





"To Whom It May Concern, Greeting:

Whereas a petition has been received praying that a Charter be granted for the formation of a Local Union of the International Union of Operating Engineers to be located at *Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada* with the following Territorial Jurisdiction:

Province of British Columbia, the Yukon Territory, and all Canadian Territory bounded on the east by longitude 137 and west by longitude 141 extending to the North Pole.

The International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retains the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said territorial jurisdiction:

And that acting under the authority vested in us by the Constitution and Laws of our International Union, we desire and cause this Charter to be issued for the institution of a Local Union to be known as

Hoisting & Portable

Local Union No. 115 with the following Craft Jurisdiction:

*Hoisting & Portable, as stipulated in Subsection (1),
Section I of Article XIII of the Constitution.*

The International Union of Operating Engineers hereby retaining the right to amend, restrict or enlarge said craft jurisdiction; and to bear date of *March 1, 1932* *and by virtue of this Charter to do and perform such acts as are presented in the Constitution, Laws and Rules of the International Union of Operating Engineers.*

The International Union hereby declares its right to suspend or revoke this Charter for any neglect or refusal to perform the duties required by the Constitution and Laws of this organization, and should the aforesaid Local Union be dissolved or forfeit this Charter, then all property, books, papers and moneys shall be transferred to the General Office of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

In Witness Whereof, we do now cause our Signatures and the General Seal of the INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS to be affixed hereto.

International Union of Operating Engineers



J. C. Turner
General Secretary
Frank H. Hines
General Treasurer

This replaces charters issued and dated: September 1, 1928; December 31, 1933; and February 12, 1931.

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Business Manager

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Reflecting on our past while preparing for our future

Welcome to 2021, and I hope you enjoy this special commemorative edition of the IUOE News celebrating our 90th year of service to our Membership.

On behalf of the Officers and Executive Board of the IUOE Local 115, we trust this publication captures the pride and history of the IUOE Local 115 in a meaningful way. For our newer members, we hope this summary of our history will enlighten, inspire and spark the activism required to build the future. For our longer service members, we hope that this newsletter brings some reflection of your great accomplishments and solid friendships which have been made along the way.

We recognize and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of our Local Union in a much more muted way than anyone would have expected. We were looking forward to a few large gatherings throughout the province this year to celebrate this great milestone with our membership, but that is no longer going to be possible. We are in the middle of a public health crisis at a scale that has not been seen for over 100 years, and it certainly looks as though we have the balance of 2021 to manage the rollouts of vaccines and continue the public safety measures and protocols guiding our everyday lives. While not exactly the same, there are many similarities to the challenges, hardships and struggles faced by our Local back in 1931 when IUOE Local 115 received its charter from the International Union as we deal with COVID-19.

The fact that our Local Union survived the great depression (1929–late 1930s) was no small feat. It was the pure determination and commitment of our membership that allowed us to survive, and set the foundation to thrive. Strong leadership and a relentless desire to improve the lives of IUOE members have built our great organization from a low of seven members to the 12,000 proud Operating Engineers 115 members that we are today. That same determination can be found today throughout our membership - throughout our Province, and we will once again adapt and support each other through this historic time.

We have trained generations of working people and provided industry leading benefits during their careers. Our Pension Plan has ensured that members retire with dignity by providing a reliable stream of income they can depend upon.

IUOE Local 115 has consistently delivered value to working people and our members that is second to none. This did not happen by accident. It is a testament to the members, stewards, safety representatives, trainers, staff and leaders, past and present, that have consistently set a high bar in terms of our advocacy on issues that matter to Operating Engineers.

That leadership is recognized within these pages by our International General President, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of British Columbia, and the Mayor of Burnaby. These accolades result from what we have accomplished together. Let the 90th Anniversary stand as a celebration of those achievements.

This is also an opportunity to look forward and begin the countdown to our 100th Anniversary in 2031. It is a moment to recognize that the adversity that exists today in the midst of a global pandemic will soon be behind us, and we will evolve stronger and better positioned than ever before.

Together, we have accomplished a lot of great things. Many of them are captured within the pages of this special 90th Anniversary edition of the IUOE News, although it is truly impossible to list them all.

We have all been through some tough times lately, with member and staff safety at the forefront of every decision we make as a Union. Operating Engineers will be leaders in British Columbia's economic recovery without a doubt. Rest assured that we are continuing to work with government, employers and our sister unions to maximize opportunities for our members and the communities we live in.

We are the best at what we do, and we will continue to strengthen our Organization going forward. The countdown to our 100th has begun!

Stay Healthy. Stay Safe. Rise Above. 🍁



Our 90th Anniversary is a year of many firsts

Let me first start this newsletter article by stating that I'm incredibly humbled and honoured to have been appointed to the position of President by the IUOE Executive Board. This appointment comes as a result of the retirement of Brother President Wayne E. Mills which was effective as of Dec. 31, 2020.

Brother Mills leaves some very large shoes to fill, both figuratively and literally, and I am committed to continue our outgoing President's legacy by continuing to build upon the excellence of service to our membership in our 90th year and to strengthen the institutional knowledge for future generations.

Other "firsts" are the discovery, manufacture and the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. While the rollout of the vaccination program has experienced some significant problems, the majority of which are in the manufacturing end, we can collectively look forward to being vaccinated this

year. Fingers crossed that this vaccine is the "silver bullet" for this horrible disease and that we as a society can return to some state of normalcy in the very near future.

"In the pages that follow, staff has worked determinedly to put 'pen to paper' in an effort of giving the reader a real sense of what the 'times' were like beginning with the 1930s and continuing up and until the present."

The third "first", and conceivably the most momentous, is IUOE Local 115's 90th Anniversary on Feb. 19, 2021 and the appropriate recognition of such.

With COVID-19 raging in almost

every community in the province and the public health orders in place, the ability to hold a gala event or gathering to celebrate our anniversary is out of the question and rightfully so.

After countless hours of discussion, it was decided that this special issue of the IUOE News would be created and dedicated in recognition of our 90th Anniversary. In the pages that follow, staff has worked determinedly to put 'pen to paper' in an effort of giving the reader a real sense of what the times were like beginning in the 1930s and continuing to the present.

On behalf of all the Staff and Executive Board members, I sincerely hope you will enjoy reading this IUOE News keepsake for many years to come!

Be kind, be safe, be calm and we will rise above! 🍁



While equipment and technology have changed over the years, our training and commitment to the highest standards continues.



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

February 9, 2021

Dear Business Manager Brian Cochrane, Local 115 Executive Board, Staff, and members:

I am pleased to congratulate the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 on reaching its 90th Anniversary this February 19, 2021.

When IUOE Local 115 began, the world was in the grip of a global depression and the Local's beginnings could not have been more challenging. Today, IUOE Local 115 is stronger than ever with 12,000 members who can look back with pride on their Local's history of building British Columbia's major infrastructure.

The early days of Local 115 saw the construction of the Pattullo Bridge; a project that employed the one working member of the local. Today the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project employs Operating Engineers under the Community Benefits Agreement as a result of a campaign led by Local 115.

Throughout Local 115's history, our members have worked on projects that were unprecedented for their time. The dams, mills, smelters, and BC's road networks are a legacy constructed by your members. Leaders of the Local expanded our membership by organizing underpaid mechanics, miners, and workers in the waste industry across BC.

Local 115 has lead important fights against anti-union governments such as the Socreds in the 1980's and more recently the BC Liberals. In fact, Operation Solidarity, a coalition of labour unions, community and advocacy groups was formed at the Local 115 Hall at 4333 Ledger Ave. in Burnaby in 1983. That led to one of the largest political demonstrations in BC History and fought against austerity measures.

After leading efforts to elect labour friendly governments, the Local union championed the creation of the Fair Wage Act on government funded projects, a project labour agreement on the Island Highway and the Millennium Line, as well expansion of the projects covered by the Allied Hydro Agreement.

When the BC Liberal Government made a decision that would see WorkSafeBC eliminate the requirement for crane operators to be licensed, it was Local 115 that launched a campaign that forced the government to reverse their decision. Similarly, when the Federal Conservative Government approved HD Mining's request for Temporary Foreign Workers in Tumbler Ridge, it was Local 115's campaign that shone a light on the abuses in the system and forced the program to change.

Much like the depression that gripped North America when the Local Union was created, we now find ourselves dealing with COVID-19. Just as Local 115 demonstrated how to rise above the challenges of the depression, Local 115 has risen above the challenges brought on by the global pandemic.

IUOE Local 115 has consistently been a leader in B.C.'s trade union movement in advancing the interests of all workers; from campaigning against government attempts to introduce anti-worker legislation, to lobbying for safety standards that protect workers and the public around construction sites.

The countdown to Local 115's 100th Anniversary begins now.

Fraternally,

James T. Callahan
General President

JTC:lr/em

JAMES T. CALLAHAN
GENERAL PRESIDENT

JAMES M. SWEENEY
GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

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PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

February 19, 2021

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone celebrating the 90th anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 (IUOE Local 115).

Established in 1931, IUOE Local 115 today represents more than 11,000 Operating Engineers in British Columbia and Yukon. Members—from crane and heavy equipment operators, riggers, miners and welders, to mechanics, truck drivers, deckhands and assistant engineers—operate a variety of equipment and work in many industries. They have helped to build and maintain important infrastructure that Canadians use in their day-to-day lives.

I would like to commend the members of IUOE Local 115, past and present, for their hard work and dedication. This special milestone offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the proud history of your Local, to celebrate its many accomplishments and to set goals for the future.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable anniversary and for continued success.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Justin P. J. Trudeau, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of smaller loops and a long horizontal stroke.

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada





Canada
Province of British Columbia
A Proclamation

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom,
Canada and Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the
Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith

To all to whom these presents shall come – Greeting

WHEREAS qualified and trained tradespeople are critical to the excellence and safety of construction, completion and maintenance of British Columbia's many infrastructure projects, and

WHEREAS British Columbia's tradespeople also work in other industries which contribute significantly to British Columbia's economy, and

WHEREAS these tradespeople are represented by the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), a leading North American labour organization, and

WHEREAS the people who work as members of the IUOE Local 115, one of the foremost labour organizations in British Columbia, can be counted on to consistently deliver the highest possible quality of service, and

WHEREAS the IUOE Local 115 is celebrating its 90th anniversary on February 19, 2021;

NOW KNOW YE THAT We do by these presents proclaim and declare that February 19, 2021, shall be known as

"90th Anniversary of IUOE Local 115"

in the Province of British Columbia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and the Great Seal of Our Province of British Columbia to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS, The Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of British Columbia, in Our City of Victoria, in Our Province, this twenty-eighth day of January, two thousand twenty-one and in the sixty-ninth year of Our Reign.

BY COMMAND.

Attorney General and
Minister Responsible for Housing
(counter signature for the Great Seal)

Lieutenant Governor

City of Burnaby



Proclamation

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 115 DAY

Whereas Qualified, safety trained tradespeople play a critical role in building and maintaining British Columbia's many infrastructure projects and in powering the industries that keep the province's economy humming; and

WHEREAS The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 represents over 12,000 British Columbians who often work in high-risk, high-altitude environments and are counted on to consistently deliver the highest possible service; and

WHEREAS The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 is one of the foremost labour organizations in the province committed to the protection, fair compensation and empowerment of workers; and

WHEREAS The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 this year celebrates 90 years since its founding and 50 years since its headquarters were located in Burnaby; and

WHEREAS Burnaby salutes the workers who contribute so significantly to local and provincial economies, and the labour unions that represent many of them.

