

Spring 2024

# iuoe news

LOCAL 115

## What's inside:

- Crane Safety Advocacy
- OEPP 4.5% increase
- Remembering Gary Kroeker



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Sterling Crane members at Popkum Road pulling pipe.



# Co-ops sale helps OEPP, 4.5% increase coming May 1<sup>st</sup>

For members of IUOE Local 115 Operating Engineers Pension Plan (OEPP), I am pleased to announce that there will be a 4.5% increase to your pension, effective May 1, 2024. The ability to raise pension disbursements for a combined increase of 16% over two years is unprecedented.

We are very aware of how important your OEPP is to you and your family and know that this news is being well received by our members. Whether you are a retired member currently enjoying a pension, or working in the field continuing to build your pension for retirement, this increase is very good news.

There are several contributing factors that made this increase possible, and on behalf of your Board of Trustees, I want to say thank you for your continued support and trust.

The Coquitlam Cooperative housing project that was held in the OEPP portfolio has now been sold to the BC Community Land Trust effective February 29. With the support of our provincial government and the newly created Rental Protection Fund, we managed to secure a sale that worked for our members, and all of the other stakeholders. This was a complex sale and Premier David Eby acknowledged his appreciation for our patience in closing the deal. While the most important part of the sale was ensuring it worked for the Plan and ultimately our membership—it was gratifying to be a part of a deal structure that will be remembered as Local 115 members helping to preserve affordable housing for those that need it.

On February 13 there was a Celebration of Life for past Business Manager, Brother Gary Kroeker held in the OE auditorium in Burnaby. There could not have been a more appropriate place to hold this event given Gary's service to Local 115 and the membership. Never a quitter—Gary had to manage through some tough times during his career, and we are all in a better place due to his leadership.

The auditorium was filled with many old friends, members, business leaders and politicians that came together to share stories and pay tribute to a Brother that touched many lives in a positive way. I know the family was proud to see such a distinguished and diversified group of people attend.

Over the last few months, the issue of crane safety has again been brought to the forefront and has made national news.

With the RCMP's recommendation to pursue criminal charges regarding the 2021 deadly Kelowna crane tragedy, to the fatality at the Oakridge development site, and a series of incidents here in the Lower Mainland, there is a renewed focus on the importance of regulations and training.

It is all reminiscent of the efforts Brother Kroeker and I were involved with almost 20 years ago which resulted in the creation of BC Association for Crane Safety.

Assistant Business Manager Brother Josh Towsley, Chris Vilness (father of one of the victims in the Kelowna tragedy), Local 115 staff, and all of our allies and stakeholders have

*Continued on following page*



Premier Eby with stakeholders following the successful sale of the Coquitlam Cooperative Housing units to the Community Land Trust.



Gary Kroeker congratulating Brian Cochrane after being sworn in as Business Manager in 2010.

been doing an excellent job this time around in getting the attention on the matter at hand. We require the industry to tighten training and certification standards for the trade, and for people that work in construction to feel safe and confident working in and around cranes.

We are calling on the province to make crane operators a compulsory trade through SkilledTradesBC and to create certifications and licensing for the contractors and workers that assemble, disassemble and relocate tower cranes.

Most people are surprised when they find out that there is a real lack of regulation and enforcement in the tower crane industry. It is shameful that it takes unnecessary workplace deaths to motivate regulators to act when there is an obvious requirement to do so. I do believe that we are finally in a place to get the government support required to create the best training and safety standards in Canada. We have the best team of people ready to help make that happen.

*"We are calling on the province to make crane operators a compulsory trade through SkilledTradesBC..."*

While many major projects in BC are in the process of winding up, we expect this year to continue to have strong employment opportunities throughout the province. We are continuing to work on securing more Project Labour Agreements for major highway work, transit and infrastructure

February 19 of this year marked the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Local 115, and while we start this year with many improvements for our membership, it is important to never take these things for granted. Our Union was built on a long history of membership pride, work ethic and engagement.



IUOE General President James T. Callahan and Business Manager Brian Cochrane with the Local 115 delegates at the Trades Women Build Nations in Washington, DC.



Business Manager Brian Cochrane thanks Cheryl Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation for her remarks at the launch of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program at the IUOE Training Centre. To learn more about this announcement, see page 11.

Many of the benefits we enjoy today come from the efforts of those that came before us, and the fights it took to make necessary changes to improve the lives of Operating Engineers and all working people.

With your Local approaching 14,000 members, and our International at over 400,000 members strong, we are at the strongest point in our history—something to be truly proud of!

rise above. 🍁



Business Representatives Steve Barnicke and Gavin Cross, Premier David Eby, and Business Manager Brian Cochrane at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School in Harrison Hot Springs, BC.



## Natural Resources Forum

# NetZero solutions with proposed BC Hydrogen highway

The push for cleaner energy is getting attention from governments all across North America, including our own BC NDP government. At the 2024 Natural Resources Forum in Prince George, IUOE Local 115 representatives heard Premier David Eby speak about his desire to support the resource extraction industries in their efforts to decarbonize and eventually meet Canada's NetZero emissions targets for 2050.

Many participants at the forum discussed how the resource extraction industry is evolving and how British Columbians can expect to see more renewable energy options in the future.

The transportation and supply chain management industries, which are heavily investing in hydrogen and refueling stations, are changing. Our membership should take note—as the experts in transportation and deliveries of goods and raw materials, these are conversations that we must be involved in.

BC, together with Quebec, shares a common goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from long-haul transport vehicles. In BC, long-haul deliveries from the South Coast right up to the northern tip of the Alaska Highway, are just one of the areas where the province is looking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from industry. Many in the industry are referring to it as the H200 Gateway Program, an initiative designed to help deploy hydrogen fuel supply infrastructure and heavy-duty fuel cell trucks in BC and Quebec. But I'm calling it the hydrogen highway.

Vancouver-based fuel supplier Hydrogen Technology & Energy Corporation (HTEC) reminded forum attendees of its Memorandum of Understanding with Fortescue, a global green energy, metals, and technology company committed to building Canada's first domestic green hydrogen supply chain co-located with an export facility in British Columbia.

This is great news for our industry. A project of this scope and size is expected to generate significant economic activity, jobs, and training opportunities. With additional plans to extend hydrogen refueling stations as far north as Fort St. John, HTEC is bold in their commitment to decarbonize our Pacific supply chain. The project and its stakeholders are also keenly aware that success must also include support for remote communities in northern BC that rely on long-haul transportation of goods to survive.

Significant discussions with Fortescue, Centerra Gold, and Paradox Access Solutions also focused on how an IUOE Local 115 workforce could benefit future project development.

Fortescue was reassured of our commitment to support industry in their transition to renewable energy and our enthusiasm about building BC's hydrogen energy infrastructure. Talks with Fortescue highlighted both the scope and potential economic impact of the project (200-300 jobs expected), as well as the future involvement of Local 115 members.

Similarly, Centerra Gold discussed exploring training options for on-site crane assistance, while Paradox Access Solutions expressed interest in entering the BC market, focusing on road building for lease accesses. They expressed interest in learning more about training plans aligned with their commitment to responsible and skilled resource development practices, a cornerstone of Local 115's training solutions.

Being part of these conversations and highlighting the value IUOE Local 115 members have brought to previous massive infrastructure projects like the Site C Dam, John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade, and LNG Canada, forces industry to take notice and recognize the skilled and accomplished workforce Local 115 can offer.

While the resources and energy solutions may change, one thing remains true: our province needs the skilled hands of proficient Operating Engineers to build the energy infrastructure of the future. 🍁



Shop Stewards Tom James and Will Buckley presenting a cheque on behalf of Local 115 and the AFDE Partnership. Our \$10,000 donation was matched by other trades working in the community for a total of \$40,000 that will be distributed to organizations in the Peace River region.



## BC must regulate tower crane industry following death at Oakridge

As a result of the July 12, 2021 tower crane collapse in Kelowna, WorkSafeBC brought industry stakeholders together to update regulations, Part 14: Notice of Project. The stakeholders were not provided with the results of the WorkSafeBC investigation into the Kelowna incident as a means of determining how to prevent similar incidents in the future. To this day, WorkSafeBC has not released its report. They have not told the industry what happened, whether the regulatory changes that we have made will prevent it from happening again, or if more needs to be done. The RCMP have now concluded their investigation, recommending one charge of criminal negligence causing death.

Treasurer Frank Carr and I participated in the process of updating the regulations and called for: the licensing of contractors and mandatory training of workers who assemble, erect, climb, reposition, and disassemble tower cranes. Those calls went unanswered when WorkSafeBC released their draft regulations for a public hearing.

On January 10, 2024, I participated in the public hearing and called for WorkSafeBC to:

- approve the measures that were before the hearing
- immediately release the results of the investigation into the July 12, 2021, Kelowna tower crane collapse
- recall the stakeholders to consider additional regulatory changes
- mandate contractor licensing and certification for all workers who assemble, erect, climb, reposition, or dismantle tower cranes

There was no response to my ask.

On February 21, 2024, our industry, sadly suffered another death related to an incident involving a tower crane. No less than 30 days before this sad day, we had been championing our calls for improved safety related to tower cranes, following incidents in Burnaby and Surrey. In Burnaby, it was a derrick crane that collapsed on top of a tower and hung precariously over the intersection of Lougheed and Gilmore. The intersection was closed for the evening commute. Fortunately, nobody was injured.

During interviews with CityTV Vancouver and CBC Radio Early Edition, I renewed our calls for the mandatory certification of tower crane operators through SkilledTradesBC and the licensing of contractors and training of workers who erect and dismantle tower cranes. (See In the News section on page 10 for these highlights).

Shortly after concluding my interview with CBC Radio, I was receiving text messages about yet another collapse: the boom of a luffing tower crane in Surrey. Again, no one was injured.

But then our luck ran out.

On February 21, shortly after listening to a CBC radio interview with Chris Vilness (the father of Cailen who was tragically killed in the 2021 Kelowna tower crane collapse) in support of regulating the tower crane industry, I got word of another incident involving a tower crane at a site in Oakridge. This time, WorkSafeBC confirmed someone died because a load fell on them.

Her name was Yuridia Flores, and she was a permanent resident as of August 2023. She had left Mexico to provide a better life for her children and chose to work in construction to support her family, just like our members do.

But sadly, our industry and this province let her family down. This is NOT OK.

In less than 30 days, three major crane incidents occurred in the Lower Mainland, one of them killed someone that was working below the crane.

On February 22, we amplified our positioning and became more critical. I told the media and stakeholders, that it can't be acceptable to allow workers below the crane, the public and passersby to be put at risk because some contractors don't prioritize safety and training. BC needs to be a leader in tower crane safety.

I'm proud of the role Local 115 is taking to improve training in BC with the \$2 million investment in a Potain tower crane (including the top climber) and a Liebherr self-erect tower crane for our training site in Maple Ridge. This investment finally provides the ability for our province to have the training regime necessary for the enforcement of the mandatory certification of tower crane operators.

I look forward to providing updates as we continue to advocate for change.

I want to highlight that for the second year in a row, our pension plan is in a position to provide an increase to accrued pensions. As a Trustee of the Plan, I am proud of our ability to provide a 4.5% increase on top of what is already an industry-leading pension. The work that Board Chair and Business Manager Brian Cochrane, Administrator Lee Riggs, the Trustees, advisors, and investment managers have put in to make this possible has required tremendous dedication and focus. Our Pension and Benefit Plans are something to be proud of and we remain dedicated to providing the best and most sustainable benefits possible. 🍁



CTV Morning Live host Keri Adams speaks to Josh Towsley about crane safety.



