



LOCAL 276 NEWSLETTER



May 2021



Business Manager's Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The last year and a half has put many challenges ahead of us but luckily construction has been one of the industries that has remained strong. Working through this pandemic has not been without its challenges, the pressures of job site conditions, mental stress, and just dealing with everything that has been thrown at us has pushed many of us to the edge. In April of last year, we saw our membership fall to 35% unemployment, while everyone struggled to figure out how everything was going to play out. By June 2020, we were back up to 9% unemployment, as many of our contractors took this opportunity to go after work at facilities that had temporarily shut down, which created a lot of work for our members. The Local did see five of its members test positive with Covid-19, but we are happy to report they are all back on their feet and back at work.

SeaSpan, our ship maintenance and repair sector, was one of the areas that was hardest hit as most of the work they had scheduled for the year was from offshore and had been cancelled due to travel restrictions and other covid-related factors. At the beginning of last year, Seaspan had employed over 1300 people and is now down a work force of 180. We have seen a soft start to this year, but now see work steadily increasing as we move through spring into summer.

North Island has been especially busy, and we are most likely going to be seeing a labour shortage as more and more projects open up. The next few years look like they are going to continue to be busy with large projects coming on the books. The \$887 million dollar Cowichan district hospital replacement project, that has been announced under a CBA agreement, will start construction in 2022 and is looking to be completed by 2026. The University of Victoria student residences project will be a three-year, \$232 million build, just to name a few.

As we see the vaccinations roll out and our number of new cases drop, it is always important to remember this whole experience has affected many people in many different ways, so right now more than ever, remember to support your brothers and sisters working beside you so we can all make it through this together.

Fraternally yours,

Jason Pedersen
Business Manager / Financial Secretary

Congratulations

Congratulations to the latest members to join the ranks as Red Seal Journeymen!

Nathan Edgar

Alexander Walker

Donovan Rush

Hayden Revill



Roofing Training on the Island



The Local has been working diligently with RCABC to bring roofing training over to Vancouver Island. This has been a struggle for many years, with all of our roofing apprentices having to go to the mainland to be able to access technical training for their apprenticeships.

With the help of our training center and aggressively going after federal grants, we are finally able to bring this training to the Island. Working together with RCABC, we had our first level 1 class at our training facility in Victoria on March 15th, with levels 3 and 4 hopefully to come this fall.

We are proud to say we had Elias Taylor and Gaelin Elliott tie for top marks in this class, congratulations.

Having a fully outfitted roofing training facility has opened many new doors to help bring more people into the roofing industry here on Vancouver Island. We are currently working with RCABC and Skill Plan Canada to offer a five-week Introduction to Roofing Trades program that will be held this summer, as well a two-week Back to Work program the Local is putting together with the Construction Foundation of BC. Having these opportunities, we will help to grow the unionized roofing sector here on the Island, creating more jobs for our members.

Negotiations

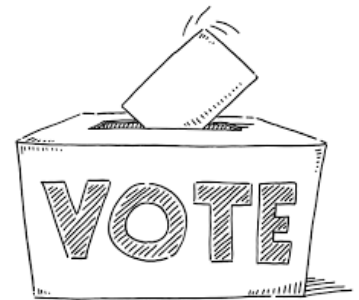
After many meetings with VISMCA, the negotiation committee for Local 276 feels they have a proposal to bring to the membership. In the past, we would have meetings with the membership to explain the proposal, and then have every member cast their vote. At this point in time, we are still not allowed to have face to face meetings. After exploring the different options, we have come up with a plan that we feel would be best to make sure each member will have the ability to have their voice heard.

We are going to hold a special Zoom meeting on May 17th to go through the proposal and answer questions with the membership, and then proceed with an in-person ballot vote.

To register for this meeting, follow this link <http://b.link/ejnzi> and select the May 17th meeting. A Zoom link will be sent to your email address that you provide on the day of the meeting.

Please see voting locations below:

| | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Victoria | May 18 th | Training Center | #120- 2294 Millstream Rd. | Victoria | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Nanaimo | May 19 | Archie Johnstone Shop | #2- 6654 Gava Pl. | Nanaimo | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Campbell River | May 20 th | Nelson Roofing Shop | 1870 17 th Ave. | Campbell River | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |
| Courtenay | May 21 st | Nelson Roofing shop | 3132 Grant Rd. | Cumberland | 4:30pm - 6:30pm |



Health Plan Update



Earlier this year the Health and Welfare trustees met to review the finances of our health plan and services we provide. We are happy to say that once again, the Local is able to continue to offer not only the same extensive Blue Cross coverage but will continue to offer the extra union benefits as well.

These consist of:

- **Gym and Yoga:** \$200/ yearly
- **Wills:** \$400/ 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, IUDs \$500/yearly, erectile dysfunction drugs - \$500/Yearly
- **Health Spending:** \$450/yearly with \$250 available for work boots.

As always, we urge you to be mindful of your mental health as well as your physical health. As a member of the BC Building Trades, you have access to the Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan, which offers a number of options to keep your mental health in check. CIRP offers long-term counselling to assist members dealing with depression, anxiety, substance use, pain management, and other mental health concerns. All services are free to members and their families. Visit the CIRP website, email info@constructionrehabplan.com or call 1-888-521-8611 for more information.

If you have any questions about any of the benefits, please call the office at 250-727-3458 or email carrol@smwia276.ca

BC Building Trades

For too long, construction workers have been forced to use poorly maintained, unhealthy, and unsafe washroom facilities, when health and safety regulations actually require flush toilets! Porta-potties, in fact, should be the exception and not the rule. Join our campaign to get WorkSafeBC to enforce the law!

<https://getflushed.ca/>



They are at it again! Working with herds of volunteers and three of our contractors, HeroWork is in the process of rebuilding the Salvation Army's food kitchen in downtown Victoria. This Kitchen supplies 15,000 + meals a month for those in need. Many of our members have stepped up and volunteered their time on previous projects, and after the positive experience have returned time and time again. If you would like to put your skills out to a great cause, please contact Jason Pedersen at the union office for more details.

Your Pension

Great animation on how your pension works and why it is so important.

View at: <https://youtu.be/XJIB7xGoFMk>



Farewell to a Great Man and Proud Union Activist

Roland Arthur Joseph Roy, or Rollie to his friends, started with our local as an organizer, became a business agent, and then moved into the position of Business Manager in 1982.

Rollie had the courage to step up to this position at one of the local's lowest points, where a lot of hard decisions had to be made.

He steered our Local with a warm heart and true compassion for the membership. Leaders like Rollie are hard to find, and even when he left the position he continued to sit on the local's executive board, health, and pension committees, and helped to create the foundations of our robust plans we have today.

He will truly be missed.

Roland Arthur Joseph Roy October 1935 - January 2021

Vancouver Island Building Trades Scholarship Program

Always looking for ways to help young people get started with a career in the trades, the Vancouver Island Building Trades Council (VIBTC) is offering five (5) scholarships of \$1,000.00 to students accepted or currently enrolled in a pre-apprenticeship training program through an accredited college. The scholarships are available to the children of union members affiliated with the VIBTC. For more information, please contact Jason Pedersen at the union office.

Union Office Contact Information

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