

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LiUNA! LOCAL 1611

THE LABOURER

WINTER 2025



TRAINING DAY

Our new joint Training & Resource Centre opens in Chilliwack!

Pages 21–23

LiUNA! Local
1611
BC & YUKON

LiUNA Local 1611 represents more than 10,000 construction and service workers in B.C. and the Yukon. We represent construction, roadbuilding, pipeline, paving, utility, TCP, rail, mining, tunnel & rock work, diamond drilling, industrial plant, dock & shipyard, health care, security, recycling, parking enforcement, cemetery, crematorium, funeral home, retail, warehousing and janitorial workers.

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Retirement has its privileges

By Corry Anderson-Fennell | *Director of Communications / Political Liaison*



HAD ANYONE ASKED ME when I was 20 what my retirement might look like, I would have stammered something about living on a tropical island with a bunch of dogs. Retirement was just too far away to think about.

I am now ... ahem ... significantly closer to retirement, and I confess to spending a lot more time thinking about it, especially when I get the

chance to connect with Local 1611’s own retired members at a meeting or event.

The Local 1611 Retiree Club celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, and I was lucky enough to attend several of their special banquets around the province. They always take me back to the night I attended my dad’s retirement celebration, put on by his union, the United Fishermen and Allied Workers’ Union. I was too young to realize how much it meant to him at the time. In retrospect, I believe it meant a great deal.

As a shop steward, organizer and welfare director, my dad spent the better part of his life fighting for workers – first the men (and it was all men in those days) who beat up their bodies logging our forests, and later the men and women who made their living in the fishing industry.

He retired surrounded by the friends he’d made over his decades-long career. It was a special event that saw him celebrated for his contributions to labour, and I’m certain he never forgot it.

My dad passed away many years ago, and I find myself thinking about him a lot when I attend our Local 1611 retirement banquets. He would have been one of the “regulars,” taking every opportunity to get together with old friends, revisit shared memories and outdo each other with tall tales of the past.

Every labour union should be so lucky as to have what Local 1611 has – a vibrant Retiree Club that brings members together long after their work is done. This is when social connections are most vital, yet often harder to come by due to changes in residence and the cruelties that come with aging, like illness and reduced mobility.

If you are at or nearing retirement, I encourage you to stay abreast of retiree events and come to as many as you can. You will be glad you did. ■

Talk to your kids about politics and watch them surprise you

By Nav Malhotra | *Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer*



GROWING UP, MY PARENTS made it a priority to instill progressive values and a strong social conscience in our household. That meant our dinner table was often the site of spirited political discussions. Topics ranged from labour issues and developments in Victoria to who might win the next municipal, provincial, or federal election.

As a teenager in the early 1990s, I didn't feel like I had much to contribute to those conversations. But my parents persevered, and—of course—they were right. Those discussions helped shape who I am today, and now I try to pass on that same awareness to my own kids, who are now 14, 13 and 10.

Surprisingly, getting them interested in politics wasn't hard. The last provincial election in October 2024 was the spark. We talked about the legacy of former NDP Premier **Dave Barrett**, whose forward-thinking policies—like the Agricultural Land Reserve and public PharmaCare—left a lasting mark on B.C. For my parents, Barrett was the best premier this province has ever had.

We also talked about today's NDP: former premier **John Horgan**, current Premier **David Eby**, and the many hardworking MLAs and ministers who continue to put people first. I explained to my kids how an NDP government supports working families, our union, and the work we do—such as backing Project Labour Agreements that keep our members on the job building public infrastructure.

Thankfully, the NDP persevered. We still have a government in Victoria that puts people over profits.

By the time the federal election came around six months later, all three kids were fully engaged. They understood how deeply politics impacts our lives. And I was proud when they celebrated Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** victory over Pierre Poilievre and the Conservatives.

Then came the conversations about Donald Trump—a man they quickly came to see not just as controversial, but dangerous. At first, I thought their interest was more about the spectacle of American politics than the substance. But over time, they came to understand that Trump is someone who uses power to undermine the rights, freedoms and very existence

of people who are not like him. And you know what? They are absolutely right.

Usually, when I talk politics with my kids, I expect to be the teacher. But this time, I am the one learning from them.

Local 1611 Officer Election

As 2025 comes to a close, I want to thank all our members for their engagement during our Local Officer Election this past May.

While the election took place on May 9, we awaited a ruling from LIUNA's Special Hearings Panel on a post-election protest before announcing results publicly. On Sept. 5, the panel issued an eight-page decision, dismissing the protest and upholding the results.

All Unity Team candidates were re-elected. Thank you to every member who took the time to vote. Your involvement matters, and the Unity Team remains fully committed to supporting your success, strengthening our union, and building a better future for all members.