# Wanted: Crane operators & heavy duty mechanics

I had a decent pickup in the number of orders I received in February compared to the last few months. In particular, there has been an uptick of work with Vancouver Piledriving, Fraser River Pile and Dredge, Keller Foundations, Frontier Kemper at Woodfibre LNG and various work with BCIB projects. There has also been an increase in demand for crane operators, in particular those with taxi work. It's nice to see that we are training more and more crane operators to fulfill the demands of the crane sector. There have also been a few more heavy duty mechanic positions coming up over the month of February that we need to fill.

If you know of anyone looking for work who has their Red Seal as a heavy duty mechanic, please send them my way. On the earthmoving side of things, with the spring

weather coming more operators should be going out to work soon. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions and book in if you're looking for work. 🍁



Member Curtis Watts working on a dredging project with Fraser River Pile and Dredge in North Vancouver.

**IUOE**  
LOCAL 115

**We are looking for:**

- Crane Operators (taxi work)
- Heavy Duty Mechanics

Have a great photo of you at your worksite?



If you have recent photos showing off your skills or workplace, send us your pictures for the next IUOE News. E-mail your newsworthy stories and photos to: [iuoe@iuoe115.ca](mailto:iuoe@iuoe115.ca)

**IUOE news**



LOCAL 115

Remembering

# Gary Kroeker

November 25, 1948 – November 30, 2023



Local 115 Business Manager 1992-2010

“Unions aim to create better workplaces and societies by fostering harmony between industry and unions.”

Brother Gary Kroeker passed away just before the end of 2023, shortly after his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brother Kroeker dedicated his life to advancing Operating Engineers and fighting to improve

the lives of the working class. No greater example of his service to our organization was the 36 years he spent working for IUOE Local 115 in various positions, including his tenure as Business Manager from 1992 to 2010. In 2021 he received his 50-year member service award. Scan the QR code to read all about his career achievements.



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS  
HOIST & PORTABLE ENGINEERS' UNION (115) (115A) (115B) (115C)

Gentlemen: Having formed a favorable opinion of your Union, I hereby make application to become a member thereof and if accepted I agree to abide by the Obligation of your Union, as printed on the reverse side.

Name GARY KROEKER  
(Please Print)

Residence 2246 Chester St P.O. B.C. Date Jan 16/90  
Tel. 942-1241

Employed by CANADIAN EXCAVATOR & LOADER  
Employed as Welder Fitter Rate 4.00

The entrance fee of \$ 8 (including first month's dues) shall be fully paid by Feb 16, 1990 (cash) (cheque) (check-off).

I hereby designate the above Union to represent me for the purposes of collective bargaining, subject to the provisions of the Labour Relations Act of British Columbia.

Witness [Signature] Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness [Signature] Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_ Employee's Signature [Signature]



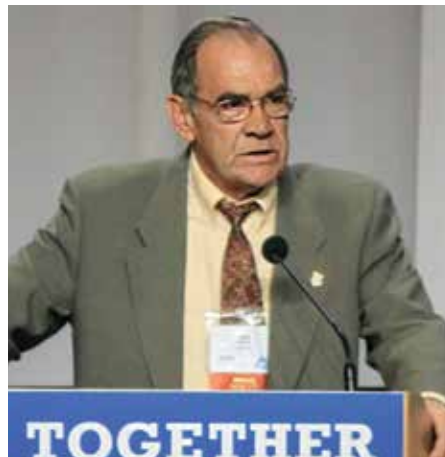




The staff and members of Local 115 were part of Gary's extended family, and the memories, contributions, and Gary's quick wit will be cherished forever.

The only thing he did better than serving our organization was being a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

Rest in Power Brother Kroeger



# Crane Safety Advocacy

## IUOE Local 115 in the news

Scan the QR codes to watch the videos

The BC Liberals de-regulation of the crane industry happened 20 years ago. IUOE Local 115 has been advocating for changes ever since.

BC missed the opportunity to lead immediately following the Kelowna crane collapse. Now we must be leaders in tower crane safety across Canada to ensure this never happens again.

*Brian Cochrane, Business Manager*

### Growing concerns over crane accidents



### Crane collapses at construction site in Surrey



### Father of Kelowna crane collapse victim calls for better safety standards



### Safety a priority after another BC crane death





# Canada's Building Trades Unions and SkillPlan announce new Indigenous Awareness Training



Sean Strickland, CBTU Executive Director addresses the crowd at the launch of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program at the IUOE Training site in Maple Ridge.



Kyle Downie, CEO, SkillPlan addresses the crowd at the launch of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program.

CBTU launched an online Indigenous Awareness Training Program in conjunction with SkillPlan at the IUOE Local 115 training centre. Virtual Indigenous Training is offered through four modules, each of which can be customized to a unique audience and region. Modules are meant to create a baseline understanding of the history of Indigenous people in Canada, provide context on current situations taking place within the construction industry and prepare course participants with career development tools.



LEARN MORE



Cheryl Gabriel of the Kwantlen First Nation blesses the launch of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program.



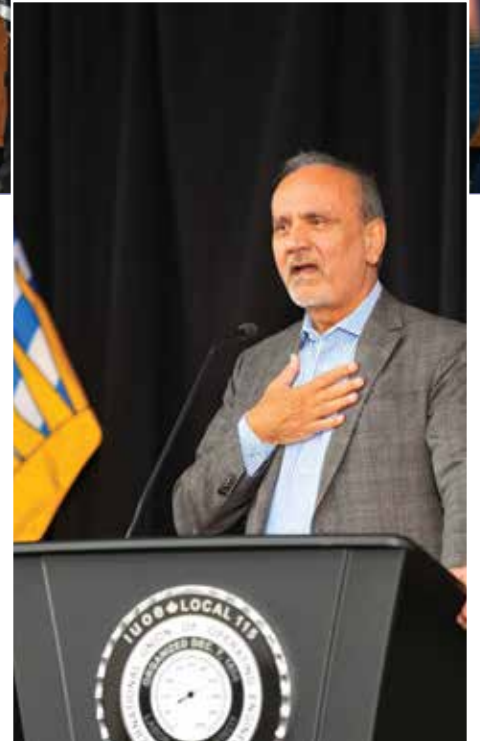
Jeff Gorham, Training Association Administrator speaks to the crowd at the launch of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program.



Lyle Daniels of the George Gordon First Nation and the Community and Indigenous Director at the Building Trades of Alberta speaks about the development of the CBTU Indigenous Awareness Training program.



# GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



BC Labour Minister Harry Bains addresses members at the Spring GMM, touting the BC NDP government's commitment to supporting Operating Engineers and working people, ahead of this fall's provincial election.





IUE Local 115 delegates stand outside the White House in Washington, DC L-R: Kendyll Akmens, Dawn Pollard, Cortney Darling, Jessica Fletcher, Leanne Hughf, Cat Clearwater, Connie Harrison, Kyla McCormick, and Michelle Dey.

March 15, 2024

Mr. Frank Carr, Treasurer  
 Operating Engineers Local 115, 115A, 115B and 115C  
 4333 Ledger Avenue  
 Burnaby, BC, V5G 3T3

Dear Mr. Carr:

**Re: International Union of Operating Engineers Union Local 115, 115A, 115B and 115C (the "Union") and Operating Engineers (U) Building Ltd. ("(U) Building")**

To assist in your membership report, the combined income (loss) for the Union and (U) Building for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the year ended December 31, 2022 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		
General	\$ 6,500,936	\$ 4,894,630
Death Benefit	2,579	(48,354)
Defence	(76,953)	200,773
Organizing	(55,234)	(154,536)
Building	71,496	62,915
Convention	(118,126)	41,140
Advancement	4,276,208	3,634,101
Minor Sports	3,416	2,246
	<b>10,604,322</b>	<b>8,632,915</b>
 (U) Building	 <b>5,915,132</b>	 <b>(383,524)</b>
 <b>Total combined income</b>	 <b>\$ 16,519,454</b>	 <b>\$ 8,249,391</b>

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 Vancouver, BC V6C 2B3  
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**NANAIMO**

201-1825 Bowen Rd  
 Nanaimo, BC V9S 1H1  
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 F: 250 984 0886

The net assets (assets less liabilities) of the Union by fund at December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	2023	2022
<b>Net assets</b>		
<u>Unrestricted:</u>		
General	\$ 50,001,325	\$ 57,718,578
<u>Internally restricted:</u>		
Death Benefit	546,490	543,911
Defence	818,053	895,006
Organizing	(100,917)	21,595
Building	1,927,778	1,856,282
Convention	(185,223)	(67,097)
Advancement	16,873,329	12,593,375
Minor Sports	120,623	117,207
Invested in Capital Assets	<u>15,102,879</u>	<u>821,158</u>
	<b>85,104,337</b>	74,500,015
(U) Building Deficiency	<u>(2,152,276)</u>	<u>(8,067,408)</u>
<b>Total combined net assets</b>	<b>\$ 82,952,061</b>	<b>\$ 66,432,607</b>

The combined net assets increase from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023 is as follows:

	Union	(U) Building	Total
2023 Net assets (Deficiency)	\$ 85,104,337	\$ (2,152,276)	\$ 82,952,061
2022 Net assets (Deficiency)	<u>74,500,015</u>	<u>(8,067,408)</u>	<u>66,432,607</u>
Increase in combined net assets	<u>\$ 10,604,322</u>	<u>\$ 5,915,132</u>	<u>\$ 16,519,454</u>

This information has been compiled from the audited financial statements of the Union and (U) Building. We trust the above will assist you in your presentation.

Yours truly,

SMYTHE LLP



Renee Martin, CPA, CA  
Partner



## Support for BC NDP government is good for Local 115, Labour Code, and crane regulations

Some of the major pipeline and infrastructure projects are nearing completion so the volume of work has begun to normalize. Meanwhile, your representatives continue to lobby all levels of government to secure more project labour agreements. New members may not be used to a slowdown with work but those that have been around for a while know that this is normal in construction. This is why we lobby and support governments that recognize legitimate trade unions, PLAs, trades training and governments that implement and support safety regulations so workers return home to their families and loved ones at the end of the day.

Later this year on October 19<sup>th</sup> we will be voting in a provincial election to elect members of the legislative assembly. This leaves us with eight months to research candidates and refresh our minds with all of the positive changes the NDP government made. The NDP have made positive changes which include: updates to the Labour code including single step certification, returning of raid windows in construction for July and August, established PLAs to support apprentices, women, Indigenous Peoples, and local workers; invested billions in union built infrastructure, and continues to support more work for our members with upcoming infrastructure projects. These projects include the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement, Broadway Subway, and Highway 1 Recovery projects, Pattullo Bridge Replacement, Site C, LNG Canada, and much more. But still more needs to be done.

By supporting the BC NDP through the next election they can help us to push sectoral bargaining. This means that when we are successful at organizing an employer, our industry agreement would apply. Currently, Local 115 is required to negotiate a first Collective Agreement with newly certified employers which is a legacy of the BC Liberals (now BC United) which made draconian changes to the Labour Code.

Those of us that used to work in the trades, many decades ago had to accept that construction and industrial shops were dangerous places to work if people weren't properly trained. Today, our membership can learn new skills without putting themselves at risk through learning in a safe and structured environment offered by Local 115 Training site and at the IUOE Training Center in Crosby, Texas. These combined training resources enable our membership to be

the safest and most qualified workers recognized with a Red Seal trade certificate of qualifications. This knowledge is valuable and enables your union representatives to negotiate strong worker safety language.