NOW THEREFORE I, MIKE HURLEY, MAYOR OF BURNABY,
DO HEREBY PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 19 AS

"INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 115 DAY"

IN THE CITY OF BURNABY.

Dated this Eighth Day
of February, 2021 A.D.

Mike Hurley
MAYOR



The years before our Local **TURBULENT TIMES**

Thirty-five years before the creation of IUOE Local 115 on Feb. 19, 1931, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) was formed which would set the standard for unions, including our Local, to advance the rights of workers across North America.

1896 was also the year British Columbia was marking 25 years as part of the Dominion and gold was discovered in the Klondike. Thousands of prospectors on foot, pack horse, or mule headed north. Construction of the interurban electric rail line to Chilliwack was well under way.

At this time, it would be over 20 years before women could vote in BC, and 65 years if you were First Nations. Shamefully, 26 per cent of infants born died of illnesses associated with poverty and malnutrition before they reached their first birthday.

Conditions for the working class were dangerous on both sides of the border. Benefits were unheard of, and construction and stationary engineers worked 60 to 90 hours a week. Even though unions were legal, deadly battles were fought and even more looming on the horizon. Company security, scabs, deputized citizens, and government militia battled against armed striking mill, mine, and other union members.

These were the conditions on a freezing cold, windy day in Chicago on Dec. 7, 1896 when men representing 11 small unions met to become one stronger union. The National Union of Steam Engineers of America was born. One year later, Canadian unions joined and the organization became the International Union of Steam Engineers. As steam gave way to gasoline and diesel engines, our organization reflected the evolution, changing to the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Today, we work to protect the rights of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, welders, machinists, and others in construction and industrial shops. Also represented are, stationary engineers, who work in operations and maintenance in building and industrial complexes, and in the service industries. IUOE also represents members in the petrochemical industry, nurses and other health industry workers, waste management, trucking, marine, pilots, and public sector members including police officers in SWAT units, motorcycle patrol, dispatch, and detectives.

We are among the 400,000 workers in 170 local unions in the United States and Canada.

Work crew on Cambie Street in Vancouver.



The turbulent years leading to the formation of IUOE Local 115 were treacherous for a unionist. Workers were intimidated, attacked and even killed by police, company security, and the Canadian military. It was an era where there were no rules. This was a time when immigrant children were brought from Britain by children's "aid" societies and along with the adult workers, they were often cruelly exploited. If these people became or were injured, they were simply fired without medical aid or money.

Workers form a union

More than 200 men and boys died in Vancouver Island's dark and dangerous coal mines in 1912. The mines were considered the most dangerous in the British Empire. Miners on Vancouver Island formed unions and declared a strike to demand safer working conditions.

Company response to union formation

The owners of the mines, including the infamous Dunsmuir family, responded to the strike by evicting the strikers' families from company housing, looting and destroying their personal possessions, refusing to negotiate, and hiring scab labour. Many miners and their families were forced to move into the mountains.

Government response to the strike

By spring 1913, more than 3,500 miners were on strike in the Nanaimo region. The BC government sent in 150 police officers to back up the coal barons. And in summer 1913, the militia and regular military forces were called out to support the civilian police.

But that was not all...

The provincial police cut the telegraph and telephone lines to Nanaimo so nobody could report the approach of military ships. That same morning British Columbia's 5th Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery, the 88th Victoria Fusiliers, and 50 members of C Battery of the Royal Canadian Artillery came ashore. The Fusiliers alone mustered with two machine guns and 24,000 rounds of ammunition.

Strong military support of coal barons

At 10:00 a.m. on Aug. 13, 1913, the combined military force was ordered to proceed to the strike zone.

Two days later, the Seaforth Highlanders, 6th British Columbia Regiment (Duke of Connaught's Own), 19th Company of the Canadian Army Service Corps, and the 6th Field Company of the Canadian Engineers added another 500 men to the anti-union force.

On Aug. 15, 1914, a year and a day after the militia and regular forces were mobilized, the Vancouver Island strike collapsed when the UMWA stopped covering the miners' strike pay. By then, Britain had declared war on Germany. Canada was at war. Most immediately enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and went to fight, many to die and buried in Flanders Fields.

This action against union members remains the longest Canadian military deployment suppressing civil rights in Canadian history.



Final note: Unions were proclaimed legal almost 40 years before this event. However, companies would have no legal obligation to bargain in good faith until 1944.

1931-1939

Born in the depths of the Great Depression A SMALL FRONTIER UNION LOCAL SURVIVES



LOCAL RECEIVES CHARTER

Two years into the Great Depression, IUOE Local 115 was chartered through the merger of two locals – 46A and 844. The depression would test the resolve of our Union which struggled financially. In our lowest hour, we had just seven members (only one of whom was working) and the Union had a cash balance of just \$46.08. As difficult as the depression was, it proved that IUOE Local 115 and our members were already rising above all challenges.



HOTEL VANCOUVER

The Hotel Vancouver's early years weren't unlike that of the Local Union. Construction stalled after the steel structure was erected as a result of the great depression. Work resumed in 1937 and the hotel was completed in time for 1939's Royal Tour when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Vancouver.



A new decade begins, just two and a half months after women were declared "persons" under Canadian law.

Barnet Mills strike begins in September with 360 workers protesting unsafe working conditions and wage reductions from \$0.42/hr to \$0.09/hr. Over 40,000 men were out of work in BC.

The Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) Party is formed. In 1961, it became the New Democratic Party (NDP).

Army managing federal relief camps for single men, many earning \$0.20/day. Over the next four years, over 100,000 men worked in the camps.

The percentage of unionized workers in BC drops to seven per cent from a high in 1919 of 20 per cent.

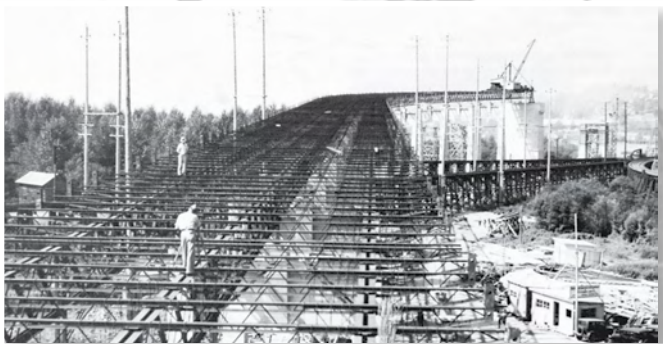
1930

1931

1932

1933

1934



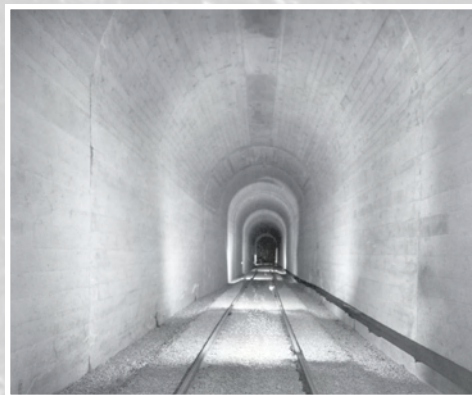
PATTULLO BRIDGE

Construction of the Pattullo Bridge began in 1936 and was completed in 1937 at a cost of \$4 million dollars to build. The construction served to employ the only working members of the Union in 1937. It has stood as an important piece of infrastructure and a source of pride for those that built it – and our Union. Today members are working on the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project at a projected cost of \$1.4 billion.



LIONS GATE BRIDGE

The Lions Gate Bridge was financed by the Guinness Corporation that owned land on the North Shore mountains. The project employed dozens of Operating Engineers who worked constructing the large pylons that supported the longest single-span bridge in the British Empire at that time.



CPR'S DUNSMUIR TUNNEL

Northern Construction attempted to cut wages on CPR's Dunsmuir Tunnel project that was expected to allow CPR's freight to pass under the City of Vancouver. On

July 10, 1931, members of the IUOE Local 115 voted to strike. Unemployed workers joined pickets in exchange for a meal. A settlement was reached the following day when wages were restored.



3,500 workers rode the railway to Ottawa to protest poor conditions. Conservative Prime Minister R.B. Bennett ordered the city police and RCMP to attack them in Regina. The same year the bloody battle for Ballantyne Pier in Vancouver saw the same vicious treatment against unionists.

The Rifle Range (Mt. Seymour Parkway) unemployment relief camp is closed with its residents assigned to railway construction work.

The labour-supported Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) party, won eight of 48 seats in the BC Legislature.

1,200 forestry relief camp workers stage sit-down strike protesting BC Premier Duff Pattullo's cuts to relief funding, resulting in sudden increase of homeless men on Vancouver's streets. IUOE Local 115 has 85 members.

Canada declares war on Germany. Unionization grows to 12 per cent. Picketing was an illegal act until this year.

1935

1936

1937

1938

1939

1940-1949

Off to war and then

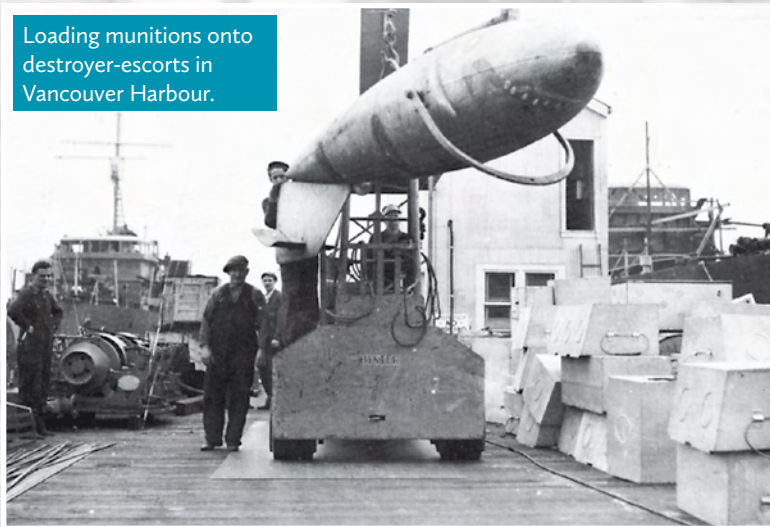
BACK TO WORK

WORLD WAR II

Canada's entry into the Second World War meant ships built in the safe West Coast ports were suddenly in demand. At its peak, the Burrard Shipyard employed 150 crane operators. A total of 30,000 workers were employed in the Vancouver, Victoria, and North Vancouver shipyards. BC shipyards constructed 800 ships in support of the war effort.



Loading munitions onto
destroyer-escorts in
Vancouver Harbour.



Compulsory national unemployment insurance system introduced (Canada was one of the last western nations to bring in a system like this).

Canadian Broadcasting Corporation officially begins operation; its main goal was to report nationally on the war. Canada allows women to enlist in the army. Canada declares war on Japan.

Burrard Dry Dock begins hiring women to replace male workers who have joined the armed services. IUOE Local 115 membership rises to 300. Port Hardy construction workers receive time and a half for overtime.

373,000 women across Canada are working in manufacturing; 261,000 women are working in munitions production, and 4,000 are working in construction.

The Labour-supported CCF party's strength grows and strikes build pressure, causing Ottawa to force Canadian employers to bargain in good faith.