On behalf of the Local 1611 Executive Board, I wish you a joyful holiday season and a strong, successful 2026. ■



Re-elected members of the Local 1611 Executive Board are (from left) Tom Miller, Oscar Sanchez, Steve Hecocks, Nav Malhotra, Mark Olsen, Shelley Moore and Tony Parkinson.

LOCAL 1611 leads the way

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. No monthly dues increase
2. Organized 19 companies
3. Opened NEW Training PLUS Centre in Chilliwack
4. Held 9 Retiree Club luncheon events to celebrate the club's 25th anniversary
5. Increased monthly pensions and active credits by 7%, the third such increase since 2019
6. Increased medical benefits for covered members
7. Surveyed our active and retired members covered by our Medical Plan
8. Continued Indigenous reconciliation efforts, including by training PGNAETA, Kwikwetlem, SASET (Sto:lo) and Kekinow peoples; are part of the BC Building Trades Indigenous Relations Working Group; established an Indigenous Scholarship; partnered with the BC Lions Orange Shirt Day & Indigenous Youth Football; adopted an Indigenous logo
9. Introduced new computer system
10. Achieved surpluses for Union and all related Funds

2026 GOALS

1. No monthly dues increase
2. Organize at least 17 companies
3. Further increase in training courses and the use of BCTRIP
4. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of our BC Pension Plan
5. Introduce additional mental health benefits for all members
6. Establish a schedule of improvements to consider for Medical and Pension benefits for the period 2027 to 2031
7. Develop and test a Local 1611 app
8. Further expand our Indigenous reconciliation efforts and partnerships provincially
9. Further increase scholarships, community donations, corporate partnerships and Labourers Rising efforts
10. Maintain surplus position of Union and its related Funds

Communities benefit from agreements

By Mark Olsen | President



THE FACTS ARE NOW IN. Whether you call them Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs) or Project Labour Agreements (PLAs) in B.C.; Manitoba Jobs Agreements (MJAs) in Manitoba; or whatever term the federal government decides to use for their projects of national interest, the evidence is clear and unequivocal. Government agreements

with the Building Trades Unions provide unmatched benefits to local workers, Indigenous people, women, apprentices and communities.

The BC Government has just released its report on CBAs in B.C. for 2024 and 2025 on its website (bit.ly/BCIBReport).

This report covers all 15 CBA projects in B.C., specifically the Cowichan District Hospital, Broadway Subway, BCIT Complex, Vancouver Community College, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project, Quartz Creek Bridge, R.W. Bruhn Bridge and numerous highway related Projects: Salmon Arm West, Selkirk, Kicking Horse Canyon, Jumping Creek, Chase West, Chase East, Ford Road to Tappen and the Illecillewaet.

Our Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer **Nav Malhotra**, working hard with other Building Trades Union business managers, expects to negotiate and sign additional PLAs with the provincial government.

Here are the BC Government statistics just released:

- 9.6 million work hours so far
- 5,819 tradespeople employed so far
- 86% of the workers hired live locally within 100 KM of the sites
- 96% of the workers are B.C. residents
- 4% of the workers come from the rest of Canada
- 0% temporary foreign workers
- 12% Indigenous workers (more than double the industry average)
- 7% female workers (double the industry average)
- 24% apprentices (more than double the industry average)
- 32% of apprentices have advanced one or more levels
- 100% of women paid the same rate as equally qualified men

We also understand that while there are 15 Building Trades Unions, our LiUNA Local 1611 represents the single largest proportion of workers with 31 per cent or three million reported hours so far.

There simply is no other way to achieve these results without an agreement with the Building Trades Unions.

This approach is now spreading across Canada. The NDP Government in Manitoba has just signed a Manitoba Jobs Agreement (MJA) on four new schools and will add additional projects shortly. The MJA will no doubt show the same excellent results.

Our focus across Western Canada now is to attain agreements with the federal Liberal government under Bill C-5, to apply the same type of agreement to the federal list of national interest projects. In fact, the preamble to Bill C-5 calls for “good-paying unionized jobs” on these projects. We will hold the government to this promise.

We will also be lobbying select municipalities to adopt this approach. What is good for senior government is good for them.

Even the private sector, on projects such as the former **Kitimat Modernization Project (KMP)**, **Canada LNG Phase I**, **CGL Pipeline** and many more, has recognized the value of PLAs for decades. They guarantee the qualified, available and highly skilled workers they need. A PLA also helps private owners gain social licence for their projects.

In closing, the facts are clear, for public and private projects, agreements with Building Trades Unions are of unmatched benefit.

Now let's Build Canada Together.

We wish the members the very best of health and happiness this holiday season. ■



Mark Olsen speaking at the Local 1611 Retiree Club banquet held in Terrace earlier this year.