### Stricter regulations for the crane industry

The recent fatality in the tower crane industry at Oakridge Park construction site on February 21, 2024 has brought a renewed focus on crane (and more generally construction site) safety. This tragic incident took the life of Yuridia Flores who was a permanent resident from Mexico and a mother who wanted a better life for her children.

Prior to this tragic incident, Local 115 had been calling for stronger regulations for decades. Yet to this day, some in the industry continue to resist change with the industry being referred to as the "wild west" because of the number of incidents.

One of the issues is the provisional "B" ticket, where people can go online to the BC Association for Crane Safety, answer a multiple choice exam, and start operating a crane. This needs to stop!

We say enough is enough, no one should have the ability to operate or erect/disassemble a tower crane without extensive training or before they establish their competence, period! Employers should not have the ability to put workers in these situations.

We know tower cranes are highly technical and can be dangerous pieces of equipment that can cause injury or death, but incidents continue to happen all too often. When people say workers' compensation regulations were written in blood and death, believe them, there isn't a truer statement and the death of a mother of two is an example of that. WorkSafeBC and BC Association for Crane Safety, need to do the right thing and regulate the industry, enforce the regulations we have and mandate training and certification, before there is another tragedy.

To prevent further incidents and to promote training in the industry, Local 115's Training Association has invested \$2 million for tower crane training by purchasing a Liebherr self-erect and a Potain tower crane to train our members to the highest standards. This is what we continue to do to advocate for the health and safety of our members and to make the construction industry in BC safer. We're proud to continue our ongoing advocacy for crane safety and we hope you can champion our call for stricter regulations. 🍁





## Increased attendance at Tradeswomen conference in Washington, DC

At the beginning of December I had the opportunity to attend the Tradeswomen Build Nations Conference (TWBN) in Washington, DC. Accompanying me were Business

Representatives Kyla McCormick from District 2 and Michelle Dey from District 1 as well as six other female delegates from the field. This conference had the largest numbers to date, nearly 4,000 attendees including 140 IUOE members from across North America.

Between the workshops and the banner parade, I also spoke at a fireside chat hosted by IUOE Co-Chair of the Women in Trades Committee, International Representative Lorna Harnum. I briefed the audience on how I got into the trades, my experience, how I became a business representative, and the work I have done during my career here in BC lobbying government and making change for our members and future building trades workers. Surprisingly, not many locals from the US have gone down the avenue of getting regulations changed through their Occupational Health and Safety Committees. Since my presentation many locals have reached out. I've been very fortunate to have the support of this leadership and I have done my best to support other locals seeking to make their worksites better for OE tradeswomen. One major upgrade for next year's event will be the hosting of the event at a conference centre. This is in large part due to the growth and increased attendance.

On the construction side, the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project is still busy with road work, utility work, multi-



Business Representatives Kyla McCormick and Leanne Hughf with Business Manager Brian Cochran at the TWBN Conference in Washington, DC this past winter.

use pathway construction on the New Westminster side and assembling the bridge decks. They are also doing base installation on Highway 17 with foam blocks.

On Broadway Subway Expansion all excavations are complete at the stations. Tunneling is on schedule to make it to Arbutus by the end of March. Tunnel Boring Machine 1 is leaving South Granville Station heading towards Arbutus Station and TBM2 is at the halfway point to Oak Street.

BCIB also has two more vertical projects starting this year, Vancouver Community College's trades building and BCIT's new trades building.

This spring I will be bargaining Pacific Coast Paving's Letter of Understanding to the Standard Paving Agreement. I will also be bargaining with Keller Foundations around April. 🍁



Tunnel boring machine "Elsie" on the Broadway Subway Project, breaking through at the future South Granville Station on February 8, 2024.

*Image courtesy of BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*



Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project-Main Tower Bridge

*Image courtesy of BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure*



## Work to be done with job-site safety

In January I attended the Bentall Tower IV Memorial with Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley, Vice-President Bryan Railton and Business Representative Sean Maurer. It was a stark reminder of the work that has been done and the work that still needs to be done, to make sure that when a worker leaves for their job in the morning they return home safely.

The recent tower crane incidents also highlight how much work remains to be done. The Union and its members need to keep the pressure on the provincial government to make the necessary changes to WorkSafeBC regulations and bring in proper training programs for workers in trades. We need to ensure that workers know their rights when it comes to unsafe tasks and are properly trained to complete the job safely. We also need better laws in place to hold employers accountable if they are at fault when a worker is injured or killed on the job. Right now companies know that there are loopholes to get away with unsafe practices. We are committed to removing those gaps.

*"The recent tower crane incidents also highlight how much work remains to be done."*



### New Collective Agreement and upcoming bargaining

Our members at Oxford Builders Supplies recently ratified a new Collective Agreement. The members saw increases to their wages and pension and received an additional tool allowance. Future bargaining for early spring is set for B&B Excavation & Shoring and Xylem Water Solutions.

As we move into another busy construction season, I want to remind members to make sure all their tickets and certifications are up to date. If you are not working, make sure you call into dispatch and get booked in. I also want to task the members working in the roadbuilding utility or paving industry, to start making notes on things you would like to see changed in the next round of bargaining in early 2025. This is your Collective Agreement and your voice matters at the bargaining table. 🍁

## Our members at Badger



Members from Badger Daylighting working across the province from Fort St. John to Nelson to Sechelt.

Photo credit: Troy Bell



## Strength in solidarity

Over the past few months I have had the opportunity to witness members come together as a galvanized force, committed to advancing one another's interests and resisting undesirable changes to their Collective Agreement.

Some employers find it difficult to meet the expectations of workers when negotiating wages during a period of record inflation.

During these challenging times, our members and the labour movement are faced with tough decisions. They may impact our personal lives but they are necessary to continue to advance not only our own interests but those of the next working-class generation. This drive and commitment has been very evident in the members I have had the pleasure of working with at Cummins Canada and Trimac—Company Drivers.

Over the last year I have witnessed the members from Cummins and Trimac—Company Drivers come together in support of their bargaining committees. Together the committees pushed back against corporate mandates aimed at keeping wages low.

The Cummins Bargaining Committee demonstrated true leadership when they pushed back against a corporate-mandated performance-based merit program. The program would have created wage disparities among the members through subjective reviews from managers and led to internal friction.

As Local 115 navigated through multiple rounds of discussions with the employer, exhausting the amicable path to achieving a Collective Agreement, we were left with no choice but to

engage a mediator and ultimately call for a strike mandate.

It was empowering to see the group gain strength and advocate for one another. Not only did they push back against a corporate-wide mandate, they also received premium increases not seen in years, and wage increases that stay in line with competitors. In this tough economy, they properly advocated to stay ahead of the rising cost of living.

Throughout the past year, Brothers Chris Horntvedt, Kyle Philpot, Kurt Baker and Richard Merrick displayed commitment, leadership and analytical thinking while making sacrifices in their personal lives. They helped to ensure that the company understood the membership was strong in its resolve and was willing to reject certain company proposals.

The Trimac—Company Drivers Bargaining Committee and membership engaged in several rounds of negotiations. They ensured the demands of the members remained at the forefront and any settlement would be supported by their coworkers.

Much like the situation at Cummins, Local 115 was again left with no other option but to engage a federal conciliator and attain a strike mandate from the members at Trimac — Company Drivers. The members were committed to their proposals, and as a result, they were able to ratify a deal that brought back a years-of-service premium, amended overtime language for Vancouver Island and gained additional sick leave provisions thanks to federal legislation. These negotiated changes made the roads safer and improved the lives of our members and the families that they support.

Rob Haneveld, Amir Rashidinejad, Walter Konkin and Rob Veitch were invaluable as leaders and advocates among their groups and helped to ensure that each branch had its interests represented to the very best of their abilities.

While these were some tough and drawn-out negotiations with employers, these experiences highlight the need to always be strong in our solidarity. 🍀



On behalf of our members, we were pleased to donate \$10,000 to Variety - The Children's Charity at this year's Show of Hearts. This year's donation brings our total donations to date to \$168,000.



## Curtis Wright Top Dog Award

On November 16, 2023, Waste Management in Coquitlam held their annual Curtis Wright Top Dog Award ceremony. This award is given out each year to honour

Brother Curtis Wright, a longtime Waste Management employee and IUOE Local 115 member. Curtis was very involved with the local as a shop steward, a negotiating committee member on several occasions, and a member of the Local 115's Executive Board.

Sadly Curtis passed away in 2017. The following year the management at Waste Management made the decision to honour Curtis's memory by presenting the Top Dog Award to an employee who shows the same dedication to safety and customer service that Curtis did. I was lucky to have worked with Curtis for 18 years and I cannot express how much I appreciated the time and effort he put in to make Waste Management a fantastic place to work.

*"Thank you Curtis for all you did for the members of the IUOE local 115."*

As always, the Wright family was in attendance for this year's event. Curtis is survived by his wife Lori, and his two daughters and his grandkids. All of them show up at 5 a.m. along with all the employees at Waste Management, every year to honour his memory. The Wright family is amazed that Waste Management continues to honour Brother Curtis in this way. This year we had several of our senior officers attend the event, including Business Manager Brian Cochrane and Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley, in addition to retired President Don Swerdan who worked closely with Brother Curtis for many years.

This year the Top Dog Award went to Brother James Krahn. James has been a member of Local 115 and an employee of Waste Management for over 20 years. For the first time this year Waste Management also gave an honourable mention to two other members, Brother Nick Kozak and Brother Aime St-Pierre. All of these members are fantastic at what they do and are well deserving of the recognition.

Thank you Curtis for all you did for the members of the IUOE local 115. You will always be remembered.

rise above. 🍁

### Members honour Curtis Wright



At 5 a.m., members at Waste Management honour the memory of Curtis Wright at the annual Curtis Wright Top Dog Award ceremony in Coquitlam.



## Importance of voting in 2024 provincial election

I'm happy to report that we have finally ratified the Heidelberg Pipeline Road agreement, formerly Cewe Pipeline Road. The crew now has a stand-alone agreement with industry standard increases and several added perks. This agreement took almost two years to finalize, and I would like to thank Shop Steward Nathan Coleman for his and the crew's hard work and patience.

With TMX Spread 6 and 7 now complete we are awaiting the environmental phase which should start in late April or early May. This phase will focus on returning the land to its normal state following a period of construction disruption. It will bring in an additional 150 to 200 workers, and we are looking forward to it commencing.

This being an election year in British Columbia, I want our membership to take some time to think about how valuable an ally the NDP has been to labour. The numerous Project Labour Agreements (with good paying union jobs) associated with large capital projects are thanks to the BC NDP's investment and support of the labour movement.

When you look around your community, take stock of the projects that matter: the Highway 1 expansion overpasses, the Massey Tunnel, the Pattullo Bridge replacement and the Surrey Langley SkyTrain expansion, are all capital projects, built by union members, all thanks to the BC NDP. I encourage you to get to know your local MLA and get ready to vote in this year's provincial election.

Stay safe! 🍁



# OEPP

## 4.5% increase

## for 115

Effective May 1st, 2024



## Conference promotes leadership

The Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel Project is winding down following the construction contractor substantially completing major milestones including: backfilling the 1.1-kilometre tunnel with concrete; installing three vertical water mains; constructing the south valve chamber; and installing three water mains below surface level. Work that remains on the project includes: remaining backfilling of the excavated areas and connecting the three new water mains to the existing water distribution system, followed by full restoration of the project area.

The Woodfibre LNG project is ramping up and dispatches increased at the end of 2023.