1940

1941

1942

1943

1944

Alaska Highway

The Alaska Highway became a high priority as Japanese forces advanced across the Pacific. The construction of the highway involved close cooperation between the Canadian and American governments. In just eight months, 10,000 American troops alongside 17,000 construction workers built 2,500 kilometres of highway using 11,000 pieces of road-building equipment.



Island Highway/Pulp Mill Projects

Larger projects throughout the 1940s included the development of pulp and plywood mills, the Bridge River Dam, the development of downtown Vancouver's business district and the extension of the Island Highway.



New Equipment

The growth of Union membership increased as defence contracts spurred economic activity in BC. As activity and profits increased, employers began to invest in new machines accelerating the move from gas to diesel powered equipment. This allowed contractors to save up to 80 per cent of their fuel costs.



By the end of World War II, 711, 117 Canadian workers are members of trade unions.

Rand formula enacted, requiring all workers affected by a collective agreement to pay dues to the union by mandatory deduction in exchange for the union agreement to "work now, grieve later."

The Canadian Citizenship Act comes into effect, converting British subjects into Canadian citizens. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King becomes the first Canadian citizen.

Fraser Valley hit with a catastrophic flood that sees 16,000 people forced from their homes. Operating Engineers are called in to help construct emergency dykes and clear debris.

Frank Calder, of the Nisga'a Nation, is elected to the legislature as the province's first Indigenous member.

1945

1946

1947

1948

1949

1950-1959

The big builds fuel growth

BC IS BOOMING

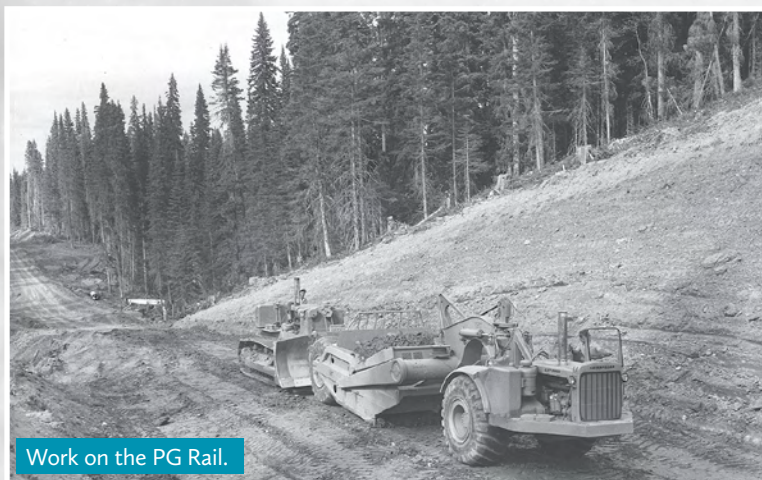


ALCAN SMELTER PROJECT

1951 saw the launch of work on a new Aluminum Smelter in Kitimat. The project was so large in scale, no single construction company could possibly build the project. The Kitimat Constructors was created, which was a consortium made up of Dawson Wade and Company, Marwell Construction Ltd., Bennet and White Construction Company, General Construction Company Ltd., Campbell-Bennett Ltd., Emil Anderson Construction Company, B.C. Bridge Dredging Company, and Dawson and Hall Ltd. drove the growth of IUOE Local 115 in Northern British Columbia.



Life in the Kemano early days included large mess halls, unloading equipment on barges and shoveling snow around the crews' quarters.



Work on the PG Rail.

IUOE Local 115 has 700 members, up from 100 members ten years before.

IUOE Local 115 becomes the fastest growing union in British Columbia. Kay Kendrick is the first woman in Kemano when she begins as a switchboard operator.

4,500 men are employed at Kemano. IUOE Local 115A is established as a Local for apprentices.

The \$70-million Trans-Mountain pipeline opens.

IUOE Local 115 wins jurisdiction for the Yukon. A major investigation into Kitimat's camp conditions begins.

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

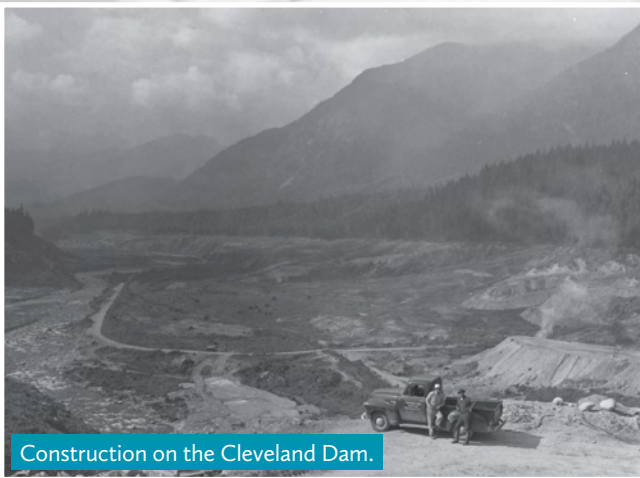
UPPER LEVELS HIGHWAY

New machines developed in the depression, which were proven effective during the war effort of the 1940s, became the drivers of efficiency in the 1950s. IUOE Local 115 was no longer a steam engineer's union – it was now a heavy mobile equipment operators' union, as well as a union for the members who service the equipment. Here, members of IUOE Local 115 construct the Upper Levels Highway linking North and West Vancouver.

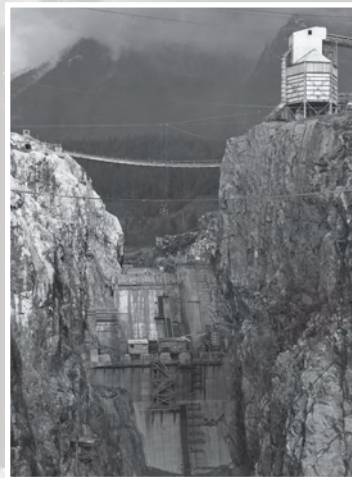


IRONWORKERS MEMORIAL BRIDGE

June 17, 1958 will be remembered forever as the day that eighteen people fell to their deaths when the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge collapsed while under construction. IUOE Local 115 member, Gord MacLean was among those that perished. An inquest later determined that the disaster was caused by a structural miscalculation.



Construction on the Cleveland Dam.



IUOE LOCAL 115A

IUOE Local 115A was established as a Local for apprentices in 1952. In the early years, training was mostly on the job. In 1956, IUOE Local 115 held the first training course for backhoe and rubber tire scraper operators. Today, training is woven into the fabric of who we are, with over 2,300 members receiving training from the IUOE Local 115 Training Association in 2020.

IUOE Local 115 members refuse to work overtime at the John Hart Dam until they are paid double time.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is formed.

\$35 million is set aside for the construction of a new freeway in downtown Vancouver, however the project is later scrapped. BC Electric Building is completed.

Locals across Canada form the Canadian Conference. More than half of BC's workers are in unions.

Bill 43 is introduced, which prohibits sympathy strikes, bans picketing during illegal strikes and weakens the bargaining power of unions.

1955

1956

1957

1958

1959

1960-1969

Change provides for a growing

LOCAL UNION



PEACE RIVER HYDRO PROJECT (W.A.C. BENNET DAM)

1964 saw the ratification of the Peace River Treaty and the start of construction of three major hydroelectric power projects. The Peace River Dam was impressive not only in its size as one of the largest dams but also in the speed in which it was built. Over 40,000 workers constructed the impressive structure in just four short years. The dam would later be named after Premier W.A.C. Bennett.

The Peace River Hydro Project fill of the dam nears completion August 1967. Intake shafts can be seen in the distance with the camp in the upper right corner.



The Union charts IUOE Local 115C. Indigenous Canadians are granted the right to vote without relinquishing their status.

The New Democratic Party (NDP) is formed from the CCF party. The average personal income is \$1,672 per year. Milk costs 24 cents per quart and it costs 55 cents to purchase a dozen eggs.

Rogers Pass, the 92-kilometre portion of the Trans-Canada highway between Revelstoke and Golden, is completed by Operating Engineers.

IUOE Local 115 adopts a District form of administration.

The Columbia River Treaty is ratified. The new Canadian flag, a red maple leaf between two red bars, is approved by Parliament.

1960

1961

1962

1963

1964



Keenleyside Dam Project.



Work on the Port Mann Bridge Project.

MINING

IUOE Local 115 has a long history of working in mines across BC. The 1960s were no different. The mines of the day were Texada, Brynnor, Noranda, Zeballos, and Boss Mountain. As mines were developed and constructed, it was common for the workers that built them to then work at them as miners. Organizing in mining was often done in cooperation with the Tunnel and Rock Workers, the Teamsters, and IUOE Local 115.

ORGANIZING IN SHOPS

IUOE Local 115 began organizing underpaid mechanics in shops throughout BC. The main push began in 1965 and by 1967 the Local Union had successfully brought a majority of the BC equipment dealers under a collective agreement. Many of the small shops had been ignored by other unions as being too small. IUOE Local 115 adopted a different strategy and fought to advance the working conditions for these new members.

TRAINING ASSOCIATION

In 1964, IUOE Local 115 established the first contributions in the Training Plan during negotiations with the Heavy Construction Association in order to provide training to machine operators, mechanics, and welders. It was the first apprenticeship plan of its kind in Western Canada. Skill development was seen as a way of supplying industry with skilled operators while reducing the likelihood of accidents and injuries.

More than 5,000 men are employed in Dam construction and IUOE Local 115 reaches full employment.

IUOE Local 115 creates the Health and Welfare Plan, first covering the pile-driving section, then the heavy construction.

The Peace River Dam that employs over 1,000 Operating Engineers is completed.

A heavy duty mechanic earns \$4.27/hr under the BC Road Builders Collective Agreement.

IUOE Local 115 has well over 7,000 members.

1965

1966

1967

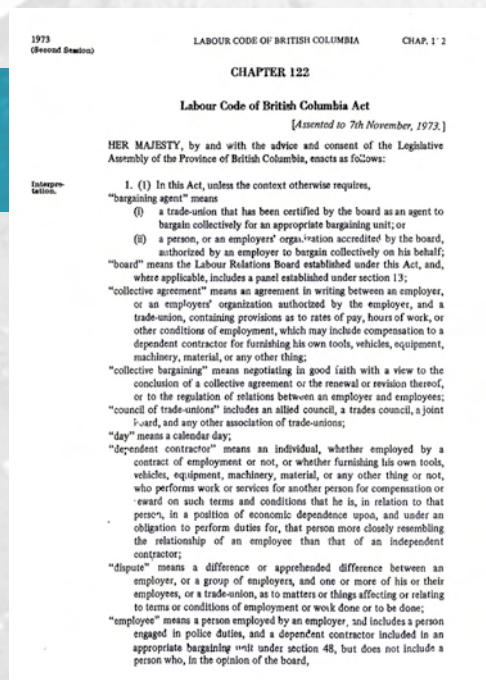
1968

1969

1970-1979

IUOE Local 115 finds a new home

BC ESTABLISHES THE FIRST LABOUR CODE



4333 LEDGER AVENUE

1971 marked the 40th Anniversary of IUOE Local 115. The year brought change to Local 115 as we moved from our Fraser Street building to 4333 Ledger Avenue in Burnaby. Shortly after

we moved, our previous office was destroyed by fire. The Ledger Avenue building was dedicated by International President Hunter Wharton in 1971 and rededicated by General President James T. Callahan on Sept. 20, 2014 upon completion of a renovation and modernization.



IUOE Local 115 celebrates its 40th birthday and moved to Ledger Avenue in Burnaby.