Threads around both thumbs

A living tribute to Bruce Ferguson, past President of the Local 1611 Retiree Club

By Mark Olsen | *President*



IT IS MY DISTINCT HONOUR and pleasure to write a few words about my mentor, colleague and above all great friend, Bruce Ferguson.

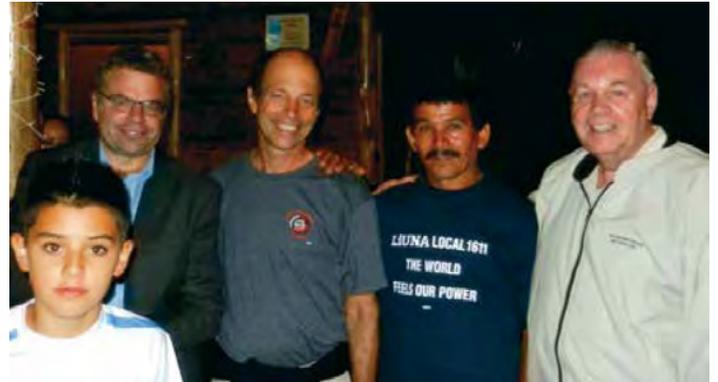
Bruce stepped down in June as the President of the Local 1611 Retiree Club celebrating its 25th anniversary and so it is an appropriate time and in fact long overdue that we commemorate Bruce.

Bruce's tenure with the former Tunnel and Rock Workers Local 168 and Local 1611 spans parts of six decades; he has been a member since January 1970; held four Executive Board positions in Locals 168 and 1611; was elected nine times to the Executive Board (never lost); and was the first President of Local 1611.

Bruce has handled and presented at over 2,000 general membership meetings, area and sector meetings and retiree meetings and events.

I would be remiss, however, if I did not mention an example Bruce would routinely mention at meetings to show the strength of members working together. He would say if you wrap one thread around your two thumbs, you can pull them apart. Yet if you wrap enough strands around your thumbs, you cannot pull them apart. No one can.

This was a powerful illustration of Bruce's point, if workers stick together there is no employer and no government that can pull us apart. This is the power of solidarity.



Bruce (right) with lawyer Charles Gordon (left), Joe Barrett and Felipe Zuniga in Costa Rica delivering cheques to the temporary foreign workers who worked on the Canada Line. Bruce led the charge to fight for the justice for the exploited workers, winning them about \$35,000 each in compensation.



Bruce (second from left) with lawyer Charles Gordon (left), Mario Rojas of the Costa Rican Labour Federation and worker David Noguera in Costa Rica.

You would have to write several books to cover all of Bruce's accomplishments on behalf of our membership, but here are a few examples:

- Bruce has been a proud member of the BC NDP for many decades and this has proven invaluable in his efforts to represent the membership.
- Bruce led a group of Building Trades business managers from Tunnel and Rock, the Operating Engineers and Teamsters, to lobby the BC NDP Government and then negotiate with BC Hydro in the early 1990s to **resurrect the dormant Allied Hydro Agreement** and add numerous new projects to the agreement. This directly led to over 30 years of work, mostly in the West Kootenays and now on Vancouver Island, and many members have had an entire

career in the Kootenays with good-paying union jobs and going home safe every night. Bruce is the reason this happened.

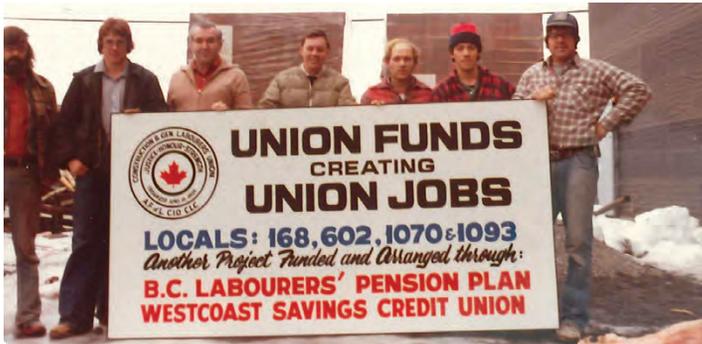
- Bruce also negotiated a **huge settlement for our Kanaf Security members** who worked at the fast ferry construction site in North Vancouver in the 1990s. Bruce proved that our members should have been covered by the provincial government's Fair Wage Policy, getting them a \$10 per hour-raise, fully retroactive. Our security members each received cheques, some as high as \$50,000.
- Local 1611 won the **largest Human Rights Award in Canadian history** – \$2.5 million in 2008 – on behalf of the Central and South American workers employed on the RAV Line (now the Canada Line) Tunnel Project in

Bruce is truly one-of-a-kind, who has been singularly driven to advocate for members rights and raise the living standards and respect for our membership around the province. His legacy is unmatched in the industry.