I am pleased to announce that on November 2, 2023 members at Ritchie Smith Feeds ratified a three-year Collective Agreement, receiving increases to wages and benefits. Thank you to members John Yeomans and Pat Richmond for their hard work on the bargaining committee. Collective Bargaining will commence soon for members at Lafarge Asphalt Technologies in Coquitlam. In addition, preparation for bargaining on behalf of members at both Canadian Heating Products and B.C. Rentals will be starting soon.

In December 2023, I had the opportunity to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Tradeswomen Build Nations (TWBN) conference in Washington, DC. This was the largest-ever TWBN conference. The conference gives women in Building



Local 115 delegates at the Tradeswomen Build Nations conference in Washington, DC in December, 2023.

Trades Unions across Canada and the US a chance to get together to represent and celebrate organized labour in North America. The weekend included networking, meetings, and 18 workshops, as well as a banner parade through the streets of Washington to represent our trades. The conference empowers women, lifts them up, and promotes leadership by mentoring and advocating for members and making our industries better places to work.

Sister Leanne Hughf gave an informative talk to our fellow IUOE members from across Canada and the US. Her advice to the group in attendance was to continue lobbying efforts and maintain pressure on stakeholders to ensure the use of proper fitting personal protective equipment for all workers.🍁



Clearbrook Grain & Milling Shop Steward Anthony Corderio.



Eagle Mountain Woodfibre Gas Pipeline. L-R: Shop Steward Chris Ma, Jason Kehler, Patrick Lamoureux, and Joshua Knuff.



## Courses emphasized importance of organizing

This year we are starting off by entering into collective bargaining with Harrigan Rentals & Equipment and Coastal Mountain Fuels. We are still diligently working on Williams

Machinery negotiations. The bargaining committee remains focused and we look forward to ratifying once we reach an agreement.

I am happy to announce that the members at Pacific Radiator, Fuelex Energy, and ColdFront concluded last year by ratifying their Collective Agreements. Each bargaining unit faced its own challenges through the collective bargaining process.

In some cases we had to return to the bargaining table, others held the ratification meeting in the shop, and one situation required going to the Labour Relations Board for mediation.

Similarly, when it came time to ratify agreements, one agreement was ratified with complete approval, while for another, every member made the effort to attend and cast their vote, with a clear majority in favour.

Thank you to all shop stewards who made the effort to attend and participate in the training in February. The course was a success and demonstrates the union leadership's ongoing commitment to training and ensuring that our members have proper representation.

I recently attended two organizing courses. The first was delivered by staff of the International's Canadian office, at



CLC Winter School with Business Representative Sean Maurer's class.

the Local 115 headquarters in Burnaby, while the other was delivered through the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs.

Both programs emphasized the need to continue to organize non-union workplaces and provided knowledge and practical skills, which I have just recently been putting into practice by supporting the organization in its efforts to organize workers at GFL locations.

With the hard work everyone has been putting in, remember to stay safe. Thank you all. 🍁

## Ratification meeting at ColdFront



Members at ColdFront looking over and discussing the proposed new Collective Agreement.



# Demand for crane operators continues

I am honoured to take on the role of Business Representative for both the Crane Rental and Industrial Crane industries. I want to express my gratitude to the members who have

warmly welcomed me into this new position, and a special thanks to Business Manager Brian Cochrane for entrusting me with this exciting opportunity as I transition from Organizer to Business Representative.

Over the past few months, I have actively engaged with our members and established connections with our signatory contractors. One of my primary goals has been to increase the number of shop stewards in the field, and I'm pleased to report our success with RKM Crane Services to start. The ongoing efforts to delegate shop stewards are crucial for our Local, and we continue to provide proficient stewards, thanks to the training led by Brother Brian Haugen.

As we enter the spring season, I am thrilled to report on the resilience of our industry. Despite slowdowns in construction overall, our cranes remain active. Our crane contractors are gearing up for significant projects once bids are approved, including Westshore Terminals, the new PNE Amphitheatre, Surrey Langley SkyTrain, New Surrey Hospital and BC Cancer Centre, and Woodfibre LNG. Our contractors have had a positive start to the year with the completion of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, the return of movie productions, and increased residential work due to the expanding population within our province.

As our industry continues to thrive, the demand for qualified crane operators and heavy duty mechanics remains high. If you or someone you know possesses these



Eagle Crane member North Cummins lifting the new HVAC into place at the Local 115 Burnaby Hall.

qualifications, please reach out and encourage them to apply.

I attended the CLC Winter School, where I completed the "Arbitration: To Go or Not to Go" course. This course provided me with the necessary tools to enhance my handling of grievances, understand when and how to advance to arbitration, and navigate that process effectively.

I remain dedicated to organizing, a responsibility shared by all staff and members alike. We are currently gearing up for the delayed application hearing for the GFL North Island group while managing two other ongoing campaigns throughout the province. I am also actively involved in the first collective bargaining for GFL Trail and Grand Forks, organized last summer, with the hope of expanding that bargaining unit to include additional locations throughout the region. 🍁

## Our members at Sterling Crane



Sterling Crane members at Popkum Road pulling pipe.







## Annual raid window edging closer

As we write this article we are preparing for the upcoming summer raid window. This year, the stakes are higher with the rat unions of convenience having faced off against us two years in a row now; they'll be sure to be on high alert. We have an ambitious list of targets for this year, but it's critical that we take advantage of the annual raid window in construction, considering that we're only one bad election away from losing this strong legislation.

In addition to this, we have just finished meeting with our organizing

counterparts at LiUNA and Teamsters, which is the earliest we have met to discuss organizing cooperation in recent years. This will mean a united front among what are commonly referred to as the Tripac Unions, which should hold us in good stead this raid season.

It would appear that with the slowdown in work, the non-union and rat union contractors have already begun to hire employees at reduced rates from last year. The reality is that when times slow down, the only thing that can protect the wages you have earned previously is a proper union agreement. This is setting the stage for more and more workers to seek the help of the Operating Engineers. That being said it's never been more important that as Operating Engineers we must all make sure to speak to the unorganized and inform them of the benefits of working as a member of our fine Local.

As always, any time not spent organizing on the construction side sees us battling it out with GFL in what

seems like just about every corner of the province. We have active campaigns at multiple locations throughout the Lower Mainland and Southern Interior. Each time we successfully organize one GFL target it has a positive effect on the workers at all other locations. That being said, it is a serious grind—turnover in the waste industry continues to be high and the misinformation within the workforce is astounding. Rest assured we will stay the course, because the reality is that we have yet to fail in bettering the lives of waste industry workers who join IUOE Local 115.

As previously mentioned, we are only one bad election away from losing some of the best legislation this Local has had in over 20 years. It's not by coincidence that we have benefited from one of the busiest and most productive construction periods in a generation. We owe much of this to favourable politics, and politicians who want to see Operating Engineers working, not unemployed. This is particularly prudent as we enter into an election year for BC.

Just as we deal with misinformation and lies when we're out organizing workers, we will be faced with a barrage of political propaganda. The reality is that the former BC Liberals (now BC United) is not a friend to the Operating Engineers. They will try and convince you that they are pro-worker but you can rest assured that they are disguising their intentions and are purely pro-employer at heart. There's only one party with the track record to prove they are pro-worker, and that's the BC NDP!

You'll be seeing a lot of us out in the field this year. Until we meet again, stay safe out there. 🍁



Brother Frank Baratto with union supporters at GFL Chemanius.



Canadian Regional Organizing course in December at Local 115 in Burnaby, facilitated by Andre Chenier and Larry Richard.



## Large projects on the Island continue

Aside from the usual downturn of roadbuilding during the winter months, work in other sectors in District 2 has been steady.

The scope of work for Operating Engineers on the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project has expanded to include the offsite utility work and may even expand further to include another crew. This is great news for local workers as major projects in BC seem to be winding down, and our members are looking for work closer to home.



FRPD working at the John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project.

### John Hart Dam

The John Hart Dam Seismic Upgrade Project continues to move along steadily with very few additional dispatches for Columbia Hydro Constructors. Several requests have been for short durations on specialty equipment. The bulk of the work for Local 115 hinges on the success of the earthworks bids, which have several Indigenous partnered companies competing for the work.

### Ralmax

At Ralmax, our largest employer on Vancouver Island, we have had an important update on the Section 50 (2) application to the Minister of Labour, Harry Bains. Minister Bains has appointed highly regarded arbitrators Vince Ready and Amanda Rogers as special officers to our case. We look forward to working with them to obtain the best result for our members at Ralmax.

### Upcoming bargaining items

We have bargaining this year with Waste Connections North Island, Emterra Cumberland, Hazelwood Construction and the District of Port Hardy. We hope that by the time you read this article, both Hazelwood and Waste Connections are well on their way or ratified. All of our members working for these employers, regardless of their sector, are at the tail end of their agreements. As a result of significant inflation, our members will be looking to catch up to the new industry standard in wages. We will be fighting hard to get them that.

We have several organizing targets in District 2 during the upcoming year so stay tuned! 🍁



Birds eye view of the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project.



Members Dawson Haines and Frank Guhl with Salish Sea Industrial Services.



# Volunteers needed for Heavy Metal Rocks event

A number of BCIB Projects for 2024 are underway. The Kicking Horse Canyon Project needs a bit of cleanup, which is expected to be completed in early spring. The Quartz Creek and Chase East Projects will continue once the snow allows for work to resume later this year. Emil Anderson is in the early stages of their project at Ford to Tappen with both day and night shifts working.

For upcoming BCIB work in District 3, the Selkirk Mountain Project will continue the highway expansion where the Quartz Creek Project ends. There will also be a highway expansion project at Jumping Creek, aiming to build out a four-lane highway while adding desperately needed rest stops along the route. The RW Bruhn Bridge has not made it out to tender yet, but it has been out for Request for Qualifications for the interested contractors.

Regarding our District 3 Highway 1 Flood Recovery Project work, all contractors have faced early challenges due to heavy snow and rain. Currently there are three projects on the go: the Tank Hill Project led by the main contractor Ledcor CMI; the Falls Creek project, managed by Eurovia BC; and the Nicomen Bridge overseen by Kiewit Infrastructure BC ULC.

These projects operate under a Project Labour Agreement which prioritizes work for our members, local workers, Indigenous peoples, women, apprentices, and people with disabilities.

Upcoming bargaining includes Cache Creek Machine Shop, McLeod's By-Products, Westlake Paving and Ziebart Excavating.

## Training Association

Training Coordinator Gian Grewal and the Training Association have been engaged with our local contractors to assist with operator re-certifications and training courses on site within District 3, at our industry-leading Maple Ridge Training Site, and at our state-of-the-art International Training Center in Crosby, Texas. We are also working on providing a grades and stakes course in Kelowna and Kamloops for members who need training or a refresher.

## Heavy Metal Rocks

The event is held in Kamloops from April 11<sup>th</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>. District 3 is currently looking for volunteers to assist with teaching the students how to operate heavy equipment. This is a great opportunity to pass on your knowledge and experience to the next generation of equipment operators. If you're interested, please contact the Kamloops Office.

We are currently looking for experienced commercial transport technicians and heavy equipment technicians for work located in and around Kamloops, Vernon and Kelowna.

Lastly, we wanted to remind everyone that organizing the unorganized is every member's duty. If you know someone who is looking for union representation, please contact your Business Representative so that we may assist them. With the July and August construction raid windows reintroduced by the provincial government, we must seize the moment and organize in construction as much as we can. Remember, united we stand, divided we fall! 🍁

## Our members with Emil Anderson



Emil Anderson Construction Asphalt plant in Clearwater.