A principal operator earns \$6.37/hr under the Operating Engineers Pipeline Agreement for BC and Yukon.

The Social Credit Party's 20 year hold on power ends with the NDP, led by Dave Barrett, winning the provincial election.

Workers receive greater protection on job sites as the BC Labour Code is enacted.

A bargaining council forms the Ten-Way Pact, encouraging renewed unity between construction unions.

The Operating Engineers Pension Plan (OEPP) is established on May 1st.

1970

1971

1972

1973

1974

NDP ELECTED

The 1972 provincial election saw the labour-friendly New Democratic Party led by Premier Dave Barrett form government for the first time. While the Barrett government passed a record amount of legislation that has gone on to define the province of BC for decades, including the province's first labour code, times were tough for Operating Engineers as the government reduced spending on road and dam projects, and increased royalties in the mining sector which resulted in decreased investment in the sector.



MICA DAM

Though spending on hydroelectric power generating projects slowed in the '70s, the Mica Dam project kept many members employed. Rising above the Columbia River, the Mica Dam project added two additional turbines in 2011. The additional turbines provide power to 80,000 homes annually. Today, the dam generates over 20 per cent of all hydroelectric capacity for BC Hydro.

Industrial wages rise 22.3 per cent between 1973 and 1975.

1975

The government stages an attack on inflation limiting wage increases in the construction sector.

1976

Bill 89, the Labour Code of BC Amendment Act is introduced raising the required portion of employees signed with a union before the LRB from 51 to 55 per cent.

1977

The Bargaining Council of BC Trade Unions and the Jurisdictional Assignment Plan are introduced.

1978

Members working under the Heavy Construction Agreement in the Classification Group 1 including shovels, cranes and loaders, earn \$13.23/hr.

1979

1980-1989

Anti-worker government attacks

IUOE LOCAL 115 RESPONDS BY ORGANIZING



Work on BC Place.



Cambie Bridge under construction. Archives# CVA 800-2482.



Construction on the Coquihalla.

EXPO 86/SKYTRAIN/BC PLACE

Expo 86 invited the world to British Columbia. Jimmy Pattison was selected to lead the fair and he negotiated an agreement with the Building Trades to have the entire fair built union.

However, the Social Credit Government cancelled the agreement and rammed through legislation aimed at eliminating the ability for unions to enforce non-affiliation clauses.

It's one of the best years on record for IUOE Local 115, due largely to the mining industry, with all seven Districts enjoying high employment.

Members in the Yukon hold their first official meeting as District 7 of IUOE Local 115.

Locals across Canada negotiate an agreement to make the pension plan portable anywhere in Canada.

An all union conference is held at the Operating Engineers Hall in Burnaby, and Operation Solidarity, a labour alliance representing 400,000 workers is formed to derail Bill Bennett's Austerity Program.

The Pension Plan announces a pension increase of 4.5% in May, reflecting the increase in consumer price index. The Revelstoke Dam is completed.

1980

1981

1982

1983

1984

DESPITE ANTI-WORKER GOVERNMENT, WORK CONTINUES ON

As the 1980s began, the work picture improved. Major projects such as the Coquihalla Hwy, Revelstoke Dam, expansion of coal development and export facilities and increased development in the Lower Mainland provided high levels of employment in all Districts.

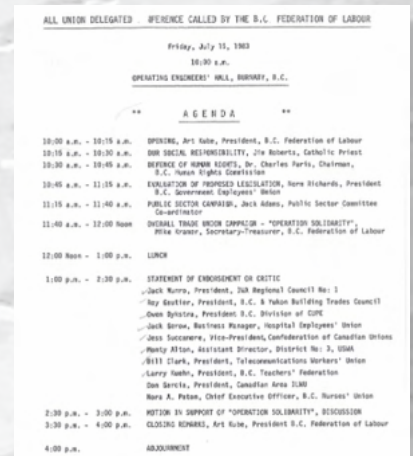


Revelstoke Dam.



OPERATION SOLIDARITY

Social Credit Premier Bill Bennett introduced the Restraint Program which aimed to reduce spending, cut services, and eliminate jobs in the public sector. A coalition of labour, community, and advocacy groups named Operation Solidarity was launched in the auditorium at 4333 Ledger Avenue. This group created one of the largest public protest movements in our province's history forcing the government to make changes to their program.



Operation Solidarity meeting agenda on July 15, 1983.

ORGANIZING IN THE WASTE INDUSTRY

Continuing the strong history of organizing and growth, IUOE Local 115 focused on organizing workers in the waste industry. The Local Union was successful in organizing companies such as Laidlaw, BFI, Wastech, Johnny-on-the-Spot and negotiating and signing their first collective agreements. Today we represent over 550 members in the waste industry and many of the members of those early organizing drives now enjoy retirement while collecting their pension from the OE Pension Plan.



Construction on the Alex Fraser Bridge is completed. It remains the world's largest cable-stayed bridge until 2005.

Construction unions take strike votes in response to the ruling from the LRB known as PACCAAR, which allows union contractors to set up their own working conditions and wages when a collective agreement expires.

Gas is 39 cents a litre and the average price of a house in the Lower Mainland is \$140,000.

IUOE Local 115 participates fully in the Union Yes Campaign. Our logo with a large check mark, is distributed as stickers and signs throughout the province.

A member working under the Classification Group 1 including shovels, cranes and loaders earns \$20.81/hr and a heavy duty mechanic earn \$20.27/hr under the Heavy Construction Agreement.

1985

1986

1987

1988

1989

CONFRONTATION, CONTROVERSY AND PROTEST

Company bugged our talks, union says

McRae Waste denies the charge, saying the bug was placed in a flower pot for a sales meeting.

EDWARD ALDEN
Vancouver Sun

RCMP officers are investigating allegations that a bug was planted in a union organizing meeting by a company that has been engaged in a bitter battle with some of its employees over their efforts to unionize.

The International Union of Operating Engineers has alleged that the sales manager of the company, McRae Waste Management Ltd. of Coquitlam, placed the listening device behind a flower pot in the meeting room of a Coquitlam restaurant, near the company's headquarters on Schoolhouse Street.



BUG: transmitter shown with quarter.

The union held a meeting in the room that evening to discuss organizing and bargaining strategy with employees from the company, according to an unfair labor practices complaint filed by the union with the Labor Relations Board.

McRae's lawyer, David Gibbons, acknowledged that a company official placed the transmission device in the restaurant's meeting room. But he said it was for the purpose of listening in on a company sales meeting that was scheduled to be held in the same room the next day.

"They had no intention of listening to their [the union's] meeting and never listened to the meeting," Gibbons said. McRae Waste Management is a 17-employee, \$15 million company that has contracts for institutional and commercial garbage collection around the Lower Mainland, including contracts with the Surrey school district and the

Please see *Bug found*, A19

Bug found as union battles to organize McRae workers

Continued from A1

Vancouver parks board.

The president of the company is Ronald Gordon McRae of Coquitlam, and the directors are Ralph D. McRae of West Vancouver and Frank Barker of Vancouver, according to company search records. The McRaes referred all questions to their lawyers.

The allegations come as the union and the company are engaged in a bitter battle over the efforts of the operating engineers' union to organize workers at McRae.

In an unfair labor practices submission to the LRB, initially filed in April, the union charged that McRae "has engaged in a deliberate and calculated course of captive audience meetings, threats, intimidation and coercion." The alleged violations of the labor code include: laying off employees who signed union membership cards, attempting to influence the employees' choice of a union, intimidating and bribing employees to discourage them from joining the union, and threatening to close parts of the operation if the union drive succeeded.

Peter Gall, the company lawyer at the LRB proceedings, said McRae "categorically denies all allegations, including the alleged bugging of the meeting room. They have been bargaining in good faith."

McRae has also filed its own complaint against the union, alleging in a submission to the LRB that some union members engaged in an illegal strike earlier this month.

An LRB mediator is scheduled to sit down with the two sides next week to try to hammer out a collective agreement. If mediation fails, the board has scheduled eight days for a formal hearing on the unfair labor practices complaints beginning July 21.

In its statement to the LRB, the union said it organized a meeting of employ-

ees and union representatives for the evening of April 3 at the ABC Family Restaurant at Schoolhouse Road and Louheed Highway. Union assistant business manager Brian Cochrane said the meeting was well advertised among employees at the company's headquarters.

"Shortly before the meeting was to adjourn, it was discovered that an electronic listening device had been planted in the meeting room," the submission said. "An employee of the restaurant has positively identified the person she saw enter the room prior to the start of the meeting. The restaurant employee observed the person standing on a chair placing something on a ledge behind some artificial plants," the submission said.

"The restaurant employee's description matches that of McRae's sales manager, Mark O'Hara."

O'Hara refused to comment on the allegation.

Don Swerdan, business agent for the union, said company employees brought him the device that evening and he kept it in his possession. Police were also called at the same time, he said. On April 7, the device was turned over to Kaban Protective Services in Vancouver for analysis.

The analysis determined that the device — about 2 1/2 inches long and an inch wide — was capable of picking up and transmitting conversations that could be received as much as four blocks away, according to a report prepared for the union.

"It's a bug that people place and then they sit outside and listen to it," said owner Ozzie Kaban.

He said such units are not readily available in B.C. or Canada, and it was likely made in the U.S. "It's a good unit. Whoever designed and manufactured this unit knew what they were doing."

The device was later turned over to the RCMP, who are currently analyzing

it at the security engineering section of Vancouver RCMP headquarters, McCready said.

The dispute that has embroiled the company arose after the efforts of some of McRae's drivers to sign up with the union. McRae employs its drivers as dependent contractors, which means they are technically independent operators driving company owned trucks on contracts for the company. The drivers are paid on a piece basis per haul, with no benefits.

Rob Mitchell, one of McRae's drivers, said some of the drivers "have been doing 14 to 15 hour days, five days a week, plus rotating Saturdays." He said the company has had "a really high turnover, it's a revolving door. We just wanted to establish some sort of security and fairness for both sides."

But the company, he said, "just wants to give you a truck, give you a run and you do the job, however many hours or days it takes to do it."

The union is proposing a collective agreement that would classify dependent contractors as employees, and give them provisions similar to the contract covering drivers and hourly employees at Canadian Waste Services Inc., formerly Laidlaw, the Lower Mainland's biggest waste disposal company. Wages in that agreement range from about \$17 to \$21 an hour.

Swerdan said the union's proposals would give McRae drivers a wage increase of roughly eight to nine per cent. Gall said the company is opposed to the Laidlaw agreement, because its terms don't suit a small operator like McRae.

Gall also said employees at the company are divided over whether to join the union.

"This was quite a heated and emotional thing not just between the union and the company, but between employees," he said. "There was a lot of bad blood."

IUOE Local 115's organizing gained local headlines when our Union organizer found a listening device hidden in a meeting room rented for the purpose of organizing at McRae's disposal. An employee of the restaurant reported that she witnessed the employer's sales manager planting the bug prior to the meeting. Later the employer was charged with another Unfair Labour Practice amid allegations they invited an employer dominated union, the General Workers Union to raid IUOE Local 115.

Amid talk of a looming provincial election, IUOE Local 115 puts new energy into electoral politics.

Business Representative Hugh McConnell loses his life in a plane crash on April 4 while in the service of the IUOE Local 115 membership.

Gas is 52 cents per litre and the average price of a house in the Lower Mainland is \$285,000.

The Build BC Act is implemented with goals for job creation, regional development, training, and providing opportunities for "traditionally disadvantaged individuals and groups."