Now if you ask Bruce, he would say his biggest accomplishment, along with his wife Emma, is raising a son he is so proud of, Nathan Ferguson. Nathan worked as a Local 1611 Dispatcher, Service Representative, then its first Recruitment Officer, and is now working in our LIUNA Western Canada office as an International Representative, bringing his jurisdictional and



Bruce (right) and Manuel Alvernaz (left) visiting member J. Calisto at A&B Rail.



Bruce (centre) celebrating a project funded by the four LiUNA Locals that merged to form Local 1611.

Vancouver. As President of Local 1611, Bruce flew to Costa Rica to distribute the life-changing cheques to the 32 temporary foreign workers who had been ripped off. We now understand from these workers that the human rights award has changed the business practices of tunnel contractors on projects around the globe. It is ironic as Bruce also handed out T-shirts with the cheques that read "LIUNA Local 1611 – The World Feels Our Power."

- Bruce was the **architect of the merger** in July 1997 of former LIUNA Locals 168, 602, 1070 and 1093 to form Local 1611. Bruce was part of a provincial tour of leaders from the Locals, holding 40 area meetings and then separate secret ballot votes, which resulted in an over 80 per cent yes vote from each Local. Bruce also led the

regulatory expertise to Western Canada.

To close, Bruce changed the lives of our members for the better. Let's continue to honour Bruce by working together, wrapping more and more threads around our collective thumbs and showing our unbreakable solidarity.

We wish all members and their families the very best this holiday season. ■



Bruce receiving his lifetime membership in the BC NDP from former premier John Horgan in 2019.



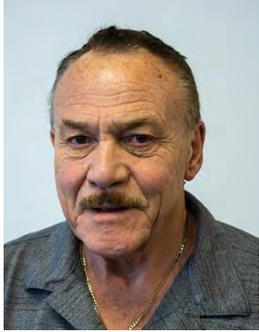
Bruce enjoying retirement at home in South Surrey.

merger of the Dock and Shipyard workers Local 1204 to join Local 1611 in 2010.

- And finally, Bruce was the **force behind the establishment of the Local 1611 Retiree Council**, now Retiree Club, which started in Local 1611 in 2000. At approximately 900 members, our Retiree Club remains one of the largest in LiUNA across North America.

BC's longest prestressed precast box girders built by members of Local 1611

By Manuel Alvernaz | *Special Representative*



WHAT IS 136 FEET LONG, six feet wide, four feet high, weighs 72 tonnes and was built by our members?

If you guessed the longest box girders in B.C. ever built in a precast plant, you would be correct!

Our members at **Con-Force Structures** have been extremely busy building precast and prestressed units

and are so proud to be part of the crew that is casting, building and transporting these units to three different project sites: the 264th Street and Highway 1 overpass project, the KLO Bridge Replacement in Kelowna and the eight stations of the Surrey Langley SkyTrain.

Delivering these very long units requires special transportation rigs with two drivers: one in the tractor in front and a second in the rear on the dolly tractor. These drivers are also our members, so we not only build and cast these units, we also deliver and erect them on some projects.

We wish **Con-Force** continued success bidding and securing these major government infrastructure projects.

Fred Thompson Contracting will end the year with at least 10 per cent more labour hours than its busiest last year doing hydro maintenance work and some new projects, which means

another fantastic year for our members earning great wages and benefits and a good pension.

Hyland Excavating is also busier than last year doing EV charging station and more utility/roadbuilding work, which means they, too, will have another successful year-end.

Berto Contractors is doing Telus work and utility work as a subcontractor, maintaining steady work for our members there.

Parkland is a little bit slower than previous years, except for **GDM Civil**, which has been busier than last year.

Now we are waiting for a larger shutdown than this year, starting next February and ending March 31, 2026. It will employ at least 80 to 90 of our members with **CIMS** and 30 to 40 with **GDM**.

A big thanks to all our Job Stewards for the great job they do representing our members on job sites.

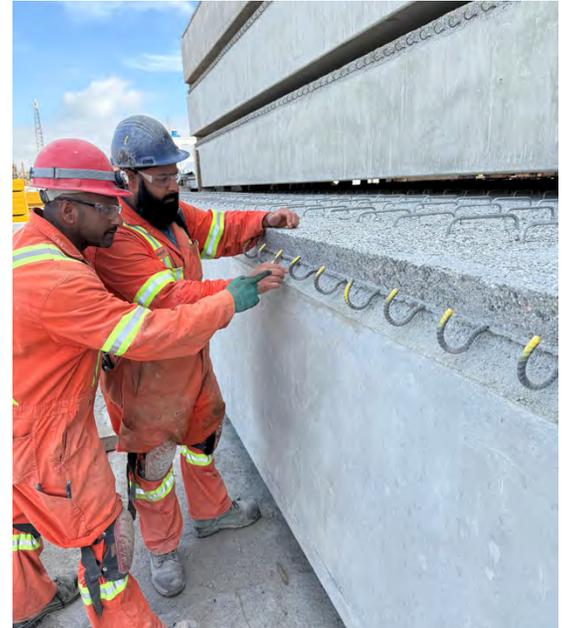
And finally, to all our members, please stay safe and healthy, and have a happy Christmas and prosperous new year. ■



The longest box girders in B.C. ever built in a precast plant.