Photo credit: Colton Taphorn



Emil Anderson Construction paving crew in McBride, BC.

Photo credit: Colton Taphorn



## Site C Operating Engineers hit peak member count in 2023

Congratulations to the newly organized commercial transport technicians at First Student Inc. Local 115 is currently bargaining the first Collective Agreement on behalf of the technicians who made the right choice to unionize. As a new union shop, the main goals will be to improve working conditions and compensation, and give our new members access to a strong and fully funded pension plan.



In a rare move, LNG Canada continued working through the holiday season. Parts of the project are beginning to be commissioned and there is still a lot of work to do to complete trains 1 and 2, a major milestone for the project that is expected to be done in fall 2024.



The numbers are in for Site C and 2023 was our peak membership count. We are proud to say that of the 253 Operating Engineers on site at peak, only 16% were travel cards, and 19% were permit holders working to become full members. This is great for our organization and the province—together we kept members employed locally, and that will continue to be a priority as we negotiate upcoming public projects.

We would like to thank everyone who has worked for the last several years with Priority

Action Joint Ventures. With 990,000m<sup>3</sup> of concrete poured and a dam built, every one of you should be proud of a job well done.

Pacific Pile & Marine (PPM) are working on the Trigon Port Expansion in Prince Rupert. This expansion will help diversify the Prince Rupert Port's ability to export low-carbon Canadian commodities, such as hydrogen in the form of ammonia. With the expansion going into 2024, PPM will be steady in Prince Rupert.

IDL has begun ramping up for a three-year-long project in Prince Rupert. The Ridley Island Export Logistics Platform will increase the handling of up to 400,000 containers per year shipping agricultural, forestry, and plastic resin products.

A friendly reminder to check in with dispatch, and if you need to obtain or update certificates, contact the Training Association. Please ensure all certificates and tickets are up to date prior to dispatch.

Thank you to all the shop stewards out there for being our eyes and ears on the ground, holding our signatory companies accountable to their Collective Agreements, and making our workplaces safer.

Stay safe. 🍁

### Members at work on the Site C



Photo credit: Mark Lindsay





## Working on first agreement with GFL Trail and Grand Forks

SMS Equipment has had to move its Surrey branch a few kilometres from their current place of business. As a result, the company and the union have agreed to a Letter of Understanding to help compensate for the further distance of travel for some members working at the branch.

Nelson Ready Mix contract negotiations are going well and we have agreed on a number of items. However, we may need help from a third party to finalize a tentative agreement.

Emil Anderson's Jaffray overhead project has had a few hiccups with respect to the weather but it is still on course.

At the Line Creek Mine, preparations for bargaining are in full swing as the membership has elected the bargaining committee that will represent them during negotiations. We

would like to congratulate Brothers Darren Ferrarelli, Josh Morrow, and Justin Passey, and Sisters Brenda Thomsen and Tracy Caron, as they take their seats on the 2024 Line Creek Bargaining Committee. These members have many years of service and a great knowledge of the departments they are employed in at the mine. Their knowledge and experience will be critical, as much has changed in the four years since the ratification of Line Creek's current Collective Agreement. Wages, the high cost of living, health benefits, and pension will be a high priority for discussions as we move into talks with Teck Resources. We are confident that we have the right team in place to bring these issues and more to the table for the membership.

Talks with GFL Environmental continue as we negotiate a first Collective Agreement for the members working at solid waste at GFL Trail and Grand Forks. Led by Brother Simon Thomsen, we have made great headway and hopefully in the next newsletter we can report on a ratification of the agreement for GFL Trail and Grand Forks. 🍁

*Enhancing  
your IUOE NEWS*

# HOW TO USE QR CODES

When you see a QR code in this magazine, pull out your cellphone and open the camera tool. Place the camera over the QR code and wait for a link or prompt to pop up. Click on the link or prompt to be directed to videos, photos and much more.

We use QR codes to expand on stories, share videos, and provide links to help you take action and become more involved.

We hope you enjoy the enhanced *IUOE News* digital experience.



## Trades Training Funding

Over the past number of years many of us have seen the effects of a mass shortage of skilled labour in BC. Unfortunately, all signs point to this issue only getting worse due to a

number of factors.

Construction plays a major role in supporting the financial stability of the province as 10% of the provinces GDP comes from construction. The province continues to invest in a transition to a green economy and critical infrastructure to support highway expansion and resource export. At the same time, it is being forecast that we will need to add an additional 52,600 more construction workers over the next 10 years to replace those retiring and the expected labour demand.

The combination of the province's investments in capital spending and an aging workforce has led us to a critical moment in the construction industry. To address this issue, the IUOETA is always looking at ways that we can recruit and train more people to meet the demands of future projects.

The challenge that we face is that our costs to deliver training has increased dramatically over the years. Yet we have not had an increase in funding from the province in over 20 years to deliver apprenticeship training. On behalf of SkilledTradesBC, we deliver the heavy equipment operator, asphalt laydown technician and mobile crane apprenticeship technical training.

BC continues to fall behind the total amount other provinces invest in apprenticeship training. To put this

into perspective, the amount of funding both Manitoba and Ontario receives from their province to deliver one apprenticeship class is more funding than what we receive for the entire year in BC.

To address this lack of funding, the BC Building trades office was able to schedule a meeting with Premier David Eby and five of the different BCBT affiliate Training Directors to discuss the impact on the current funding formulas SkilledTradesBC uses to fund training providers.

The meeting with the Premier was very productive and our message was well received. We look forward to having further discussions in the near future to address the funding issue and to discuss solutions for the looming skilled labour shortage.



IUOE members working on disassembling the Linden tower crane with the help of mobile crane operator Sean Allemang from Kansen Crane Service.



L-R: Layne Clark BC Building Trades, Phil Davis IBEW 213, Will Schwarz UA 170, Jud Martell Sheet Metal Workers 280, Premier David Eby, Minister Andrew Mercier, Mark Longmore DC 38, Jeff Gorham IUOE, and Brynn Bourke Executive Director BC Building Trades.

### Tower Crane Training

Just over two and a half years ago, BC experienced a tragic construction incident when a tower crane collapsed in Kelowna resulting in the death of five people. This incident has led to high level discussions on the importance of increasing the standards and qualifications for those that perform the dangerous work of assembling and disassembling tower cranes.

This incident has also led to the IUOETA taking steps to provide training for tower crane operators. To offer relevant tower crane training for the province, we needed to make a capital investment in upgrading our equipment to what is being currently used in industry.

With the help of the Federal Government and the Union Training and Innovation Program we were able to purchase a

*Continued on following page*

new Potain MDT 219 flattop with top climber and a Liebherr 81K self-erect crane. Both these cranes should be up and running by late spring 2024.

In preparation for the assembly of these cranes our Linden tower crane needed to be disassembled and the concrete base foundation needed to be removed. We would like to thank Mike Scott from Tall Crane, Rodney Kan from Kansen Crane and Rob Violeau from the Norland Group in assisting us with this process.

The Linden tower crane was originally donated to us by Tall Crane on behalf of Jim Hickey. We will forever be grateful for the generous donation by Tall Crane.

If you are interested in being trained to work in the tower crane industry please pay close attention to the course schedule on our website. Courses should be starting in late spring.

### IUOE International Training and Education Center

The International Training & Education Center is the largest and most comprehensive training facility for union Operating and Stationary Engineers in North America. This world-class facility was designed by a blue-ribbon panel of Local Training Coordinators and IUOE staff to develop and improve the skills of our members, instructors, and staff in order to meet the needs of our members and our industry. The training center will augment and enhance the training opportunities delivered by our local union programs and demonstrates our commitment to high-quality skills training to our signatory contractors, general contractors, and owners.

This state-of-the-art facility contains everything needed to host, support, and develop the skills of a constantly expanding and varied group of construction and maintenance professionals.

The International Training Center offers:

- 265 acre campus
- 8,120 square foot conference space with seating for up to 900 people
- 17 classrooms and labs
- 15+ pad crane field
- Simulator rooms
- Heavy equipment mechanics shop
- Welding bays
- Central utility plant with training redundancies
- 227 room dormitory, fitness center, and full dining facilities
- Proximity to major airports in the Houston area

If you have not yet had the opportunity to take advantage of the training opportunities available to members in good standing, I encourage you to take a look at the course offerings that would benefit you and your career. To review the course offering you can review their website at [www.iuoe.org](http://www.iuoe.org). 🍁



The IUOE International Training & Education Center in Crosby, Texas.



Asphalt laydown technician class from January 2024. Special thanks to Brani Shibilev and Trevor Loewen for taking time away from industry in assisting training the next generation of members working in the paving industry. L-R: Sara Traves, Lanita Hewer, Jason Rombough, Matheus Jayme-Gruber, Training Coordinator Steve Ervin, Nathan Helfrich, Instructor Trevor Loewen, Instructor Branimir Shibilev, Caleb Colgan, Clayton Vickers, Inderjit Sekhon, and Antony De Croos.



December 2023 level 1 Mobile Crane class. L-R: Instructor Brad Heddle, Greg Kilpatrick, Nathan Reinert, Carlo Dela Fuente, Jonathan Blinn, Rein Denomey, and Andrew Beaudoin.



Justin Fix being presented with his Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate of Qualification with Articulating Haul Truck; Excavator; and Loader endorsements by Training Coordinator Steve Ervin. Justin completed his apprenticeship working for Gemco Construction.



Michael Armstrong being presented with his Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement by Training Coordinator Gian Grewal. Michael completed his apprenticeship while working at RKM Crane Services.



Chase Malenstyn being presented with his Heavy Equipment Operator BC Certificate of Qualification, with the Articulating Haul Truck endorsement by Training Coordinator Travis Woolford. Chase completed his entire apprenticeship while working with Greenbelt Excavating.



Dale Henry being presented with his Mobile Crane Operator Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement by Training Coordinator Gian Grewal. Dale did his entire apprenticeship while working at GWIL Crane Service. In the background is GWIL's new Liebherr LTM1650.



Workers from Lafarge and Quattro participating in the 3 Grades & Stakes course. L-R: Kelly Little, Pat Campbell, Terence Bier, Wade Beauchamp, Joseph Puff, Riley Rooney, M. Luke Allen-Crockett, Mattias Schmitt, and Instructor Garry Jobs.



Heavy Equipment Operator Class December 2023. L-R: Instructor Alec Slater, Akshay Patial, Benjamin Holmes (rear), Brett Kupp, Jonah Tom, Nathaniel Johnson (rear), Luay Alali, Kavraj Buttar (rear), and Instructor Don Davidson.





## 2024 comes in with a bang!

Some say it is winter but most of us have seen little of it and this does not bode well for the fire season or for the flooding that may come, plus the continued drought conditions that we are experiencing particularly in Northern BC, the Okanagan, East Kootenay and the Prince George region. I suspect that many of you and your families will be directly impacted by this climate change that we are all experiencing.

The lack of snow means that we are going to see an early start to road building and construction due to warmer and dryer than normal conditions. Maybe that is why the number of hours worked remains strong despite most of the large projects wrapping up.

According to the latest report, there were \$12.5 million in contributions and 1.9 million hours worked for the month of January. These represent year-to-date increases of 8.5% and 5.7% respectively, compared to January 2023. That number was somewhat influenced by some late hours that came in for December, but regardless, the numbers are very impressive given the number of members who are moving on to other projects.

You never know for sure but all indications from my previous article projected that our members would not have as much work in 2024 as in the last few years. I do not usually like it when I am wrong but I must say that the number of hours that have come in is reason to have a very positive eye on 2024.

