

Gaining Ground

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Speaking out for Local 115 Members

**BUSINESS MANAGER
BRIAN COCHRANE REPORTS**

This has been quite a year so far, and your Executive Board has seen many positive signals from the BC Government that there is a renewed dedication to our membership and all working people in BC.

A good example is the review of the BC Labour Code—and the appointment of a Section 3 review committee.

At this time we are currently awaiting the government's report on the submissions provided to the Ministry, but the hundreds of compelling legal arguments along with workers' stories point to the need for changes that will benefit workers.

Your Local Union provided the panel with 16 years' worth of clearly identified problems with the current Labour Code, and we are hopeful that this effort will assist in bringing forward some positive change.

We have been working closely with Premier Horgan and our Government on many issues important to our membership this year.

As the Premier could not attend our meeting due to scheduling issues he graciously volunteered to deliver a video message—which was well-received by our members in attendance.

Many were concerned that an NDP/Green Government would hurt construction, but our efforts on LNG Development, Site C, the Pattullo

Bridge and the Kamloops-Alberta Highway One upgrade have paid off for BC's workforce.

When Premier Horgan announced the Community Benefits Agreement in July, and committed to building the Pattullo Bridge and the Highway upgrade with a Union workforce, he also maintained his commitment to Operating Engineers.

These projects will provide great opportunities especially for apprentices and under represented groups such as women and Indigenous people.

Brother Brian Lefebvre, along with our colleagues in the Building Trades, did a great job finalizing the details of a Community Benefits Agreement with Government negotiators, and these efforts have created a legacy moment in our history.

The noise has already started from the anti union-employer groups in BC and the fake unions that they do business with—but the failed policy and cost overruns of many public projects, and lack of attention to skills development of the BC

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***“For too long
employers have
had free reign
to interfere in
organizing drives,
and it has been
bad for workers in
every sector of the
economy.”***

IUOE Local 115
Business Manager
Brian Cochrane



Business Manager Brian Cochrane delivers his report to the Local 115 General Membership meeting on September 15, 2018.

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workforce make this move to a Community Benefits model a step in the right direction and good public policy.

That is why the IUOE is working with other unions on a national level to develop a Community Building Standard. This standard will help Government achieve excellence in every construction project—measured by a commitment to safety and quality, investment in trades and apprenticeship and a positive community legacy. The CBS website has all the details at buildingitright.ca.

Over the past few months Local 115 has been engaged in pipeline issues, mostly at the federal level. In July, the Trudeau government purchased the Trans Mountain pipeline from Kinder Morgan. The Texas-based company had taken a generally anti-union stand during the planning of the Trans Mountain expansion project. We have met with federal ministers to press for a Community Benefits model, with fair wages and working conditions, on future Trans Mountain construction.

The Prime Minister has shown some sympathy for unions. He rolled back some of the worst legislation imposed by the old Conservative government. He has also backed investments in union training, including a \$575,000 grant to Local 115 for the purchase of training equipment. We hope he makes the right choices on procurement and worker protection on the Trans Mountain expansion—if that project is finally approved to proceed.

The Eagle Spirit energy project may give Ottawa an alternative to the Trans Mountain pipeline. Eagle Spirit is an Indigenous project group that has First Nations backing. The Operating Engineers and other unions have signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Eagle Spirit, but the project is still in its early stages.

Your Union is taking a high profile at the provincial and federal levels. We are speaking out for BC jobs, health and safety, and fair wages and benefits. A recent sample survey of working and retired Local 115 members showed that a large majority of members support our efforts, and would like us to push even harder. 🍁

Local 115 in action

Fighting BC Wildfires



The 2018 wildfire season was one of the worst in BC history. As in past years, Local 115 members fought on the front lines as aerial firefighters working for the Conair Group. British Columbians owe these brave pilots a debt for their dedication and service.

IUOE Local 115 GMM:

In Local Elections, Every Vote Makes a Difference

The September 15 General Membership Meeting featured an address from guest speaker Brad West.

Brad is a 33-year-old trade unionist who has served three terms on Port Coquitlam City Council and is now campaigning to become Mayor of that city. He has been a strong voice for civic construction focused on local hiring and union wages and working conditions.