On Jan. 13, Highway Constructors Limited (HCL) is created to supply labour for the Vancouver Island Highway Project.

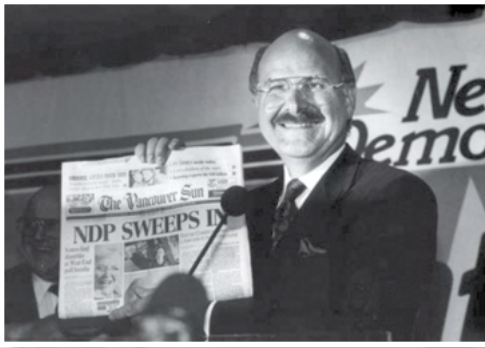
1990

1991

1992

1993

1994



NDP GOVERNMENT ELECTED

Mike Harcourt leads the NDP to defeat Rita Johnston in the 1991 provincial election, ending 16 years of Social Credit rule. IUOE Local 115 successfully lobbied the government for a Fair Wage Act on government-funded projects such as the Island Highway Project, and increased enforcement of the Employment Standards Act.



PIPELINE WORK

Members of IUOE Local 115 have long supported safe and efficient transportation of energy through pipelines. In 1993, 150 of our members constructed a pipeline through challenging terrain in the Cranbrook-Fernie area where grades reached 17 per cent.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY REVIEW PANEL

Towards the end of the NDP's mandate in the 1990s, the government appointed arbitrators Stan Lanyon and Stephen Kelleher to review labour relations in the construction industry. Together, they made several important recommendations including one that would see newly organized units in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector inherit the standard collective agreement; see raiding in construction in July and August; and an increased role for the Industry Training Commission related to training and certifications. The NDP implemented many of the proposed changes. Unfortunately, the Campbell Liberal Government would begin reversing these changes upon taking office in 2001.



BURNING THE MORTGAGE

IUOE Local 115 leaders burn the mortgage at the March 16, 1991 General Membership Meeting signaling that the building that served members for 20 years was now owned free and clear by IUOE Local 115 members.



PORT ALBERNI NEXGEN – MacMILLAN BLOEDEL

Construction of the Nexgen Paper Plant was awarded to TNL, a non-union firm, despite submitting a bid that was higher than a union contractor. When challenged on the decision, MacMillan Bloedel indicated that after decades of working with union contractors they now favoured non-union firms. This

sparked outrage and a protest movement. The building trades, with substantial leadership from IUOE Local 115, sent waves of members to picket and protest. While the protest involved arrests, court appearances and fines, it secured a portion of the work for the building trades.

Due to IUOE Local 115's picketing efforts, an agreement is secured with MacMillan Bloedel for a portion of the construction work at the Nexgen Paper Plant in Port Alberni.

Operating Engineers across North America celebrate the 100th Anniversary of IUOE.

The BC cabinet approves the Project Labour Agreement model for the \$1.2 billion Millennium Line SkyTrain, the repair of the Lions Gate Bridge, and the addition of a fifth (HOV) lane on the Port Mann Bridge.

At the end of the year, IUOE Local 115 has a total of 332 members working on the Vancouver Island Highway Project.

A member working under the Classification Group 1 including shovels, loaders and heavy duty mechanic earns \$24.77/hr under the Roadbuilding Industry Standard Agreement.

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2000-2021

IUOE Local 115 thrives despite anti-worker legislation

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS BRING NEW OPPORTUNITY

The new century began with members of our union completing the Southern Crossing Natural Gas Pipeline project. After a decade of a NDP government in BC, Gordon Campbell's BC Liberal party scored the most one-sided win in the history of BC elections.

The New Democrats were reduced to two seats in east Vancouver while the Liberals swept the other 77 seats across the province. This left the NDP without official Opposition status, reduced their funding in the legislature and made their job of opposing unfair and unjust legislation much more difficult.

Seizing on this new political opportunity, the new right-wing government wasted no time making changes to the Labour Code, including initiating a vote in addition to card signing and enacting a 10-day window of opportunity for employers to potentially coerce and intimidate workers prior to voting. The changes to the Labour Code reduced union organizing in BC by half and cut union representation from 44 to 33 per cent in the first three years of the BC Liberal government.

In addition, the amendments to the Labour Relations Act have left many sectors in a skilled labour shortage—a shortage that we are still dealing with today.



IUOE Local 115 members at Line Creek Operations win the 2000 Provincial Mine Rescue Competition.

2000

IUOE Local 115 and Labourers Local 1611 raid CLAC out of Berto Constructors with 100 per cent support.

2001

IUOE Local 115 speaks out against BC Liberal changes to the BC Labour Code.

2002

Vancouver/Whistler awarded the 2010 Winter Olympics.

2003

IUOE Local 115 launches campaign for mandatory training and licensing of crane operators.

2004

Within the first 90 days of being elected, the Liberals also rescinded the fair wage legislation and chopped Bill 26 provisions, attacking the construction industry and making it almost impossible to organize in BC. To top off their win, the Liberals cancelled Highway Constructors Limited (HCL), a Crown corporation that oversaw Project Labour Agreements (PLAs) that employed thousands of highly skilled workers on major public sector construction sites.

Despite the challenges presented by the new legislation that governed union organizing, IUOE Local 115 had some important successes in organizing during this time. The employees at Rempel Bros. Concrete, Lafarge Asphalt Technologies, ALE Roll-Lift Industries, Mammoet Canada Western, Sarens Canada, Myshak Crane & Rigging, Entrec, Keller Foundations, GFL Infrastructure, Malcolm Drilling, Mainland Shoring and Deep Foundation, Frontier Kemper, Harvest Power, Newalta (Terrapure Environmental), Cantex Mining Services, RKM Services, PPM Civil Constructors and High Level Construction Services all became members

LIONS GATE BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT

The early 2000s saw IUOE Local 115 complete a uniquely technical project. The entire bridge deck was replaced on the Lions Gate Bridge utilizing night closures but allowing the bridge to remain open during the day to traffic. The award-winning project was the first of its kind and involved removing and lowering the old sections of the bridge deck and hoisting the new section into place.



BC LIBERAL GOVERNMENT

Upon sweeping to an unprecedented victory which reduced the Labour-friendly NDP to just two seats in 2001, the BC Liberal government began cutting taxes, services, and stripping language from collective agreements. The labour movement, including IUOE Local 115, responded with protests, campaigns, and when necessary lawsuits. The BC Liberal government had begun a 16-year attack on workers. IUOE Local 115 used every means available to advance the interest of our members.

of the Union during this time through organizing drives. In fact, IUOE Local 115 raided CLAC out of the same project twice. First we raided the Christian Labourers at Bilfinger Berger while they were working on the water tunnels in North Vancouver. Later we raided Frontier Kemper on the same project after they had replaced Bilfinger Berger as the general contractor.

More changes followed with the BC Liberals changing policies and acts that saw thousands laid off with few in BC society spared the impact of the cuts. These changes sparked a string of protests throughout the province including one that saw more than 25,000 demonstrators, including many leaders and members of IUOE Local 115, march to the BC legislature to stand against health-care cuts, the tearing up of long standing labour contracts, tuition hikes and unfair entry-level wage initiatives among others.



One of the Liberal's major priorities was to make life easier for non-union construction employers. This included the elimination of mandatory apprenticeship training for many trades. In fact, the Liberals abolished the entire

Members of IUOE Local 115 begin construction of the Vancouver Trade and Convention Center.

IUOE Local 115 celebrates our 75th Anniversary on Feb. 19, 2006.

IUOE Local 115 works with signatory company Eveready Industrial to convince WorkSafeBC to introduce regulations to make hydro-blasting safer.

Five IUOE Local 115 members are involved in a light plane crash travelling to a remote site to load logs on a barge. Terry Axton, Grant Wood and Mark McLean are killed. Bob Pomponio and Lorne Clowers survive.

Jim Hickey, longtime member and owner of Tall Crane Equipment donates the Linden 5102 Tower Crane to the IUOETA. He dies just days prior to the planned reveal at the Annual Open House.

2005

2006

2007

2008

2009



Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission, leaving a trades training "vacuum" and no authority to verify and sign off apprentices waiting for their Red Seal credentials. With the Commission gone, there was nobody left to operate the longstanding system of testing and licensing for the operators of mobile cranes, tower cranes and boom trucks. After this period of disruption, the Liberals announced that the licensing system was truly dead. WorkSafeBC would no longer require crane operators to be licensed, now anybody could operate a crane.

In response, our Union launched a lobbying and protest campaign aimed at reversing this decision. It was successful in large part, but it required years of solid effort. Our members, signatory contractors, and allies wrote letters to their MLAs. Union staff acted at the municipal level, writing letters and meeting with mayors and councillors to tell them about the danger that existed in their back yards.

Public concern increased when a 22-year-old operator, Andy Slobodian, died when his crane collapsed on the Canada Line transit project. WorkSafeBC found that Slobodian's death resulted from "safety violations, a lack of supervision and poor training".

As public interest in the cause increased, the Campbell government backed down and agreed to co-operate in the setting of training and licensing standards. IUOE Local 115 and employers worked together to create the BC Association for Crane Safety to act as a licensing body. By July 1 of 2007, the new regulations were in place and operators of mobile cranes, tower cranes or boom trucks required certification.

Despite all that was going on politically, our members continued to display the professionalism every day, completing important infrastructure projects such as the Port of Vancouver Expansion, and the Delta Port Expansion.

In 2006, IUOE Local 115 was successful in another raid of the Christian Labourers. This time at Martens Asphalt in the Fraser Valley. After CLAC heard the results of the vote, they took the members' money and cut off their benefits. IUOE Local 115 supported the members' challenge through the BC Labour Relations Board and they were reimbursed the money they had earned.

OLYMPICS

Just as BC had invited the world in 1986, we invited them again in 2010 as Vancouver and Whistler played host to the 2010 Winter Olympics. As in 1986, the BC Liberal government failed to recognize the importance of a unionized workforce. Despite the Building Trades unions negotiating collective agreements that extended past the Winter Olympics, the government went with a low bid approach. The building boom that was created by the Olympics created much opportunity for our members.

A recession hit the province hard in 2008, but there was light around the corner. With the province holding the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and Whistler, there was a need to improve infrastructure and build venues through a \$14-billion infrastructure program announced by government. IUOE Local 115 called on government to use a PLA when constructing the work. The call fell on deaf ears.



VANTERM, CENTERM, ROBERTS BANK

The growth in importing and exporting of goods shows no signs of slowing down. IUOE Local 115 members played key roles in the expansion and efficiency improvements of these terminals of Vanterm, Centerm, and the Roberts Bank Container Terminal.

Our members were already working on the first phase of the Gateway Project at the Golden Ears Bridge as a result of our earlier raid of the Christian Labourers' at Bilfinger Berger. The paving, utility and crane industries were busy, with infrastructure getting a facelift, roads and venue parking lots needing asphalt, and buildings needing to be erected. This kept members employed working their trades through the recession, but fell short of Union objectives to grow the workforce by using PLAs.

Other projects our members worked on during this time included the SkyTrain Millennium Line, Canada Place Expansion and 2010 Olympic venues.