Our members build, cast and deliver B.C.'s longest precast plant box girders.



LOWER MAINLAND

New agreements deliver for members

By Lisa Flesher | Service Representative



IT IS ONCE AGAIN TIME to look back and reflect on some of the highlights of the past year.

One of the biggest highlights was the re-election of our Executive Board, which has done a great job running your Union and will of course continue to do so.

The Infrastructure Group (TIG) ratified a new paving agreement. The agreement expired in March and the new agreement was ratified by the end of summer. TIG includes companies like **Amrize** (formerly Lafarge), **BA Blacktop**, **Grandview Blacktop**, **Jack Cewe** and **Winvan**.

Ansan Traffic and **Dinamac Holdings** have merged into **Universal Traffic 1611 Lower Mainland**. With Universal Traffic 1611, we had also come to an agreement and ratified it this past fall. During this time, Universal was able to secure their contract with BC Hydro for another two years. It was very challenging to achieve what we did with both these contracts considering our current economic uncertainty, but we reached what we believe are the best possible agreements. More importantly, we could not have achieved this without our Job Stewards who were part of the bargaining committees.

Congratulations to **Tangerine Traffic Control** for achieving COR (Certificate of Recognition) certification. For those unfamiliar with COR, it is a voluntary employer certification program that recognizes employers who go beyond the current legal requirements in the area of occupational health and safety.

As always, I like to finish off by thanking my Job Stewards for the time they volunteer. Being a Job Steward is a thankless job and I am fortunate to have some great stewards. Lastly, thank you to all of you for your hard work and making this Union as great as it is. Happy holidays and all the best in 2026. ■

Official Union of the BC Lions!

LIUNA LOCAL 1611 IS THE OFFICIAL UNION OF THE BC LIONS!

Local 1611 is not only the Official Union of the BC Lions, but a Presenting Partner of the Lions' annual Orange Shirt Day Game, held every September to honour survivors of Canada's horrific residential school system.

The partnership aligns with Local 1611's commitment to truth and reconciliation with Canada's Indigenous Peoples. "Truth and reconciliation is not about doing one specific thing or even 100 things – for us, it is an ongoing process of learning and developing relationships that are both meaningful and authentic with Indigenous Peoples," said Nav Malhotra, Local 1611's Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer. "The BC Lions Orange Shirt Day game is an example of this work and we are proud to partner with them."

Orange Shirt Day recognizes the story of Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation member Phyllis Webstad, whose family purchased an orange shirt for her to wear on her first day at the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School in Williams Lake, B.C., in 1973. Phyllis was stripped and her orange shirt was taken away; it was one of many indignities and acts

of abuse she suffered during her time there.

"Our partnership with the Lions allows us to use the rallying power of sport to bring attention to and learn about the legacy of the residential school system," adds Malhotra.

Being the Official Union of the BC Lions also raises Local 1611's profile during BC Lions games at the stadium, during TV and radio broadcasts and online.



Our BC Lions sponsorship includes support for the Orange Shirt Society. President Mark Olsen is pictured second from right.

Member, 18, works and helps sister pay for Law School

By Mike Berg | Service Representative



A NUMBER OF VERY important people gave speeches during the Grand Opening of our new Training and Resource Centre in Chilliwack in October.

But for me, it was 18-year-old **Kairos Donguines** who stole the show.

“They trained me in four weeks and gave me a job right away,” Kairos told the crowd gathered at the facility.

“Why can’t high school be as efficient?”

Kairos shared his story about being a LiUNA apprentice trainee. He compared LiUNA to a traditional university degree, noting that the latter would come with a \$15,000 debt at the end and a message of good luck. In contrast, he came away from his level one training with a job, plus, a wage that allows him to

support his sister as she goes to Law School.

Well done, Kairos!

Kairos is a beneficiary of Local 1611 securing a trainee classification on the Highway 1 and Surrey Langley SkyTrain PLA projects, reaching an agreement with Construction Labour Relations (CLR) that allows new workers to get experience on these two jobs combined with in-class training with our Training PLUS (Professional Labourers’ Union School).