I am also very pleased to announce that all of the subjects have been removed from the sale of the Coquitlam Co-operative Housing property that the Pension Plan has owned for the last 42 years. After many months of negotiation, we

were successful in realizing a sale of the property that will give a significant lift to the Pension Plan. There were many challenges with this property and the sale, but ultimately we were able to achieve a sale price of \$87 million. The proceeds from the sale will be going directly back into the Pension Plan for reinvestment. We are currently working on recommendations to the Board of Trustees for the placement of those funds. This was a very complex set of negotiations which required the ability to think outside of the box. Board Chair Brian Cochrane brought his usual thoughtfulness to the process, which assisted us in getting it across the finish line. The Board and the Chair deserve credit for their support in this negotiation which assisted us in making decisions quickly. That flexibility, support and trust was integral to achieving a sale.

It was just a year ago that the trustees approved an 11.5% increase to all of your pensions whether you are working or retired. The trustees have now approved another increase of 4.5% that will be effective May 1, 2024. This is historic for the Pension Plan and it would not have been possible without all of your hard work. By now, you will have received the announcement in the mail with more details. You can expect to see the increase on your May payment that will be processed April 26, 2024.

It has been an extraordinary couple of years, and because of that, this increase has been possible. The trustees reviewed this increase very carefully with our financial advisors and myself. Future increases will only be possible if the economic environment and workflow remain strong, and the assets in the Pension Plan portfolio perform better than expected.

Work safe, play safe, be safe! 🍁



### Successful sale of Co-ops

The sale of the Garden Court Housing Co-operative lands was assisted by a contribution from the Rental Protection Fund to the Community Land Trust of BC.



L-R: IUOE Local 115 Pension Administrator Lee Riggs, Minister of Housing and Government House Leader Ravi Kahlon, MLA for Port Moody-Coquitlam Rick Glumac, and Business Manager Brian Cochrane.



## The good old days when safety was for sissies

When I started as an apprentice, on the very first day I walked into the gloomy, poorly lit shop and found a Volvo A25 Rock Truck split in two.

It was supported on homemade jacks and under it was 60 or more litres of pooled oil and tools scattered all over. At the end of a submerged extension cord, a trouble light gleamed and was gently smoking. Blocks were strewn about and heaps of components and parts from various machines ensured that nobody was going to get close to whatever was hanging on the walls.

Not long after I started, I asked where the face shield was so I could sharpen a chisel. With a shake of his head, the journeyman said, "If you are going to have that kind of attitude you should quit now!"

I mentioned to him that sparks, chunks of flying steel, and exploding grinding wheels could injure or blind me. Thinking he had an uninformed sissy on his hands he told me, "That is why you have two eyes, just keep your head a bit sideways and if the wheel blows up it usually flies out the side... you may not be cut out for this job, son." Mind you, he used more colourful descriptors of me and my character.

As I started to grow into my trade, I began to find myself in various heavy duty and commercial transport shops. I noticed that the ideas of personal safety, double blocking equipment, certified lifting devices, job plans, and general housekeeping were an afterthought at most. All that stuff was, in the minds of some, a way to slack off and not get the machines running. A K-9 fornicator (so to speak) was the term to describe a worker wasting time on all that safety stuff!

Suddenly everything changed.

There came a day when it was acceptable and common practice to walk into shops, donning the visi-vest, ear plugs, and eye protection, following an actual pre-work safety briefing. It was now possible to walk through the shop without having to navigate around blocking, air-lines, extension cords, and mounds of oily dirt mixed with chunks of machines. In fact, I didn't even have to squeeze past machines in stages of disassembly. There was a clear walkway and a well-lit shop.

I wondered to myself, what happened? Did all the companies wake up one morning and suddenly care about the safety of the mechanics and others? Did they (like Scrooge on Christmas Day) have an epiphany, thinking of all of the injuries, poisonings, and deaths that happened to workers on their watch? Were higher profits and greater dividends worth the risk to workers? Or maybe, just maybe, the law changed and company supervisors, managers, owners, directors, partners, and policy makers could be charged criminally for the death of a worker or a person directly related to the work they do?

In 2004, as a result of the 1992 deaths of 26 miners at the Westray Mine in Nova Scotia, the Westray Bill (Bill C-45) established new provisions related to the prevention and violation of workplace health and safety under the Criminal Code.

Those updated provisions were:

- Created rules for establishing criminal liability to organizations for the acts of their representatives.
- Establishes a legal duty for all persons "directing the work of others" to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of workers and the public.
- Sets out the factors that courts must consider when sentencing an organization.
- Provides optional conditions of probation that a court may impose on an organization.

Police and the Crown (provincial and federal judicial bodies) were now responsible for investigating serious accidents and determining whether any charges should be laid under the Canadian Criminal Code. Individuals deemed responsible could be charged both under the Criminal Code and through the provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act. In most cases the police and provincial authorities would work together to decide which charges should be made and under which legislation.



Twelve years after the deaths of 26 miners at the Westray Mine in Nova Scotia, the Westray Bill (Bill C-45) established new provisions related to the prevention and violation of workplace health and safety under the Criminal Code.

*Continued on following page*

A wide range of offences has resulted in charges under Section 217.1. It should also be noted that although these tragic workplace incidents led to charges under the criminal code, not all examples below led to convictions

- Sault Ste. Marie Police charged the owner of Millennium Crane Rentals and the crane operator with criminal negligence causing death. The crane toppled and fell into the excavation, killing a worker
- Transpavé, a paving company, was convicted of criminal negligence in the death of an employee, and was fined \$100,000
- A Service Manager at a dealership was charged with criminal negligence after one of his employees caught on fire while using a makeshift fuel transfer pump that had been unrepaired and broken for several years
- A worker was killed when the ground around him collapsed while digging a ditch at a residential construction site. The construction site supervisor was charged with criminal negligence causing death.
- Two people were killed when a gate to a hydroelectric dam was opened, causing a flood. Two supervisors were acquitted of criminal negligence causing death.

Penalties for supervisors are almost certain, with a maximum penalty of 10 years' incarceration for an injury. For a fatality, the maximum penalty is life in prison. For employers,

there is no limit to fines, probation, and informing the public of the offence, sentence, and remedial measures.

Some provinces, such as Ontario, Alberta, and Nova Scotia, are stepping up enforcement, adding new inspectors and prosecutors. This is great for investigating the cause of an accident (after it occurs), but preventing the accident is even better.

This is a cautionary reminder to all our members, friends and families whether they work in construction or elsewhere—you do not make enough money to not come home from work due to an industrial accident. Watch out for yourself and others. Support new workers, they may not know how to be safe! 🍁

**"There needs to be accountability" in deadly Kelowna crane collapse: Unions**



Despite some changes in legislation, unions continue to call for companies and supervisors to be held criminally responsible for workplace injuries and deaths.

**IUOE Pensions Awarded**

October 1 to December 31 2023

LOCAL 115

**OCTOBER**

Richard Bachand

William Brass

Mark Gillard

David Halko

Leonard Harry

Henry Hauer

Gordon Haughton

Allan Hurley

Philip Knuff

Aubrey McClelland

Richard McKellar

William Nixon

David Norgren

Calloway Roller

David Simmons

Gile Sirois

Joseph Thibodeau

Wade Tucker

Wayne Tyson

Edwin Varney

**NOVEMBER**

Stephen Allen

Bela Balog

Phillip Burns

Joseph Dionne

Michael Dodd

Murray Guenther

Ricky Jeannotte

John Kirk

William Lusted

Frank McCoach

Lonny McColman

Walter Mierau

David Opdahl

Duane Palmer

Michael Palmer

William Salisbury

Wayne Schiller

Robert Strande

Robert Teron

Roger Tessier

Gary Toll

Ramona Waligorski

Roger West

**DECEMBER**

Daryl Abernethy

Patrick Baloc

John Cavers

Steven Chahley

Kenneth Dakin

William Drake

Earl Dugdale

Darryl Huwyler

Michael Johnson

Bryan Johnston

Michael Johnston

Normand Lindsay

Roy Maas

David Mundigel

Dana Pelto

Cecil Postnikoff

Bradley Rice

Neil Scorgie

Arnold Scott

David Sims

Mike Tallmadge

Garth Williams

Alan Wright

Edwin Zylstra

# Celebrating our members



Business Manager Brian Cochrane and President Wayne Kemp present 70-year membership awards to Edward Sawatsky and Alex Murray.



Business Manager Brian Cochrane and President Wayne Kemp present 50-year membership awards. Back row L-R: Gary Sudeyko, Kenneth Berry, Frank McCoach, Domenico Porchetta, Charles Pidocke, Frank Morellato, Alexander Ritchie, and Larry Marshall. Front row L-R: Roy Hom, George Fleming, Faim Kaljanac, Bruce Hamilton, Joseph Bayer, Dennis McBeth, Mario Cisotto, and Fred Jorgensen.



Business Manager Brian Cochrane and President Wayne Kemp presents 30-year membership award to Treasurer Frank Carr.



Business Manager Brian Cochrane and President Wayne Kemp present 20-year membership awards. L-R: Jorje Medeiros, Todd Henke, Darren Halvorson, and Mario Ricci.



Business Manager Brian Cochrane and President Wayne Kemp present 10-year membership awards. L-R: Cody Boan, Jesse Fentie, Lukasz Grabowski, David Adams, Brad Heddle, Kevin Krusch, Brian Hoffman, and David Sens.

# Celebrating our members



William D. Edstrom with his 60-year member award alongside his wife Violet.



Business Representative Frank Carr presents 60-year membership award to William (Bill) Kelly.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 50-year membership award to Jack Jones.



Business Representative Steve Barnicke presents 50-year membership award to Larry Schmid.



Business Representative Kyla McCormick presents 50-year membership award to Stanley Strazza.



Business Representative Brian Lefebvre presents 50-year membership award to Wally Reutlinger.



Business Representative Frank Carr presents 50-year membership award to Cecil Wolfe.



Jacques Tremblay and his wife accepting his 50-year membership award.



Arthur Oxbury with his 50-year membership award.



Business Representative Konrad Tarry presents 50-year membership award to Dominic Turcotte.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 50-year membership award to Jim Cruch.



OEBPP Administrator Lee Riggs presents 30-year membership award to Joe Duruisseau.

# Celebrating our members



Business Representative Konrad Tarry presents 70-year membership award to Robert Goudreau.



Donald Buchanan receives his 60-year membership award.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 50-year membership award to Joseph Gilbert Turcotte.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 40-year membership award to Garth Laferdy.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 30-year membership award to Ivan Vukovic.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 30-year membership award to Jerry Jensen.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 20-year membership award to Shon MacKay.



Business Representative Konrad Tarry presents 10-year membership award to Jerome Pappenberger.



Business Representative Matt Baker presents 10-year membership award to Jason Hladchuk.