With the Olympics over, IUOE Local 115 was looking to the future and our members were already hard at work

in Kitimat on the KMP project, the first PLA that was signed with the Building Trade Unions since the Liberals cancelled HCL and stopped all PLAs on public projects. RioTinto Alcan and their general contractor saw value in the skilled workforce where the government had been blinded by political ideology. Work began slowly in 2009 and began in earnest just a couple of years later. With the project completed in 2016, not only had the Building Trades and IUOE Local 115 members constructed one of the most efficient and environmentally responsible aluminum smelters in the world, we had established that under a PLA, there was an ability to provide apprenticeship opportunities to local and Indigenous workers, women, and members of other equity-seeking groups. In fact, some members began and completed their apprenticeship on this project.

The 2010-2020 decade begins with a new Business Manager for IUOE Local 115 with Brian Cochrane taking the helm after Gary Kroeker announced his retirement following 18 years in the role. It follows a year where IUOE Local 115 campaigned against the Harmonized Sales Tax calling for the Campbell government to drop the HST or call for a referendum. IUOE Local 115 states the HST will cost more for safety equipment, non-prescription medicine among other items and shift taxes from businesses to individuals.



Waneta Dam completion.



Illecillewaet Highway 1 Project.

With Campbell's political fortune sinking with his failed HST campaign, IUOE Local 115 celebrated its 80th year in 2011. Later the same year, BC Liberal Christy Clark celebrates her party leadership win. Federally, the Harper Conservatives win their first majority government with the NDP winning enough seats to become the Official Opposition led by Jack Layton.



CRANE CERTIFICATION

After eliminating the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission, the BC Liberals took aim at eliminating the requirement for certification of the operators of mobile crane, tower cranes, and boom trucks. IUOE Local 115 responded with a fightback strategy that was supported by signatory contractors, our members and the public. After buying media ads and talking with reporters, media interest sparked a series of ads over the next several months. The government soon reversed their decision and the newly formed BC Crane Safety became the certifying agency in BC.

Having a new premier in place fuels speculation that the province may be heading into an election, IUOE Local 115 engages with politicians from both sides to make them aware of the issues facing working British Columbians. The three main issues were; balance to be restored to the Labour Code, a PLA to ensure skilled tradespeople are hired on the Site C project and PLAs for all major public construction projects.

After signing the PLA for the Rio Tinto Alcan Kitimat Modernization project, IUOE Local 115 scores other major PLAs including the John Hart Dam, Endako Mill expansion, BFI Constructors' project for the Mount Milligan gold mine and McNally's/Aecon's pipeline crossing in the Lower Mainland. The private sector saw the value of a skilled workforce and engaging with unions and local workers. Meanwhile, construction starts on the Waneta Dam Expansion Project.

It was also the year our Union welcomed more ex-Christian Labour Association members when nearly 40 new members from Vernon Paving and Westlake Paving and Aggregates in Kelowna join the IUOE Local 115 ranks. CLAC's lack of training opportunities and inability to negotiate for little more than minor RRSP contributions for workers' retirement were seen as contributing factors for our new members to join IUOE Local 115.

By 2012, IUOE Local 115 had grown to over 11,000 members. The fights

The Conservative government also introduced the anti-union Bill C-525. This was aimed at making it more difficult for employees to form a union and easier to decertify. It had one objective, take away worker's rights to collectively bargain, and turn Canada into a low-wage economy.

In 2013, IUOE Local 115 begins its fight against the Temporary Foreign Workers Program (TFWP) in Federal Court. The Federal Court dismisses IUOE Local 115's judicial review application challenging HD Mining's

continue to support IUOE Local 115 in its campaign against the TFWP and its proponents' efforts to use this program to further cripple the union presence on major construction sites.

Despite wide spread predictions of an NDP victory, BC Liberal leader Christy Clark defies the polls and wins the provincial election. The NDP, led by Adrian Dix, lost two seats in a campaign many thought the party couldn't lose. Some polls even had the NDP leading by seven to eight points on the final day of campaigning



created by the Campbell Liberals on the provincial level on behalf of anti-union forces now make their way to the federal government. Bill C-377 would require unions, their suppliers and the businesses they work with to spend millions of dollars processing expense reports to be reviewed and recorded at taxpayer expense. Despite strong leadership from IUOE Local 115, the trade union movement and the federal privacy commissioner, the bill became law in 2015. It was later repealed under the federal Liberal government in 2017.

use of the 201 foreign workers, however, the campaign is seen as a success as the media attention given to the challenge helped put political pressure on the government to change the program. Among the changes was the removal of a regulation allowing employers to pay up to 15 per cent less than the market rate for Canadian workers. South of the border, James T. Callahan is re-elected president of the International Union at the 38th Annual IUOE Convention. At the same convention, delegates voted to

just before election day. Clark's emboldened anti-union agenda sees her government and BC Hydro force an "open site" model on Site C project and restrict union organizing. IUOE Local 115's response is to take BC Hydro to court arguing the constitution allows unions to go on-site and organize at the project. The government backs down and removes anti-organizing language from the procurement documents.

With several proposals for LNG export facilities underway, Premier Christy Clark invites leaders from BC's

Conair pilots Captain Tim Whiting and First Officer Brian Tilley lose their lives when their Conair 580 crashes south of Lytton while fighting a forest fire.

IUOE Local 115 members begin work on the Waneta Expansion Project under the Allied Hydro Council Agreement.

After an explosion kills two workers and injures 19 at a saw mill in Burns Lake, IUOE Local 115 donates \$5000 to the Burns Lake Fund.

OE Credit Union merges with Community Savings Credit Union.

Peace River Coal shuts down due to declining coal prices and leaves 300 IUOE Local 115 members out of work.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau meets with the Building Trades at IUOE Local 115 office in Burnaby.

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015



Paving work at Victoria's Inner Harbour.



labour movement to discuss the government and the union's workforce development strategies that will be needed to meet the demands of the new industry. Soon after, IUOE Local 115 Business Manager Brian Cochrane was among the leaders invited to travel as part of a delegation to promote the industry and workforce projections in Japan, China and South Korea.

2013 also marked the year that the OE Credit Union merged with the Community Saving Credit Union, an organization that was founded when a group of unionized workers pooled their money and formed a credit union in 1944. Today, the Hastings Street location in Burnaby is the IUOE branch of the Community Savings Credit Union.

2014 saw the completion of the renovation of the Local Union headquarters at 4333 Ledger Avenue in Burnaby. The headquarters that had served us well since 1971 was renovated and set up to meet the needs of our members for many decades. The building went through a total transformation that included complete asbestos abatement, demolition and reconstruction of the interior as well as mechanical upgrades.

Today, the new modern and upgraded headquarters continues to demonstrate the same professionalism and attention to detail as shown by our members in their workplaces throughout BC.

2015 saw the residents of Metro Vancouver reject a 0.5 percent increase in sales tax

IUOE Local 115 donates \$115,000 to the Union's Disaster Relief Fund to help Operating Engineers from Local 955 affected by the Fort McMurray wildfire.

2016

IUOE Local 115 leads a major media campaign promoting Community Benefits Agreements. Billboards go up at the Port Mann, Pitt River and Pattullo Bridges.

2017

IUOE Local 115 is among four unions that signs a memorandum of agreement with Eagle Spirit Energy for an Indigenous-led pipeline.

2018

IUOE Local 115 introduces the first Challenge Coin in the Local's history.

2019

COVID-19 pandemic drastically changes life for BC workers. IUOE Local 115 creates the Modified Worksite Operating Protocols, a guide to keep sites open and safe.

2020

Feb. 19, 2021 – IUOE Local 115 celebrates our 90th Anniversary.

2021

that would have funded \$7.5 billion in infrastructure and created employment and apprenticeship opportunities for large numbers of Operating Engineers.

We also saw a steep decline in oil and gas prices in 2015 that slowed development of LNG export facilities. Over the next several years, government, unions and industry stakeholders would work to create a workforce development strategy and a regulatory framework that would make such a large investment possible. Activity in Northern BC started to increase and our members were busy working on the expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert. 2016 saw IUOE Local 115 signal conditional support for the Pacific Northwest LNG plant as long as local workers, businesses, and Indigenous communities were guaranteed work. LNG Canada (a consortium that includes Shell, PETRONAS, PetroChina, Mitsubishi, and KOGAS) would announce a positive final investment decision and project start in October of 2018. This project would take an estimated workforce of 11,000 people at peak to complete.

IUOE Local 115 celebrated its 85th Anniversary in 2016, and continued its decade of activism by proving BC Hydro and the Clark government lied about the percentage of workers on the Site C project being British Columbians. Documents revealed in a Freedom of Information search find the real number was 65 per cent, not the 85 per cent as the government had been saying. IUOE Local 115 vows it will continue to campaign for 100 per cent of BC workers.

Also in 2016, the pilots at Conair, long represented by IUOE Local 115, learned that their contract to provide six air tankers and a bird-dog plane to the government of Alberta would not be extended. This was a major loss to our group. The following year, Alberta was hit by a major wildfire that destroyed parts of Fort McMurray. Many members of IUOE Local 955 called Fort McMurray home. The fire was devastating and many people lost everything. IUOE Local 115 responded by donating \$115,000 to the

IUOE Local 115 media campaign to promote CBAs.



KITIMAT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

In 2009, members of the IUOE Local 115 returned to Kitimat to begin the modernization of the Aluminum Smelter that had been constructed in the 1950s. The project was completed under a project labour agreement with the Building Trades and demonstrated a better way to construct projects. The project provided opportunity for local and Indigenous workers, women, and focused on apprenticeships.

GOLDEN EARS BRIDGE/ SOUTH FRASER PERIMETER ROAD

The successful raid of CLAC at Bilfinger Berger on the North Shore's Water System Upgrade proved even more fortunate when the company was awarded the Golden Ears Bridge Project at an estimated \$808 million. Members of IUOE Local 115 continued our tradition of building vital infrastructure as we constructed the crossing that connects Langley with Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge. Our Union was also busy constructing the South Fraser Perimeter Road Project along the south side of the Fraser River, linking highways 1, 91, and 99 to the new bridge.





Cutting the ribbon are (from left to right) IUOE Local 115 Business Manager Brian Cochrane, Minister of National Defense Harjit Sajjan, then MP for Pitt Meadows—Maple Ridge Dan Ruimy, and IUOE Local 115 Training Administrator Jeff Gorham.

UTIP FUNDING

When the Federal Liberals regained control of government, the relationship between the federal government and unions began to change. The government created the Union Training and Innovation Program specifically to support union-based apprenticeship. IUOE Local 115 has used funds generated by this program to purchase a new crane and excavator to train the next generation of Operating Engineers.

2017 also saw the BC Building Trades unite at the 46th Convention. The Millwrights Local 2736, the Pile Drivers Local 2404, the Provincial Council of Carpenters and the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 170 formalize their reunification into the BC Building Trades.

After 16 years in power, the BC Liberals lost their hold on government following the 2017 provincial election when NDP leader John Horgan negotiated a supply agreement with the BC Green Party. For IUOE Local 115, the new NDP government is the biggest change in provincial political fortunes in years and begins a positive dialogue with the new government on major infrastructure projects and PLAs. During the campaign, the future premier would hold a key election press conference announcing that a BC NDP government would accelerate the four-lane expansion of Highway 1 from Kamloops to the Alberta border.

IUOE Local 115 goes on to lead a major media campaign promoting the benefits of a modernized PLA called a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA), with billboards going up at the Port Mann, Pitt Meadows and Pattullo Bridges. Premier Horgan announced BC will complete Site C construction with a focus on supporting local workers and communities as part of a Site C turnaround plan. The plan includes establishing “community benefits programs, mandated with making sure that project benefits assist local communities.”