To date, **RDLC** (Rizzani de Eccher, Dragados Canada, Ledcor and Con-Force Structures) has dispatched 18 trainees to Surrey Langley SkyTrain. The trainees are part of our Surrey Schools partnership, initiated by Training PLUS Administrator Tom Miller in 2023. There are also trainees on site that we connected with during a job fair in Langley last spring, along with some Local 1611 members transitioning from working in our service sector to working in our construction sector. Members will reach full rate after 4,000 hours. ■



Kairos Donguines shared the stage at the grand opening of our new training school with Premier David Eby.

Leadership and advocacy are key qualities of our Job Stewards

By Bryon Hill | Service Representative



I WANT TO TAKE THIS opportunity to recognize our Union Job Stewards.

We're proud to highlight the incredible growth and commitment shown by our Union Job Stewards working in our service sector. Over the last year, we've watched them step into their roles with more confidence, strength and dedication

than ever. They've taken on challenges head on, learned through experience, and shown real leadership in representing their co-workers, and making real impacts in our workplace.

Our stewards continue to deepen their knowledge of the collective agreement while strengthening their commitment to advocate for job fairness and solidarity. They've grown not just

in their knowledge of the collective agreement, but also in how they advocate, support and stand up for others. This kind of growth doesn't happen by accident. This growth comes from courage, passion and the belief that standing together matters in what we're building together.

I want to give a big thank you to **Ivan C., Barry D., Bailey T., Doug H., Martyn P., Sam R., Jon V., and Jeremy M.**, along with every steward representing Local 1611 members. Each of you has brought something unique and valuable to the team and your efforts don't go unnoticed; we are truly proud of the work you've done and the leaders you're becoming. You are proof that when people are supported and given the opportunity, they rise and they lead.

Thank you for your support and solidarity. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

Leading by example helps those who are learning

By Jesse Saunders | Service Representative



FIRST OFF, TO OUR members and families, I'd like to congratulate you on completing the final months of another year with LiUNA Local 1611. A special thank you to all of my Job Stewards, who provide a helping hand on the job sites when it comes to safety and civility. While 2025 came with its ups and downs, I'm happy to say that we anticipate the year ahead

will bring more work and opportunities to build your pension and provide for your families.

I've written before about those who are struggling to cope with the pressures of life and feeling helpless at times. The fact to keep in mind is that there is always someone to talk to within your local, starting with me. Now I'd like to pay tribute to the ones who love their jobs and work every day with a smile. It's because of you that others find coming to work less stressful and more comforting. If you're a foreperson or a lead hand who loves your career, having a positive outlook at work helps those

who are learning feel more confident in performing their tasks. Keep leading by example.

The cold weather ahead always brings tough working conditions in B.C., so be prepared, stay safe and finish the year off strong.

Lastly, it's an honour to have you all working hard on our job sites as proud union members building our province. ■



Jonathan K. works on the Eagle Mountain Woodfibre Gas Pipeline Project, a joint venture between Frontier-Kemper and Michels.

Struggle, strength & playing Santa

Service Representative Greg Letkeman turned his life around, with help from Local 1611

By Corry Anderson-Fennell | *Director of Communications / Political Liaison*

GROWING UP POOR, Greg Letkeman knew not to expect a lot for Christmas.

As kids, he and his older brother were accustomed to modest gifts, like something homemade from their grandmother and small, inexpensive trinkets their parents picked up at a discount store. But the gifts they anticipated the most – and could barely contain their excitement over – were from the Abbotsford Christmas Bureau.

“There were haves and have-nots, and we were have-nots,” remembers Letkeman. “We understood our family situation. My parents did the best they could with the resources they had.”

Letkeman’s dad worked as a roofer, among other things, until a tar pot exploded in his face on the jobsite. Back then, disability and employment insurance were not what they are today; Letkeman’s family survived primarily on government assistance for most of his childhood. In between part-time jobs, Letkeman’s mom did her best to keep the home while trying to earn a very modest paycheque. Letkeman recalls grocery shopping with his mom as she punched the cost of every item into a handheld calculator to ensure she stayed

within the family’s strict food budget.

Now a Service Representative for Local 1611, Letkeman is part of the team that does the shopping for Local 1611’s annual contribution to the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau. Looking back, Letkeman calls it his “full circle moment.” The assignment is far outside his regular work providing union representation to Local 1611’s rail sector workers and security guards. However, there is no one better suited for the task. “I try to put myself in the shoes of these children on Christmas morning, and I imagine them opening a special gift that their family probably could not afford and that they never thought they would get but wanted just the same.”

Letkeman’s journey from Christmas Bureau client to donor is no Disney movie. Letkeman fell into drug use not long after high school and it consumed most aspects of his life for the better part of eight years. After nearly a decade on the wrong path, in 2010, he decided to make a change.

“I started to live my own life on my own terms.”