# Welcome to our 371 new members

October 1 to December 31 2023

Stacy Abbott	Kayle Bryant	Blake Farrer	Sumandeep Jhaji
Boyd Adam	Todd Bryant	Kevin Ferreira	Avtar Jheeta
Sandra Adam	Connor Bulmer	Joshua Fisher	Kordell Johnson
Rafiq Ahmed	Reed Burton	James Fitzsimmons	Jack Johnson
Mohamed Ahmed	Dylan Burton	William Flynn	Joel Jones
Conyr Aird	Harmanjot Buttar	Garrett Folk	Denver Jones
Matthew Alexander	Sean Caira	Russell Ford	Courtnie Jones
Robert Allan	Darnell Calfa	John Galbraith	Julian Jordan
Dave Allingham	Dayton Campbell	William Gamache	Corbin Joseph
Brodric Althaus	Kylie Campbell	Hugo Garcia	Karn Kandola
Cecil Alukkal	Kade Campbell	Matthew Garner	Elijah Kason
Tyler Andersen	Arsenio Campilan	Travis George	Matthew Kasper
Brett Anderson	Samuel Carpenter	Shawn George	Benjamin Kelly
Derek Antoniuk	Ethan Carroll	Philip Gibson	Linda Kelly
Kelsey Apsassin-Yellowknee	Brody Chamberlain	Chad Gilchrist	Christopher Kingston
Gavin Arend	Dylan Chapman	Navjot Gill	Jesse Kittner
Duane Aseltine	Michael Chapman	Vikramjit Gill	Victoria Klassen
Patrick Aube	Darryl Chase	Delanie Gillis	Terry Klein
Emmanuel Avila	Daren Chisholm	Tracy Gilmour	Brett Klimow
Claudia Avon	Conner Chorpita	Nathan Gizzas	Russell Krenzler
Jasen - Todd Balfour	Troy Christoffersen	Shannon Glenn	Illia Kruhlov
Daryl Baptiste	Michael Cipuzak	Adam Goetz	Patrick Kulawik
Brittany Barber	Jonathan Clark	Colter Gomolchuk	Jordan Kyle
Thomas Bartko	Kendon Clark	Dallas Gottler	Jeff Labelle
Jeff Basford	Dylan Cleverly	Iqbal Grewal	Wilfredo Laconico
Cameron Bates	Pamela Clow	Dave Griffin	Roger Lacroix
Catharine Beauregard	Jaimie Comeau	Ricky Grisnich	Chase Lafek
James Beavan	Darren Cooper	Simon Gut	Jules Laliberte
Devon Beck	Matthew Costain	Bradley Hagen	Matthew Lalonde
Cameron Belansky	Matt Cottrell	Sydney Halvorson	Frank Lamacchia
Peter Bencsik	Grant Cousins	Hunter Hamel	Debbie Landriault
Bailey Bessett	Ty Cridland	Nicholas Hammond	Keith Lane
Jaxson Bestward	Abiyot Croda	James Hammond	Jeremy Lane
Nahom Beyene	John Crowston	Kaitlyn Hannah	Dan Lauer
Harshdeep Bhangu	Dave Dennie	Andrew Hardy	Christopher Laurie
Marc Blanchette	Bruce Diamat	Curtis Hartland	Brandon Leaman
Trenton Blaskovich	Michael Dickau	Seamus Hartman-Galarneau	Aaron Learmonth
Jordan Bloskiy	Anthony Diemand	Robert Hastings	Roland Leblanc
Ryan Bompas Brown	Ryan Dohnalek	Jason Hesse	Joseph Leblanc
Tricia Boneham	Bryan Dorsey	Jordon Hett	Braden Leduc
Alexis Boorman	Wesley Drews	Lanita Hewer	Brandon Lehoux
Kyle Borman	Catherine Dumas	Hayley Hindle	Brandon Lemoignan
Christopher Bourassa	Neil Dup-Et	Jonathan Holburt	Philipp Lengefeld
Kevin Boyce	Shelbi Dupont	Richard Howe	Don Lewis
Christopher Brasileiro	Christopher Edes	Carl Howe	Jason Lindsay
Colten Brezden	Logan Ehler	Nicole Hrkac	Ephraim Liron
Yeison Brito	Owen Elkington	Hazard Hughes	Joshua Lowen
Jared Brown	Fawn Erickson	Clinton Hutchinson	Ivan Lubbe
Eric Bruck	Ward Evans	Lars Irmen	Nataly Lugo
Timothy Brummund	Jacob Fanshaw	Christien Issler	Thomas Lungull
Tajus Brunovas	Colin Farrell	Matheus Jayme-Gruber	

*Continued on following page*

Keith MacAulay  
Wesley MacDonald  
Elijah MacLean  
Samuel Maganda  
Trevor Marc  
Payten Raye Marfleet  
Desmond Marshall  
Nathaniel Marshall  
Bill Martynuk  
Harmeet Matharu  
Alicia Matzner  
Mouhamed Mbao  
Nickolas McCabe  
Leigh McClurg  
Ryder McConnell  
Joshua Mcdonald  
Kristopher Mcdonald  
Terrance McIntyre  
Colin McKeown  
Robert McKie  
Kristopher McKinney  
Jacob McLean  
Autumn McLellan  
Andrew McLeod  
Kim McLeod  
Larry Meads  
Harold Meers  
Nathan Mekhael  
Laura Mennie  
Simon Miller  
Paul Mitzelos  
Ahmed Mohamed  
Dion Moran  
Cole Moroz

Travis Morphy  
Evan Mosdell  
Hayley Mounce  
Diego Munoz-Rivera  
Mitchell Myers  
Austin Naylor  
Shayla Nelson  
Amy Nguyen  
Grant Nilsson  
Leandre Nkoranyi  
Riley Noyce  
Kyle O' Donnell  
Kenneth O'Dell  
Andrew O'Dwyer  
Josh Okeadu  
Ethan Olden  
Edward Ouellette  
Randi Overdiek  
Wyatt Paquette  
Little Joe Paradis  
Harwinder Parmar  
Warren Parsons  
Reece Pastro  
Jonathan Pater  
Pratyush Pathak  
Edward Paul  
Karissa Paull  
Henry Paull  
Cody Paulson  
Taylor Pelletier  
Sahara Perez  
Daniel Perron  
Billy- Ray Petraschuk  
Ian Petrie

Jason Petrucci  
Randall Petruka  
Wade Philp  
Kyle Pich  
Dylan Pinto  
Jason Plouffe  
Evgenii Podkorytov  
Glen Pollard  
Kelly Potvin  
Ricky Potvin  
Jake Prevost  
Breadon Price  
Sheila Radu  
Jeffrey Ranger  
Darrell Reece  
Treyson Reid  
Gregory Rensmaag  
Alex Richardson  
Suzette Ricketts  
Dario Rizzo  
Gabriel Roallos  
Brian Roberts  
Skighler Rodrigues  
Jason Rombough  
Trevor Rompre  
Gordon Rowe  
Christopher Rowsell  
Jonathan Rudnisky  
Kingston Rukande  
David Salgado  
Aaron Salo  
Eric Sanderson  
Manvir Sangha  
Jonas Schwartz

Jacob Scott  
James Seekings  
Inderjit Sekhon  
Jayant Sharma  
James Sharples  
Elliot Sheehy  
Neil Sheffield  
Harmeet Sidhu  
Pardeep Sidhu  
Mitchell Silvey  
Dallas Simpson  
Manish Singh  
Simranjit Singh  
Jagwinderpreet Singh  
Tomasz Siniarski  
Angus Slaughter  
Liam Smith  
Trista Soares  
Wayne Spruit  
Richard Spurrill  
Tyren Stalker  
Tyrel Strijak-Ponte  
Chase Sullivan Doniak  
Tyanna Supernault  
Alexander Swansburg  
Catlin Szarkowicz  
Mark Taylor  
Mayette Taylor  
Joe Terry  
Suzie Thomas  
Sterling Thompson  
Mark Thornber  
Robert Timm  
Michael Tindal

Wayne Tomma  
Oliver Tonagel  
Christopher Tremblay  
Thomas Trottier  
Wade Turner  
Jesse Twordik  
David Tyreman  
Jesse Umpherville  
Shane Vegh  
Christopher Velthuis Kroeze  
Kurt Vlcek  
Jonathan Wadstein  
Harteg Walia  
Patrick Walker  
Shaymon Webb  
Amber Webster  
Stephen Wharton  
David Wheeler  
Jared Whieldon  
Darwin Wigington  
Wayne Williment  
Jacob Willock  
Marissa Willson  
Vincent Wilson  
Bryce Wilson-Conrad  
Cameron Winters  
Kyle Wood  
Kendra Worth  
Travis Wright  
Ian York  
Adam Youson  
Joel Zigay

**iuoe**  
LOCAL 115

# Changing financial institutions?

Receiving direct bank deposits from the OE Pension or Benefits Plans?  
Be sure to provide us with your new account information.

604.291.8831 or toll-free at 1.888.486.3115  
email: [iuoe@iuoe115.ca](mailto:iuoe@iuoe115.ca)



# IUOE<sup>★</sup> Service Awards

October 1 to December 31 2023

LOCAL 115

## 10 years

David Adams  
William Akhurst  
Joseph Aldcroft  
Tim Amies  
Kyle August  
Mitch Bartley  
Gerard Bellows  
Daljit Bhatti  
Darcy Bloomer  
Cody Boan  
Jack Brooks  
William Browne  
Shane Bryant  
Barry Bullen  
Paul Busse  
Patrick Campbell  
Alastair Cannon  
Joel Caplette  
Ronald Carriere  
Kelly Carwithen  
Jordan Chilton  
Arne Clausen  
Dustin Doniak  
Wayne Enair  
Willie Enriquez  
Jesse Fentie  
Jason Francis  
Amanda Fulton  
Brenton Gilbert  
David Golaïy  
David Goulette  
Lukasz Grabowski  
Troy Gran-brooks  
Jason Greenhorn  
Harjot Grewal  
Coert Grobbelaar  
Nathan Guite  
Patrick Hagarty  
Daniel Hamson  
Donovan Hanefeld  
Jeff Hardie  
Ezra Henniger  
Coleton Hibbs  
Jason Hladchuk  
Wayne Hochstein  
Zachary Hogan  
Darlene Hoy  
Adam Hunt  
Calvin Huntington  
Jack Johnson  
Kyle Kaye  
Jonathan Klassen

Reagan Koivisto  
Wayne Kozak  
Kevin Krusch  
Keith Lalonde  
Marc Lavigne  
Alexander Lomas-  
Runquist  
Scott Lowe  
Kurt Lytle  
Richard MacInnes  
Daniel MacKenzie  
Tyler MacKenzie  
Kyle Malcolm  
Aubrey McClelland  
Rob Medaris  
Jeffrey Miller  
Pamela Morrison  
Scott Mossop  
Avinesh Naidu  
Robert New  
Mike Nickel  
Donald (Guy) Nylund  
Brook O'Donnell  
Corey Odne  
Dwane Paddison  
Jerome Pappenberger  
Jamey Pelland  
Barry Petersen  
Bryan Poynter  
Marcy Risberg  
Jason Robinson  
David Ryskamp  
Prabhjot Samra  
Joe Santos  
David Sens  
Ethel Smith  
Kelly Soobotin  
Scott Stoppard  
Eli Tait  
Kristopher Taverner  
Vance Taylor  
Bradley Taylor  
Steven Taylor  
Jason Teichrib  
Aerance Teo  
Brent Tickell  
Tony Tomac  
Wei Tsao  
Jordan Vanderwiel  
Aaron Wakeling  
Randy Warkentin  
Oneil Williamson  
Joseph Wilmot

Kyle Wolzen

## 20 years

Fredrich Anandel  
Derek Anderson  
Robyn Bishop  
Darren Bjorgaard  
Michael Conlin  
Duane Craigan  
Cody Cusack  
Glen Frend  
Mark Frost  
Darren Halvorson  
Evan Hannis  
Tyler Harmison  
Norman Hystad  
Darrell Issel  
Bruce Kobus  
Hank Kruisselbrink  
David Levae  
Leonard Ludwig  
Shon MacKay  
Douglas McLeod  
Jorge Medeiros  
Samuel Morley  
Jonathan Muller  
James Opper  
Christopher Pallone  
Shane Pietrarroia  
John Postill  
Bryon Rai  
Brad Railton  
Mario Ricci  
Kevin Sankey  
Ken Verge