IUOE Local 115, along with other Building Trades and the government, work on the details of a community benefit based public construction system. The model for the system is based on the PLA format. Soon, Premier John Horgan announces the new CBA to the public with projects to be delivered under the new model identified as the new Pattullo Bridge replacement and the Trans-Canada Highway expansion.



Moose Lake wind project.



Premier Horgan announces that the province will complete the Site C Dam after asking the BC Utilities Commission to review the project and determining that it is beyond the point of no return. Construction of the generating stations and spillways is awarded to Aecon-Flatiron-Dragados-EBC (AFDE) under a PLA with IUOE Local 115. The premier would reaffirm his support for Site C in Feb. 2021.

The BC government begins work on improving the Labour Relations Act, the Employment Standards Act, and returning WorkSafeBC to a worker-centric model. The Section 3 Review was a comprehensive review of the Labour Relations Act. IUOE Local 115 members and representatives attended in-person hearings around BC to advocate for change. Unfortunately, despite being given every opportunity to support working people, the BC Greens would support BC Liberal amendments to the Labour Act which stopped the NDP from including card check and annual raid windows in construction. Nevertheless, the Labour Relations Act passed by the legislature was a significant improvement after what the BC Liberals had done to it.

Things were improving at the federal level; the Trudeau Liberals introduced the Union Training and Innovation Program and soon after, granted the IUOE Local 115 Training Association \$575,000 over three years. The money goes to the purchases of a new crane and excavator for the training site.

IUOETA LEASE EXTENSION

Through negotiation with the BC government, the IUOE Local 115 Training Association was able to secure a new 30-year lease extension for the site in Maple Ridge ensuring that our tradition of skill development lives on. A tradition of training that started in 1956 has now grown such that 2020 saw over 2,300 members of the IUOE Local 115 receive some form of training.



2019 would see the creation of IUOE Local 115's Challenge Coin. The coin, created to acknowledge the values, determination, and professionalism of members of the IUOE Local 115 and acts as a token of membership, achievement, and solidarity.

Tower Crane Committee sees early success

Following a series of tragic tower crane collapses across North America — including an accident in Seattle in 2019 that killed four people, another in Dallas that same year that killed one person, and another in downtown Toronto that narrowly missed a bystander in 2020 — IUOE Local 115 coordinated with our signatory contractors and members to improve safety for workers, and for the general public, at and near work zones where tower cranes are being assembled and dismantled.

IUOE Local 115 Treasurer Frank Carr, signatory contractor representatives Remi and Gary Coupal from Coupal Cranes, Eric Kan from Kansen Crane Service Inc., Mike Scott from Tall Crane Equipment Ltd., and Fraser Cocks from BC Crane Safety, combined their experience and knowledge to form the IUOE Local 115 Tower Crane Erection and Dismantling Safety Committee.

With over eighty tower cranes operating in Vancouver, the committee met with Mayor

Kennedy Stewart, and presented him with our recommendations including streamlining the permitting process, new standards in design for road, sidewalk and bike lane closures, better traffic control, and a larger street safety zone including road closures when needed.

Mayor Stewart referred the committee to meet with the City of Vancouver (CoV) Engineering Department in late 2019 along with Roberta Sheng-Taylor from BC Crane Safety to form a working group. It was here where we presented the Engineering Department our list of recommendations.

We are happy to report that in January 2021, the CoV enacted a pilot project which mandates that all permit applications received must include a BC Crane Safe Tower Crane “pre-erection requirements checklist,” this requirement was one part of our committee’s push for tower crane safety reform.

However, while real progress has been made, the



committee’s work is far from over. With the exception of a quasi-apprenticeship system implemented by our signatory employers and the Union, a lack of clear standards and requirements remains across the industry. Addressing this need for consistency is one of many issues our committee will focus on in our 90th year as we continue to lobby for reforms that will make the work of assembling tower cranes safer for workers and the public.



Machine shop on Vancouver Island.



Point Hope Shipyards.



In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changes life for workers in BC and around the world. Despite growing sentiment from some unions to close jobsites, IUOE Local 115 launches the Modified Worksite Operating Protocols, a guide to keeping sites open and workers healthy. With these protocols published and provided to government, IUOE Local 115 spearheads efforts to keep construction camps, sites and shops open through the pandemic as the economy goes into a free fall. Members are encouraged to follow COVID-19 regulations to keep workplaces safe.

Despite the pandemic, IUOE Local 115 surpasses 12,000 members. Members are busy working at the Kemano T2 Project, LNG Canada facility, the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline, Site C, and on projects, shops and industrial workplaces across BC. Looking forward, there is a tremendous amount of opportunity in front of us. Our industries and our contractors are growing. An example of this is the Ralmax Group of Companies in Victoria. 2021 will see them begin the construction of a new \$50 million graving dock in the inner harbor of Victoria securing family-supporting union jobs for decades to come.

Despite a tumultuous year that saw the economy struggle under the continuing pandemic, the NDP government wins another election and finally gets its majority status - in no small part thanks to the IUOE Local 115 members who showed their support for a government that has seen a reversal of anti-union policies and a return to programs that support working BC families. IUOE Local 115 is busy running a campaign to improve safety in the erection and dismantling of tower cranes after reading the reports of accidents in Seattle and Texas that highlighted issues here at home.

As 2021 begins, the production of vaccines provides a new hope for a return to normalcy in our industries. While our membership has a steep tradition in meetings, gatherings, and celebrations; we have been forced to deal with the realities of remaining socially isolated in order to protect our own health and those around us.

However, as we face the challenges of a pandemic, we do so knowing that we have faced many others during our ninety year history, and have always come through stronger than we were before.

IUOE Local 115 members always *rise above*. 🍁

iuoe 🍁
L O C A L 1 1 5



District and Staff reports

Assistant Business Manager—Josh Towsley

In our 90th year, it is important to recognize the leaders that have come before us. It is these leaders who had the foresight and laid the foundation that we now build upon. No matter what your role has been in this Union, thank you for what you have contributed.

As we begin the year, work continues on the Pattullo Bridge replacement under the Community Benefits Agreement. This project stands to allow the members of IUOE Local 115 to continue to build upon our strong legacy of building BC's infrastructure.

As the promise of vaccines give us hope for an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, calls from the IUOE Local 115 and other Building Trades to the federal and provincial governments are advocating for them to prioritize infrastructure funding in order to spur economic recovery.

Organizing—Curtis Laverty

New Year, New Certification!

I'm very proud to introduce our recent certification, Badger Daylighting!

Working with the members of Badger Daylighting during the organizing campaign was a breath of fresh air. This crew knew what they wanted and made the communal decision to do something about it, without hesitation they joined IUOE Local 115.

Our Union is stronger for having more workers join our membership. Hydrovacing continues as an essential trade and by organizing the company, we feel other non-union workers will soon follow in their footsteps.

Congratulations and welcome to the Badger crew.

Dispatch—Kyle Egan

Wow, what a start to the year!

As the vaccines roll out there is light at the end of the tunnel. Over the holidays there was a tightening of camp restrictions that extend into February. The Provincial Health Order has mandated a gradual return to work, therefore things are challenging right now but we are here to help.

We see a future with lots of work scheduled for the spring and summer months. Please give us a call anytime.

District 1—Frank Carr

Happy New Year and Happy 90th Anniversary IUOE Local 115, what a milestone to reach as we surpass 12,000 members.

2021 has begun with so much to reflect on with respect to this great organization's list of accomplishments over 90 years. This newsletter and year-long recognition will feature the Local's history, including some of the challenges over the decades.

As IUOE Local 115 Treasurer, it is a privilege to report to you the financial stability of the organization. After 90 years, we hold assets in excess of \$50 million, including our real-estate holdings; we should all be so proud.

The last time the world was affected by a devastating pandemic was the Spanish Flu in 1918-1920. I know we are all hoping by the end of the year, the current COVID-19 pandemic will be in our rear view mirror and our daily lives move back to some form of normalcy.

Congratulations to Brother Don Swerdan on his appointment as President, his tenure and experience will serve the membership well.

Congratulations also to our long-term members, brothers Derek Jost, Kevin John, Ron John and new members George Spry and Alex Rodger who during the pandemic organized the company they work for, Amix Marine Projects Ltd. Their unwavering solidarity during a difficult round of negotiations resulted in successfully ratifying an agreement that will



protect these members and provide them with the security they sought and an enviable pension for retirement.

As I've learned from those before me and as I mentor those around me, I continue to espouse the benefits of the International Union of Operating Engineers: advocate, educate and organize the unorganized.....always.

District 1—Mike Mayo

Out with 2020 and on to 2021 to celebrate IUOE Local 115's 90th Year Anniversary. Firstly, I would like to congratulate Brother Don Swerdan on his appointment as our Local's President.

From the last quarter to date, we were successful in ratifying the Lafarge Sumas Agreement with a two-year, 2.5 per cent increase per year in wages and increases to their pension, as well as ratifying our new signatory company on the Sunshine Coast Tsain-ko Construction with a site specific letter of understanding that contains seniority, tying those members to the Roadbuilding Utility Agreement.

As last year was a wild ride, Brother Frank Carr and I are proud to say that we signed and ratified Amix Marine Projects to their first collective agreement. I could not be happier for our members aboard the "Arctic Tuk" as their continued support throughout negotiations was what made this first collective agreement for me, a most memorable one. Congratulations!

At the time of writing, our Local's stewards from Lehigh's Mainland/Sechelt Depots including the Marine Maintenance Division have received proposals, which we have combined into a proposal document that will be presented to the company in March.

District 1—Steve Ervin

I would like to welcome Simon Thomsen to his new position as an IUOE Local 115 District 1 Business Representative. I look forward to working with Simon for many years to come.

The introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines has provided a ray of hope that the pandemic could be coming to a close sometime in the not too distant future. Both the Pattullo Bridge replacement and the Broadway Corridor SkyTrain projects are ramping up this year under the Community Benefits Agreement model. These projects, along with all the other municipal and private work to be done by our signatory contractors helps make 2021 look like it is going to be a good year for our members as we celebrate our 90th Anniversary.





District 1—Leanne Hughf

I hope everyone is well rested and ready for another busy season. Many construction projects are ramping up in the Lower Mainland as well as in our industrial shops. Both of which will be looking for more members due to the increase in workload. One of our newly signed companies, Quattro Contractors, who primarily installs utilities, builds roads and constructs bridges, is still working steady on a site in Richmond with another 15 months remaining. They were also awarded a large-scale project on Tilbury which commences in spring.

I would also like to welcome our newest business representative, Simon Thomsen, to the team. He was great to work with when he was Chief Steward at Waste Management Coquitlam, and I look forward to working with him more as a colleague on staff with IUOE Local 115.

Stay safe!

District 1—Steve Barnicke

As we put 2020 behind us, there is great reason to be optimistic about what this year has in store for our members and the province of British Columbia.

I have had the pleasure of assisting District 3 Business Representative Bryan Railton in bargaining with Wajax Industrial Equipment and look forward to presenting a Memorandum of Agreement for the membership to vote on. I am also happy to report that some employers have been contacting the Union and informing us that they are recalling members back to work.

As we continue to work together to "Rise Above" through what can only be described as an arduous year, we need to remember the importance of taking care of each other – being safe, being patient as we persevere.

District 1—John Munro

Happy 90th Anniversary IUOE Local 115! This is a great time in our Local's history as we mark another milestone. This is also a time to reflect about what our Union has been through to get to where we are today.

