



LOCAL 276 NEWSLETTER



January 2022



Jason Pedersen
Business Manager
Financial Secretary

Kevin Walsh
President

Dustin McPherson
Vice-President

Mike Paterlini
Recording secretary



Business Managers Report

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Starting new in 2022, I know we all had hopes that we would see the events of the past two years in the rear-view mirror, and we would be moving towards the world opening back up where we could reconnect with our friends and family and moving past the protocols that are strangely seeming to become the norm.

For all the negative covid-19 and its variants has created, there has been some real positive changes in the world of construction here in BC.

- Work site sanitation being brought front and center with the BC building trades "Get flushed" campaign.
- Labour friendly Government supporting "Union only" infrastructure projects such as the new Cowichan hospital, slated to start in June of this year.
- Compulsory trades certification, for sheet metal, being brought back after 18 years.
- No end in sight to one of the busiest times we have seen in construction here on the Island.
- Large infrastructure projects moving forward throughout BC.
- Strong language changes within WorkSafeBC to deal with Bullying and harassment in the workplace.

With our local sitting at 5% unemployment and with the number of projects already secured by our contractors, the work picture looks busy for the next few years.

The office has been working on steadily recruiting new members, both apprentices and journeypersons to man this work.

After a year of floods, fires, supply chain issues, viruses, heat waves, (everything besides locus), our members keep working through it all, it really goes to show how resilient Islanders are and I am proud to work with this Local and its members to keep moving forward with whatever is thrown at us.

Fraternally yours,
Jason Pedersen
Business Manager

Providing a "Gate Way" to the Trades

Through a combined effort of Local 276, IBEW 230 and the Construction Foundation of BC we have been a part of bringing new people into the trades through "Gate Way" training programs. Introducing both youth and underrepresented groups to careers in both the sheet metal and roofing trades.



276 Golf Tournament



On Aug 14th, 2021 we were able to put together a golf tournament at Olympic view golf course. We had a huge turn out and a great time was had by all. It was a beautiful day out on the fairways, with the longest marshmellow drive, a charity chipping contest followed by a fantastic dinner, prize draw and 50/50 raffle.

A special thanks to all of our contractors whose donantions helped make this a day to remember. Through the days events we were also able to raise \$1670.00 for the Childrens Health Foundation. Hope to see you all again this summer.

First Ever Permanent Paid Sick Leave For BC Workers

For the longest time, if someone worked in the trades, the idea of missing work because of illness had a direct impact on their pay cheque. Most would suffer throught it, even knowing the impact to not only their own well being but that of their co-workers.

Effective January 1, 2022, the first ever permanent paid sick leave comes into effect with 5 paid sick days each year. Both fulltime and part-time employees are eligible for this benefit. This is a big win for all workers in BC and Local 276 members.

For more information, please see our web site www.smwia276.ca

Compulsory Certification



Every other province in Canada requires tradespeople to be certified. B.C. removed that requirement in 2003. This means there are currently thousands of trades workers across the province without formal recognition of their knowledge or skill levels.

Skilled trades certification means uncertified workers in selected trades will need to become certified or register as an apprentice with the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to be legally able to work in that trade.

The B.C. government is introducing skilled trades certification beginning with a total of 10 trades with sheet metal being one of them. This will have a huge impact on our members and contractors as this has always been one of the key objectives of the Union to have our membership work through their apprenticeship and become Red Seal certified.

Ski Trip

Last year we were not able to hold our annual ski trip due to Covid. This year was looking good until this new variant took hold. We are still shooting for a date around February 26th this year, I guess time will tell. We will keep updated information for this on our web site. Let's all cross our fingers.

Health and welfare update



In January 2021 the Health and Welfare trustees met to review our Health and welfare plan and benefits. After listening to input from the membership, many improvements have been made. These updates will be sent out to the membership later this month in a separate news letter.

Members making a difference out in the community



Once again our members and contractors have really come together to help out in our community. Working together with HeroWork to help rebuild charities so they can better help people in need.

The Indigenous Prosective Society

With Lewis Sheet Metal stepping up and supplying materials and members volunteering their time, we were able to completely revamp the ventilation system in this major remodel.

Slavation Army

In one of the largest projects HeroWork has taken on, we had a number of our contractors and members from Associated, Silver Fern and Playsted all come together to rebuild the large commercial kitchen that supplies 15,000 + meals a month for those in need.



In Memory

Bro. Darrell Featherstone 1990-2021 (13 Year Member)
Bro. Pieter Bol 1957-2021 (40 Year Member)
Bro. Clayton Sidlick 1935-2021 (49 Year Member)
Bro. Robert MacDougall 1950-2021 (43 Year Member)

"Gone from our sight but never from our hearts"

Union Meetings

With Covid numbers growing and current meeting restrictions, we will once again be moving our Union meetings online starting February 3rd. These meeting will require a link to be emailed to each member that is planning on attending. To pre-register, you will need to provide your name and a valid email address.

Please follow this link to pre-register <https://b.link/Local276>

These meetings will be open to all current members.

Union Office Contact Information

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