## 30 years

Jason Aeichele  
Ken Breaks  
Walter Fantuz  
Frank Floro  
Shane Gillis  
Dean Harding  
Bruce Hornall  
David Hughes  
Michael Joslin  
Kevin Mason  
John Rinzema  
Ryan Rusk  
Tony Scaccia  
Bob Singleton  
Roderick Smith  
David Starnes

Jason Thornton  
Ivica Vukovic  
Earl Wanless  
Frank Woodrow

## 40 years

Joe Backus  
Rick Baker  
Robert Clark  
Frank Grande  
Garth Laferdy  
Gordon Litz  
Gregory McDonagh  
Rodney Spooner

## 50 years

Keith Aldridge  
Joseph Bayer  
Kenneth Berry  
Raymond Bouchard  
John Broughton  
Byron Burnett  
Alec Chidlow  
William Cratty  
Roy Dusenbury  
Douglas Fairbourn  
George Fleming  
Darryl Gardecki  
Kevin Giberson  
Dene Grandberg  
Bruce Hamilton  
Bruce Hardy  
Thomas Harman  
Ronald Heimbecker  
Faim Kaljanac  
William Lenych  
Larry Marshall  
Dennis McBeth

Alfred McIntyre  
Frank Morellato  
Greg Myers  
Jeffrey Nokes  
Tony Pedersen  
Charles Piddocke  
Leslie Prouty  
Donald Rand  
Leo Reaume  
Larry Schmid  
Barry Shiels  
Malcolm Silvey  
Howard Smith  
Kenneth Sperling  
Dominic Turcotte  
Joseph Turcotte  
Jornn Von Conruhds  
Gary Wheeler  
Cecil Wolfe  
David Wood

## 60 years

Dennis Bratt  
Donald Buchanan  
Hubert Cochrane  
Fred Hahn  
Marvin McMartin  
Fred Plotnikoff  
William Robbins

## 70 years

Robert Goudreau  
Alex Murray  
John Pavich



# IUOE Local 115 TRAINING ASSOCIATION

The training, skills, and experience you need

## In-Person Courses

- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Mobile Crane Operator
- Grader
- Asphalt Paving Laydown Technician
- Fall Protection
- Rigging Level 1 and 2
- Occupational First Aid Level 1
- Traffic Control Person
- Telehandler Operator
- Blended Forklift Operator
- Blended Skidsteer Operator
- Aerial Lift Operator

## Online Courses

- Ground Disturbance for Supervisors
- Sideboom Safety
- Pipeline Construction Safety Training
- Confined Space Entry and Monitor
- H2S Awareness
- WHMIS 2015
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- CSTS 2020
- Site Ready

Scan to find course  
schedule information



SCAN ME

# START YOUR CAREER ON THE RIGHT FOOT



**GET A \$2,500 INTEREST FREE\* LINE OF CREDIT!**

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**\$2,500 INTEREST FREE  
LINE OF CREDIT**

1. Buy your work gear



**FREE PREMIUM  
CHEQUING ACCOUNT\***

2. Save \$540 in fees



**TRAIN WITHOUT  
FINANCIAL WORRY**

3. Start your career  
worry free

Recognizing the start-up costs to begin a career in the trades, and the cost of living crunch that many of us are facing, Community Savings is partnering with IUOE Local 115 to offer a 3-year interest free line of credit\* and 3 years of free banking\* for its membership.

This package creates savings of over \$2,700 over three years.

### SCAN TO GET STARTED



**Community Savings**  
the unions' credit union

**IUOE\***  
LOCAL 115

\*Terms and conditions apply. Limited time offer

moveUP



# Bursaries and Scholarships

Education is important to our members and their children, which is why a number of scholarships and bursaries are available to union members and their families. Some of the awards that are available:

## IUOE Canadian Conference Bursary

Awarded annually to a dependent of a member of a Canadian local of the Operating Engineers.

*Bursary Amount:* Ten bursaries of \$750 each. Two of these are allotted to British Columbia.

*Criteria:* The bursary recipient must be entering their first or subsequent year of a full-time course of study (at least 2 years in length) leading to a diploma, certificate or degree from any recognized public Canadian college or university.

Applications Deadline: August 1.

## M.L. Parr Award

Awarded annually to a son, daughter or legal ward of a member of the IUOE Local 115 entering first-year studies at a recognized Canadian college, university or vocational school as a full-time student.

*Bursary Amount:* Total \$2,000. May be divided between more than one applicant.

Applications Deadline: September 30.

## Donald Smith Scholarship

Awarded in memory of the late Donald Smith, a longtime member of IUOE Local 115.

*Bursary Amount:* Up to \$1,000

*Criteria:* Awarded annually to member of an IUOE Local 115 member family (son, daughter or legal ward, member or member's spouse) who is in full-time attendance at UBC, SFU, University of Victoria, University of Northern British Columbia or BCIT pursuing studies in engineering, industrial relations or law at either the graduate or undergraduate level.

Applications Deadline: September 30.

## CSCU-OECU Pioneers Memorial Bursary

Established in 1989 by the Operating Engineers Credit Union, which merged with Community Savings Credit Union in 2009. Provides assistance to students in academic, vocational or technological programs at BC educational facilities.

*Bursary Amount:* Varies with financial need.

*Criteria:* These awards are designed to help disadvantaged youth pursue higher education. Applicants should therefore demonstrate a strong and justified financial need for assistance.

Applications Deadline: Applications for students starting school in the spring/summer semester are accepted between May 1 and June 15. Applications for students starting school in the fall are accepted between September 1 and October 15.

For details on where to apply, visit:

[iuoe115.ca/membership/scholarships](http://iuoe115.ca/membership/scholarships)



25th Annual

IUOE Local 115

# Heavy Equipment Rodeo



Try out the equipment, simulators and get a tour of the site



Food and drinks provided



Learn about apprenticeships and course offerings



Special thanks to all our signatory contractors and equipment dealers for providing equipment for this incredible event. To volunteer or for more information call the Training Association at 604-291-8831 or email [iuotraining@iuoe115.ca](mailto:iuotraining@iuoe115.ca)

10AM-3PM **Saturday, June 15, 2024**  
13401 256 St., Maple Ridge, BC.

**Entry is by donation**  
100% of proceeds to  
Dollars Against Diabetes



Fun for the whole family



Test out your skills



# In memoriam



## Members who have passed away October 1 to December 31 2023

### Name      Years of membership

#### OCTOBER 2023

Rolf Austad	57
John Beggs	13
Joshua Bronk	4
Donald Dunn	4
Edward Dyck	11
Gordon Earl	29
Forbes Ferguson	5
Tom Field	50
Alberto Gallina	39
Richard German	46
Neil Laughlin	56
Bradley Lewis	57
Michael Miller	41
Melvin Osmundson	7
Corey Poitras	<1
Raymond Thompson	20
Roy White	56

Valere Coupal	67
Stuart Eastman	52
John Fairburn	<1
Gary Fox	5
Michel Gagne	33
Richard Harris	25
Brian Hiebert	26
John Hirschmann	71
Alfred Iwanski	18
Gary Kroeker	52
John MacKenzie	71
Joe McAskie	<1
Peter Nielsen	29
Wayne Pilla	56
Percy Rector	34
Stanley Rud	66
Frank Shopa	13
William Ward	71
George Zielinski	71

Giuseppe Dallavalle	33
Theodore Dirks	68
Robert Ebert	46
Eugenio Farinella	43
James Figler	10
Herman Gagne	65
Gary Gilker	43
Peter Jorgensen	42
Norman Kindrat	43
Wayne Larratt	56
Thomas Malboeuf	6
R. Roy McIntosh	49
Dennis Pare	54
David Peffers	50
Antonio Pellin	59
Ian Riley	10
Erle Salmon	58
Lorne Skopnik	49
Gordon St. James	20
Peter Williams	4
Evan Winger	<1
Kelly Wood	13

#### NOVEMBER 2023

Russell Ally	17
William Burris	66
Nicholas Cameron	<1

#### DECEMBER 2023

Cliff Barnes	55
Robert (Bob) Bechler	57

## M.L. Parr Bursary Recipients



Taylor Adams receives the M.L. Parr Bursary award.



Kaydi Frend receives the M.L. Parr Bursary award from Business Representative James Knowles.



Carter Wotherspoon receives the M.L. Parr Bursary award from Assistant Business Manager Josh Towsley.

## 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:** Wayne Kemp

**Assistant Business Manager:** Josh Towsley

**Director of Organizing:** Bryan Railton

**Dispatcher:** Kyle Egan, 604.473.5230

### Organizing Representatives:

Frank Baratto, 604.312.4227

Gavin Cross, 604.908.0874

### Benefits & Pension Plans

**Administrator:** Lee Riggs

### Training Association

**Administrator:** Jeff Gorham

**Training Coordinators:** Steve Ervin Gian Grewal  
Travis Woolford

### District 1

#### Business Representatives:

Steve Barnicke Frank Carr Gavin Cross Michelle Dey  
Brian Haugen Leanne Hughf Sean Maurer John Munro  
Will Suelzle Simon Thomsen  
Phone: 604.291.8831 Toll free: 1.888.486.3115

### District 2

#### Business Representatives:

James Knowles Kyla McCormick  
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:

Curtis Laverty Brian Lefebvre  
785 Tranquille Road, Kamloops, BC, V2B 3J3  
Phone: 250.554.2278 Fax: 250.554.1766

### Districts 4 and 5

#### Business Representatives:

Matt Baker Wayne Kemp Konrad Tarry  
Craig Young (Dispatcher)  
3339 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Prince George, BC, V2M 1N1  
Phone: 250.563.3669 Fax: 250.563.3603

### District 6

#### Business Representatives:

Rob Foskett Kent MacPherson  
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

### District 1

BURNABY: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month  
7:30 p.m. at 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby  
Except March & September due to General Membership Meeting  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March &  
September 9:30 a.m. at 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby

### District 2

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

NANAIMO: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of odd months

6:00 p.m. at the Coast Bastion Hotel, 11 Bastion St.

VICTORIA: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of even months

6:00 p.m. at the Pro Patria Legion Branch 292, 411 Gorge Rd. E.

CAMPBELL RIVER/COURTENAY:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

### District 3

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

KAMLOOPS: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of even months

7:30 p.m. at the Union Hall, 785 Tranquille Rd.

KELOWNA: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of odd months

7:00 p.m. at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave.

### District 4

PRINCE GEORGE: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month

8:00 p.m. at Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick St.

PRINCE RUPERT, TERRACE, KITIMAT, SMITHERS:

Members will be advised of meeting dates and times.

### District 5

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

FORT ST. JOHN: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of odd months

7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, 10441 100<sup>th</sup> Ave.

DAWSON CREEK: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of even months

7:30 p.m. at the George Dawson Inn, 11705 8<sup>th</sup> St.

TUMBLER RIDGE:

Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

WHITEHORSE: Members will be advised of meeting date, time and place.

### District 6

Monthly meeting locations alternate:

CASTLEGAR: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of odd months

7:00 p.m. at the Super 8 Inn, 651 18<sup>th</sup> St.

CRANBROOK: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of even months

7:00 p.m. at the Labour Centre (Boardroom), 105 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. South  
Teck's Line Creek Operation:

Members will be advised of meeting dates and times.

Please contact your District Office to register for  
the next meeting in your location.

# Fuelling Our Economy with BC Operators

**iuoe**   
L O C A L 1 1 5

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