Letkeman got a job in the kitchen at his local Red Robin, making the restaurant chain’s trademark “Smiling Burger”



Greg Letkeman getting into the spirit with firefighters during the Pan Pacific Toy Drive in support of the Lower Mainland Christmas Bureau. Local 1611 has donated \$20,000 and a truckload of toys to the Christmas Bureau every year since 2022.



Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra (centre) with “Santa Greg” and the Toy Drive’s regular Santa.

better than anyone else at the restaurant, and moved into a tiny basement suite in east Abbotsford with only his clothes, a mattress and his grandmother's dresser for furniture.

"I started to put my life back together from zero. I would spend every moment I could working at the restaurant," says Letkeman.

Around Christmas that year, he started working at BC Liquor Stores as a seasonal clerk for the busy holiday season, then stayed on as an auxiliary clerk after the new year. He then joined the BC Government Employees' Union, now known as the BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU). It was Letkeman's first experience being part of a union and really understanding the benefit of having an entire organization of workers behind him.

At the same time, a few of Letkeman's friends were working at PNR RailWorks and encouraged him to come on board. He was hesitant at first but watched his friends make advances he could only dream of in his current position.

"I saw them progress, I saw them make more and more money and get good benefits," says Letkeman. "I was working

toward those things at BC Liquor Stores, but progress was very slow."

Letkeman joined PNR in early 2012 and the rest is pretty much history. He eventually became a Job Steward and joined the bargaining committee working on a new collective agreement. Current Local 1611 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra was the Service Representative for PNR at the time, and observed Letkeman's character at the bargaining table, which ultimately led to a strong new collective agreement.

Letkeman was eventually hired as a dispatcher for Local 1611, moving on to Service Representative in 2023.

"When I settled into my work here, it felt like home, I felt like I finally belonged and became part of this family."

So grateful for the opportunity Local 1611 gave him, Letkeman tattooed "CSWU 1611" on his knuckles. CSWU is the acronym for Construction & Specialized Workers' Union, which is LiUNA Local 1611's legal name.

"This union had made a lasting impression on my life, and I wanted to commemorate that." ■

LOWER MAINLAND

Can you spare something for those less fortunate?

By Greg Letkeman | Recruitment Officer/Service Representative



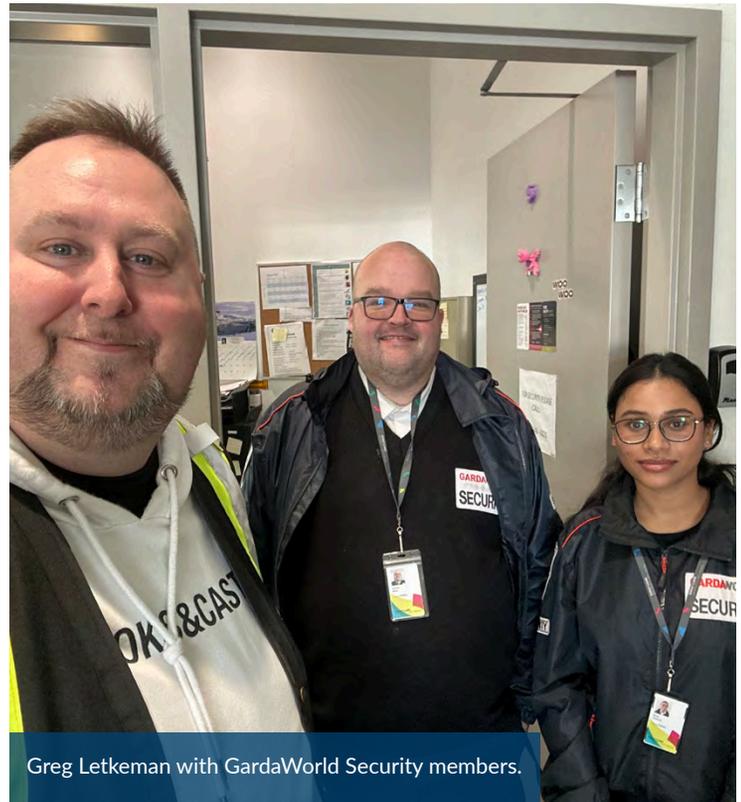
BLESSINGS TO YOU and your families this holiday season. And when it comes to blessings, Brothers and Sisters, it's good to remember that some folks in our communities are less blessed than others.

While many of us have a warm home and a fridge full of food and drink, there are people out there who often have to make a choice between

rent and groceries.

Having grown up in a family of lesser means than most, my family relied on resources made available to the public from either the government or other charitable organizations. It was a regular annual tradition for us to get a Christmas hamper of food from our church, and gifts from the Fraser Valley Christmas Bureau.

This holiday season, I implore you to give a little of yourselves in some capacity, to help out those less fortunate. If you can afford to donate something to your local food bank or other resource, every donation goes a long way. Whether it be a simple food donation, a gift, or a small monetary gesture, it will make a difference to a lot of people.