The latter part of 2020 was excellent for organizing as Brother Laverty and myself were successful in organizing Badger Daylighting Ltd. Congratulations to the 37 new members to IUOE Local 115. A meeting was held recently where the workers of Badger Daylighting submitted their proposals. We are currently working on a first collective agreement proposal document and I look forward to bargaining on their behalf.

District 1—Simon Thomsen

Hello, my name is Simon Thomsen and I am a new business representative at the IUOE Local 115. I would like to thank Business Manager Brian Cochrane for this amazing opportunity to work in this position for the betterment of all our members.

I previously worked in the waste collection industry with Waste Management Coquitlam, where I was an employee for 21 years. I have experience in all lines of business from curbside recycling, front end loaders, roll off and container delivery. I also served as Chief Shop Steward for several years helping the members work through some of the many issues that arose. I look forward to working with all the staff here and in other the districts to assist in growing our membership and maintaining a safe and positive working environment for all.



pandemic. For this, we thank you! With the vaccines rollout starting, we will hopefully beat COVID-19 once and for all!

District 3—Brian Lefebvre, Bryan Railton & Michael Strelaëff

While District 3 did manage to fair quite well in spite of 2020, we are still dealing with some of the turbulence it left behind:

- We had a major shakeup on TMEP just before the holidays. A number of employers were shuffled/lost their work contracts on the line, one of which being our employer SAEG in Clearwater. At this point, there is no official word on who may be replaced or what employer may be taking over the contract.
- Highway 1 work in Chase was largely able to keep moving along thanks to the mild winter conditions.
- The winter months have been spent negotiating contracts, in particular Dawson Civil, Village of Lumby, Wajax Industrial and with more coming up at United Rentals and Westlake Paving.
- Site C has had a slower than normal restart in 2021 due to an order from the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. At time of writing, the project should be back to full capacity by mid-February.

Until then, stay safe, stay calm and let's get through this and into the work that needs to happen this year.

District 4 & 5—Wayne Kemp & Matt Baker

It has been an interesting start to 2021! Major projects in Districts 4 & 5 such as Site C, LNG Canada & Coastal Gas Link have all been affected by the Provincial Health Order (PHO) that was issued on Dec. 29, 2020 implementing a "slow Industrial Project restart." The Union is hopeful that by the time this is printed that the PHO has been lifted and we can dispatch our members back out to these projects.

In the midst of a pandemic our Local will be celebrating its 90th year. We would like to take this time to thank all the members, past and present, that have helped to establish a Union that we can all be proud of. We would also like to thank Business Manager Brian Cochrane for his current leadership through these times as he continues to fight for the betterment of all.

Here's to another 90 years!!

Stay Safe.

District 6—Rob Foskett

Currently we are driving into 2021 with the understanding that this year is going to be busy in terms of negotiating renewals of some of our collective agreements and with various road construction projects forecasted in the Kootenays including the Highway 1 project.

KMC Mining has their collective agreement up for

District 2—James Knowles & Gord Morrison

As we move into spring here on the Island, we have several rounds of negotiations to complete. We have upcoming negotiations at OK Industries, Victoria Cement Terminal, Victoria Materials Depot and the District of Port Hardy. By the end of last year, we had achieved and ratified a three-year agreement for the members at HUB City Paving in Nanaimo. Congratulations!

We're just weeks into a new year and already many of our contractors are busy gearing up, having done maintenance for what should be a busy spring throughout the Island.

Our members and contractors have all done an amazing job ensuring our members' safety during this global

renewal and they are actively bidding on work in the Elk Valley in hopes of securing some of the work up for grabs at the four Teck Coal sites.

SMS is also up for renegotiation in early 2021, when we will be forming a bargaining committee who will prepare our Union's proposal for negotiations.

Training Association—Jeff Gorham

For many of us, 2020 was year that did not end soon enough. COVID-19 has had a major impact on everyone globally. The economic effect has caused many to lose their jobs. Many companies have now gone out of business and sadly many people have gotten very ill and have lost their lives.

Like all businesses, the International Union of Operating Engineers Training Association (IUOETA) was also affected. The training center was shut down from March 18 to June 8th. Despite these challenges the IUOETA had a record breaking year in 2020. We had a 38 per cent increase in the number of people we trained over 2019, which was our previous record. In total, 2,396 people benefited, in one form or another, from the services provided by the IUOETA.

There were many highlights from the past year that included training local Indigenous people to go to work on the LNG project in Kitimat, retraining and finding employment for those impacted by the downturn in the forestry and our first all women-in-trades Heavy Equipment Operator class.

The momentum created from 2020 has rolled right into 2021. The demand for training has continued to increase and we have planned to meet that challenge head on. In preparation for this demand, we have rented an additional portable classroom to start the year. All 40 acres of our training site will be in full use as we will be running the following classes: Heavy Equipment Operator, Mobile Crane, Asphalt Laydown, Advanced Paver/Screed and Asphalt Roller, Grader, Sideboom, Entry Level Pipeline (Oiler), Telehandler, Forklift, Aerial Work Platform and more.

If you are in need of any training or upgrading, please take a look at our online schedule or call the IUOETA at 604-291-8831.

Pension and Benefits—Lee Riggs

2020 was one for the record books with COVID-19 affecting us all in ways that we could never have imagined. The equity markets posted negative returns in September and October, however, the global stock market was up sharply in November after the U.S. election and news of some promising COVID-19 vaccines. This rough and tumble market had little impact on the Plan as we have very low exposure to the stock market. Much of the Plan's portfolio is invested in real estate and infrastructure equity and most of the return generating portfolio is invested in private debt and private equity so the volatility is insignificant.

The fiscal year so far is turning out to be a very good year



despite COVID-19. The total hours worked and contributions in the first seven months of the 2020/2021 fiscal year were higher than in any previous fiscal years. All of the pipeline work has resulted in an average hourly contribution rate that has increased the average contribution rate significantly. The continuing health of our industries is benefiting everyone as we enter 2021.

Work safe, play safe, be safe.

UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS 2006-2021

2006: Gary Kroeker, Business Manager Brad MacKenzie, President Brad Randall, Vice President Brian Cochrane, Financial Secretary Bill Baron, Treasurer Lionel Railton, Recording Corresponding Secretary	2014: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Wayne E. Mills, President Brad Randall, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Brian Lefebvre, Recording Corresponding Secretary
2007: Gary Kroeker, Business Manager Brad MacKenzie, President Brad Randall, Vice President Brian Cochrane, Financial Secretary Bill Baron, Treasurer Lionel Railton, Recording Corresponding Secretary	2015: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Wayne E. Mills, President Brad Randall, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Brian Lefebvre, Recording Corresponding Secretary
2008: Gary Kroeker, Business Manager Brad MacKenzie, President Brad Randall, Vice President Brian Cochrane, Financial Secretary Bill Baron, Treasurer Lionel Railton, Recording Corresponding Secretary	2016: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Wayne E. Mills, President Herb Conat, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Brian Lefebvre, Recording Corresponding Secretary
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2012: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Lionel Railton, President Brad Randall, Vice President Wayne E. Mills, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Don Swerdan, Recording Corresponding Secretary	2020: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Wayne E. Mills, President Wayne Kemp, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Josh Towsley, Recording Corresponding Secretary
2013: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Wayne E. Mills, President Brad Randall, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Brian Lefebvre, Recording Corresponding Secretary	2021: Brian Cochrane, Business Manager Don Swerdan, President Wayne Kemp, Vice President Don Swerdan, Financial Secretary Frank Carr, Treasurer Josh Towsley, Recording Corresponding Secretary

IUOE Local 115 Offices

District 1 & Main Office

4333 Ledger Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V5G 3T3
Phone: 604.291.8831 Toll free: 1.888.486.3115
Fax: 604.473.5235 Email: iuoe@iuoe115.ca
Website: iuoe115.ca

Business Manager: Brian Cochrane

President: Don Swerdan

Asst. Business Manager: Josh Towsley

Mgr. Admin. & Special Projects: Lynda Arland-Richards

Dispatcher: Kyle Egan, 604.473.5230

Organizing Representatives:

James Knowles, 778.584.4080

Curtis Laverty, 604.908.7188

Bryan Railton, 250.434.5755

Benefits & Pension Plans

Administrator: Lee Riggs

Training Association

Administrator: Jeff Gorham

Training Coordinators:

Joe Bagri Lynn Gould Michael Strelaëff

District 1

Business Representatives:

Steve Barnicke Frank Carr Steve Ervin Leanne Hughf

Mike Mayo John Munro Simon Thomsen

Phone: 604.291.8831 Toll free: 1.888.486.3115

District 2

Business Representatives:

James Knowles Gordon Morrison

Nanaimo Office: 35 Wharf Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 2X3

Phone: 250.754.4022 Fax: 250.754.5513

Victoria Office: Please call to set up an appointment

District 3

Business Representatives:

Brian Lefebvre Bryan Railton Michael Strelaëff

785 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3J3

Phone: 250.554.2278 Fax: 250.554.1766

Districts 4 and 5

Business Representatives:

Wayne Kemp Matt Baker

Craig Young (Dispatcher)

District 4 & 5 Office:

3339 8th Avenue, Prince George, BC, V2M 1N1

Phone: 250.563.3669 Fax: 250.563.3603

District 6

Business Representative:

Rob Foscett

103 Centennial Square, Sparwood, BC, VoB 2G0

Mailing address: PO Box 1567, Sparwood, BC, VoB 2G0

Phone: 250.425.2161 Toll Free: 1.888.605.9955

Fax: 250.425.2166

Meeting Notices

All District and Area Meetings are suspended
until further notice.

District 1

BURNABY: 1st Thursday of every month, except March and
September due to General Membership Meeting
7:30pm at 4333 Ledger Avenue

District 2

NANAIMO: 2nd Monday of odd months

6:00pm at the Coast Bastion Inn, 11 Bastion Street

VICTORIA: 2nd Wednesday of even months

6:00pm at the Pro Pat Legion Branch 31,

#292 - 411 Gorge Road E.

CAMPBELL RIVER/COURTENAY:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place

District 3

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

KAMLOOPS: 2nd Thursday of even months

7:30pm at the Union Hall, 785 Tranquille Road

KELOWNA: 2nd Tuesday of odd months

7:00pm at the Teamsters Hall, 185 Froelich Road

District 4

PRINCE GEORGE: 2nd Wednesday of every month

8:00pm at Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick Street

PRINCE RUPERT, TERRACE, KITIMAT, SMITHERS:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place

District 5

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

FORT ST. JOHN: 2nd Tuesday of odd months

7:30pm at the Masonic Hall, 10441 100th Avenue

DAWSON CREEK: 2nd Tuesday of even months

7:30pm at the George Dawson Inn, 11705 8th Street

TUMBLER RIDGE:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place

WHITEHORSE: Teamsters Hall, 407 Black Street

Members will be advised of meeting date and time

District 6

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

CASTLEGAR: 1st Wednesday of odd months

7:00pm at the Super 8 Inn, 651 18th Street

CRANBROOK: 1st Tuesday of even months

7:00pm at the Labour Centre Boardroom,

105 9th Avenue South

TECK'S LINE CREEK OPERATION: Members will be advised of
meeting date, time and place

Please contact your District Office to register for
the next meeting in your location. Any meetings
that do proceed will be held in accordance with
Provincial Health Authority guidelines.

rise above.