



LOCAL 276 NEWSLETTER



January 2024



Business Managers Report

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Throughout 2023 we have seen a construction boom here on the Island and our members have stepped up to meet the need for skilled labour on these projects. There was a lot of speculation that the rise in interest rates would lead us into a recession heading into 2024 but the work picture still looks strong in all areas. With hammerhead cranes lining the skyline and large infrastructure projects such as the new Duncan High School, the Cowichan Hospital and the BC Museum Archive building our members are in high demand.

Local 276, along with the BC Building Trades, has been working diligently with both Provincial and Federal governments to not only secure work for our members but also improve working conditions for all who work in the trades.

Our recent lobbying efforts focused on:

Investing in Apprentices

In the next 10 years, BC is going to need over 52,000 construction workers and in the last 20 years, the construction workforce has more than doubled, where funding for apprentice training has not increased at all. Unless this is rectified, our schools will not be able to meet the demand.

Mental Health in Construction

Since COVID-19, our Construction Industry Rehab Program has seen an increase in usage of over 43%. With Government funding, we will be able to make sure everyone who needs help will be able to receive it.

Sanitation

We have been working with our "Get Flushed Campaign" to provide workers with decent sanitation on work sites for over 3 years. With the Premier's recent announcement to finally address this issue, we must stay vigilant to ensure proper WorkSafe legislation is implemented.

The Temporary Foreign Worker Policy

Working to stop shady contractors from abusing this policy to bring in cheap labour and take work away from qualified BC residents.

Underground Economy

Ensure enforcements are in place so unscrupulous contractors do not hire tradespeople as miscategorized subcontractors. In doing so, they do not pay benefits, taxes, WorkSafe premiums, etc. and can undercut above-board contractors.

I hope everyone was able to enjoy some time off over the holidays and we wish you the best for the New Year.



Jason Pedersen
Business Manager
Financial Secretary

Kevin Walsh
President

Dustin McPherson
Vice-President

Andrew MacDonald
Recording Secretary



Health and Welfare Update



Plan Improvements 2023

With our continued concern for mental health and seeing the utilization of clinical counselling from the membership, the trustees felt it would be beneficial to increase the amount for counselling from \$1000 to \$1500. We have also increased the clinical counselling on our retired member's plan to \$500.

Every year the Health and Welfare trustees meet to review the finances of our health plan and the services we provide. We are happy to say that once again, the Local can continue to offer not only the same extensive Blue Cross coverage but will continue to offer the extra union benefits for 2024.

These consist of:

- **Gym and Yoga:** \$400/ yearly
- **Wills:** \$650/ every 3 years per family. Simple will package available through the Local.
- **Bereavement Pay:** Covering up to 3 days wages.
- **Lifestyles:** Smoking cessation - \$500/lifetime, erectile dysfunction drugs -\$500/Yearly.
- **Health Spending:** \$450/yearly with \$250 available for work boots.

You must be on our PBC plan for a minimum of three months to be eligible for Union Benefits

Pension Plan Update

Island Sheet Metal Workers' and Roofers' Pension Plan - Membership-Wide Increase in Pension Benefits

The Trustees of the Plan are pleased to inform you of upcoming increases to your pension benefits. As a result of the continued prudent management of the Plan's financial condition, the Trustees have approved increases to both past service benefits effective September 19, 2023 and future pension benefits starting January 1, 2024. A letter has been sent out to all members with detailed information on these increases. If you have not received this letter from D.A. Townley please contact the office with an updated address.

Statutory Holidays for 2024

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| New Year's Day | Monday | January 1 st | BC Day | Monday | August 5 th |
| Family Day | Monday | February 19 th | Union Holiday | Friday | August 30 th |
| Good Friday | Friday | March 29 th | Labour Day | Monday | September 2 |
| Easter Monday | Monday | April 1 st | Truth and Rec. day | Monday | September 30 th |
| Victoria Day | Monday | May 20 th | Thanksgiving Day | Monday | October 14 th |
| Canada Day | Monday | July 1 st | Remembrance Day | Monday | November 11 th |
| Union Holiday | Friday | August 2 | Christmas Day | Wednesday | December 25 th |
| | | | Boxing Day | Thursday | December 26 th |

Trades Women Build Nations

The Trades Women Build Nation Conference was held in Washington DC last year with over 4000 amazing trades women coming together to support each other and learn how not only survive in the trades but thrive. We were lucky to have six of our amazing ladies attend and show their Union pride. Thanks to our sisters and the VIBCTC and VISMA for their sponsorship.



Local 276 Ski Trip



This year's ski trip is happening on Sat, February 24th, 2024. If you wish to attend, please phone, or drop by the office to sign up. We will only have tickets for those who have signed up. The cutoff date will be Wednesday, Feb 21st, 2024.

We will meet at the Sunrise chair parking lot at 8:30 am. Please bring the exact amount of cash to pay Jason Pedersen for your lift ticket. The Local will provide lunch at 11:30 am at the sunrise chair parking lot. The ski trip is open to members, family members and friends. Any questions email carrol@smwia276.ca or 250-727-3458. See you on the slopes!

Adult \$70

Youth \$60

Child \$50

Apprenticeship competition



The Canadian Apprenticeship Competition is an event held each year where top apprentices come together from each province to show off their skills and knowledge in both the sheet metal and roofing trades. Last year it was held in Saskatoon Sask. where 276 top apprentice, Melanie Payne, was able to compete and network with other top apprentices. In 2024 the competition will be held in Saint John, New Brunswick in early May for both sheet metal and roofing.

Golf Tournament

A little late in the year but the weather gods were smiling on us. It was a great day out on the course followed by dinner and prize give away. A huge shout out to all our sponsors who helped make this event what it is. As with the Frisbee golf, we are looking to hold two tournaments this year. One south and one north Island. Dates and times are also to be announced.



Union Office Contact Information

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