing the leadership at WorkSafe BC, the Minister is driving government to change WorkSafe policies to "make B.C. workplaces the safest in Canada."

There will also be changes to the Labour Code and the Employment Standards Act. Minister Bains said B.C. needs to return to a system where the government investigates complaints about unfair treatment by employers. He also said that "those who wish to join a union should be able to do so without interference from their boss."

The Minister's remarks got several standing ovations and a warm response from IUOE Local 115 members in attendance. 🍁



Premier John Horgan's message to IUOE Local 115

"The work you all do is integral for our province and its economic growth."

"I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of the aerial firefighters who provided immeasurable assistance last summer when we experienced the worst fire season on record."



A MESSAGE FROM PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

Having attended IUOE Local 115 General Membership Meetings in the past, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to all of the members here today – but, this time as your Premier.

After years of neglect to so many aspects of life in our province, I am pleased that we are able to make progressive changes that will benefit all British Columbians – not just those at the top. As the workers who have helped build some of the most significant infrastructure in our province, you will be happy to know that we will be updating employment standards, reviewing and developing options with WorkSafe BC to enhance worker safety, and ensuring British Columbians have the same rights and protections enjoyed by other Canadians through a review of the Labour Code.

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of the aerial firefighters who provided immeasurable assistance last summer when we experienced the worst fire season on record. I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your service and sacrifice.

The work you all do is integral for our province and its economic growth, and I look forward to seeing how we can work together with the common goal of building a better BC. I wish you all the best for another productive meeting.

HONOURABLE JOHN HORGAN
PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Building Trades Present Agenda for BC Economy in Meetings with Government

At a conference of BC Building Trades held in Victoria in early March, labour representatives met with Premier John Horgan and cabinet ministers to review priorities for B.C.'s economy and workforce. IUOE Local 115 Business Manager Brian Cochrane was part of the Building Trades delegation. Some of the key topics that were covered:

Community Benefit Agreements: Labour is working with the government to ensure that public investments in construction produce benefits for communities. The Building Trades are proposing long-term framework agreements that would protect both union and non-union workers on provincial projects and provide work and training opportunities across B.C.'s regions.

Apprentice development: Labour is advocating for funding and policy changes to give apprentices a better chance to complete their programs and win provincial certification.

Women In Trades: The government will work with the Building Trades on two projects to support recruitment and career development for women in construction.

Underground economy: Non-union contractors in B.C.'s underground economy don't pay taxes, don't guarantee their work, and don't pay into Workers Compensation. This

creates hazards for workers and the public, and it's unfair to contractors who play by the rules. The Building Trades are urging governments at all levels to crack down on the shadow contractors.

Pension fund investments: Building Trades unions and other unions in B.C. have billions of dollars in assets that could be used to support public construction. In Quebec, public sector unions and other pension funds are lending money to the province for rapid transit construction, with a guaranteed rate of return for the unions. The same concept applied in B.C. would create construction jobs, improve public services and represent a safe investment for our union pension fund members. 🍁



Left to Right: Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley; President Wayne Mills; District 1 Business Rep Mike Mayo; District 2 Business Rep Tom Kinneary; Premier John Horgan; District 1 Business Rep Frank Carr and Business Manager Brian Cochrane.



Below—Members receive their IUOE Local 115 long term service awards at the March 17 General Membership Meeting (GMM).



Stanley Rud receives his 60 year watch from Business Manager Brian Cochrane.



Walter Zdril receives his 60 year watch from President Wayne Mills and Business Manager Brian Cochrane.



60-YEARS



50-YEARS



40-YEARS



30-YEARS



20-YEARS



10-YEARS