He said it's important for union members to vote in their communities. With the small turnouts in local elections—only 26 per cent of eligible voters in PoCo cast ballots in 2014—every vote makes a difference.

"Many families in Metro Vancouver are finding it tough to survive, let alone

thrive," he said. "It's a daily struggle with expensive housing and the high cost of living. It used to be understood that if you worked hard, paid your taxes and made good decisions, you'd be okay. That social contract is broken. Unions can play a part in putting it back together."

Brad encouraged Local 115 members to elect local representatives who are connected to the community and know the value of hard work. "If politicians are disconnected from the grassroots, they'll make bad choices."

Brad paid tribute to IUOE Local 115's active role in community and provincial affairs. "When decisions are made that affect members of the IUOE," he said, "your leadership is there." 🍁



Brad West spoke at the GMM on how union members can influence local government.

Community Benefits and the Opposition

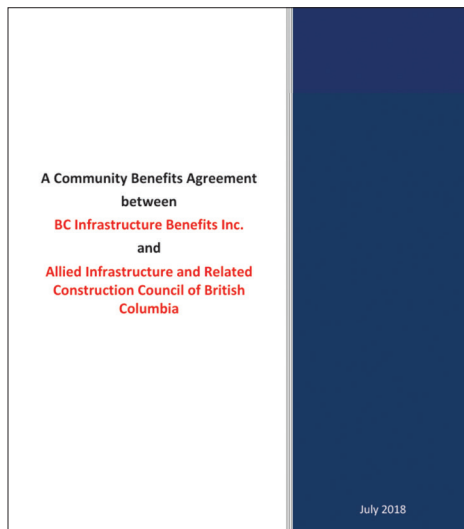
After months of discussions with IUOE Local 115 and sister unions, the Government of BC announced a Community Benefits Agreement this past July. This is a big step forward for our union and workers in the BC construction sector.

Under this Agreement, contractors on major provincial construction jobs must hire locally, provide union wages and benefits, and invest in apprentice training.

In a video message to the Local 115 General Membership Meeting in September, Premier John Horgan pointed out that when BC workers earn good union wages they have more money to spend at local businesses. This is especially important for small BC communities.

The Community Benefits announcement has triggered a legal challenge from non-union contractors and their Christian Labour Association (CLAC) allies. Through the media, they have claimed that this agreement hurts working people, especially young people, by giving work to experienced Building Trades members.

Here are the facts. Under the Community Benefits Agreement, non-union contractors are free to bid and win work.



Their employees will be welcomed into any government construction project. The wrinkle is that all contractors have to pay fair wages. They have to compete on quality and reliability, rather than cheap labour.

Young people are among the biggest winners under the Community Benefits Agreement. There have been almost



Premier John Horgan sent greetings to the Local 115 General Membership meeting on September 15, 2018.

zero apprentices in the non-union segments of the Site C Dam project. The new agreement sets an apprentice minimum of 25 per cent.

Unions like IUOE Local 115 are ready to train apprentices. The BC Building Trades have the best skills training programs in BC, with state-of-the-art training centres and equipment, and more than \$18 million in annual program spending. More than 7,000 people are currently registered in Building Trades apprenticeships or upgrading programs, funded through collective agreements between Building Trades unions and signatory employers.

BC's unions are building the workforce for tomorrow. While anti-union employers focus on fighting an agreement that supports working people, your union will continue to advance the interests of its members and the communities they live in. 🍁



Local 115 table officers met with Premier Horgan on September 11. L-R: Wayne Mills, Josh Towsley, Premier Horgan, Brian Cochrane, Don Swerdan.



One week after the General Membership Meeting, Local 115 hosted a successful career fair, attracting a steady stream of guests who were ready to work or ready to train. Guest Louise-Marie McCartney is shown here with Local 115 Training Association Program Manager Lynn Gould.



Below—Members receive their IUOE Local 115 long term service awards at the September 15th General Membership Meeting (GMM).



Father and son:
50-year member
Luciano Pastro and
30-year member
Rocky Pastro with
Business Manager
Brian Cochrane and
President Wayne
Mills



William Wright
receives his 70-year
watch from Business
Manager Brian
Cochrane and
President Wayne
Mills



60-YEARS



50-YEARS



40-YEARS



30-YEARS



20-YEARS



10-YEARS