Greg Letkeman with GardaWorld Security members.

If your situation prevents you from sharing what you have, please consider sharing your time because even a couple hours volunteering at a community-driven program gives those resources so much more reach into the community.

It is on all of us in society to help make the world a better place for everyone. What greater time to start than during the most charitable time of the year. Happy holidays to one and all. ■

Positive feedback to benefit plan

By Brady Carter | Service Representative



GREETINGS, Brothers, Sisters and friends!

This year has seen some major changes at **Victoria Shipyards**. We shifted our benefit plan over to our LiUNA plan during the chaos of the DA Townley shutdown. The reception has been positive but I have had a few members approach with excluded medications or concerns. Please send

me something in writing (bcarter@liuna1611.org) if something comes up or reach out directly to Plan Administrator Aleks Samardzija (asamardzija@liuna1611.org) and we'll try to address

your circumstance.

The Boilermakers entered early bargaining with **Seaspan** this summer, which has continued until now. When I have something concrete to offer you, I will be communicating as much as possible. Until then, I want to avoid speculation. Either way, we are working to get you a solid agreement to vote on as soon as possible.

We will also be starting the bargaining process with **Island Asphalt**. If you haven't received feedback requests by the time you read this, you should soon! We already have dates booked in early January and I look forward to hearing your ideas.

Thank you to all our members for your hard work in 2025, and all the best to you and your families in 2026. ■

Bargaining: what unions do best

By Shelley Moore | Service Representative



THIS YEAR, ALL OF THE members I represent have had their contracts expire.

It doesn't matter whether you work in traffic control, social service programs, long-term care or an industrial plant such as **Cascades Recovery**, it is an important role of the Union to negotiate new agreements with wage increases and benefits.

When it is time to negotiate, your bargaining committee is focused on achieving equitable wages and improvements to working conditions. The steps of negotiation are defined and follow a plan.

The first step is to determine bargaining priorities. We rely on member input for this. We then head to the table and bring forward your priorities, identify issues, challenges and interests and seek an agreement.

If there is an impasse, we also have a plan, which includes job action if needed. A strike vote might be taken and plans for a picket line are determined.

If we reach an agreement with the employer at the bargaining

table, we plan for a ratification vote by members. A majority vote in favour means the agreement is ratified. If the agreement is rejected, the bargaining committee goes back to the table and further negotiation.

At the time of writing this article in October, bargaining was ongoing. It would be a nice gift from Santa and his unionized elves if those agreements were reached, ratified and doing what they are supposed to: improve your worksites, provide a means to problem-solve, allow you more affordability at the grocery store and enable your family to lead a healthy life with good benefits.

Take care and I wish all members and their families the best for the new year. ■



Recreation aides Tsubomi and Nicole help residents at Sandringham Care Centre stay active.

When a wish is more than a wish

By Corry Anderson-Fennell | Director of Communications / Political Liaison

IF YOU ASK 17-YEAR-OLD Jackson Dosen what occupied his mind for six solid months last year, it wasn't the life-altering cancer diagnosis he had been given.

Instead, he spent most of his waking moments – including those spent in doctor's offices getting chemotherapy – thinking about the special wish he was granted by Make-A-Wish Canada and that was sponsored by Local 1611.

And that is the power of a wish.

"It gave him something to focus on when everything felt out of control," remembers Jackson's mom, Krista. "Whenever things got tough, he'd pull out his phone and show me the different options he was considering. A wish is so much more than a vacation – it's a hope for a better tomorrow."

Every year, Local 1611 supports the community by asking members to nominate charities and non-profits to receive financial support. Make-A-Wish was nominated for the essential work it does to help families of children with critical illnesses.

"As a parent, there is nothing I want more than for my kids to be healthy and happy," says Local 1611 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra. "Our hearts go out to any family facing the uncertainty and powerlessness that accompany having a sick child. We are privileged – because of our members – to be in a position that allows us to help in a small way."

After months of eager anticipation and planning, Jackson's

week-long trip to the Sunshine State last October was everything he imagined it would be – an escape to a worry-free respite where you don't have to wait in line for the amusement park rides and you're encouraged to eat ice cream for breakfast.

It made the teenager forget all about that terrible day three years earlier when he was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of cancer that attacks the lymphatic system. He was sitting in his doctor's office with his parents, barely absorbing what he was being told about the agonizing treatments and recovery that lay ahead. But one thing did get the then 14-year-old's attention.

"At the end of the appointment, Dr. Rod goes, 'One more thing, Jackson – you get a wish,'" recalls Krista.

And that was exactly the distraction Jackson needed to get through it all.

"He didn't know what oncology meant, which was a blessing. He didn't have any questions about his treatment. He just wanted to talk about his wish."

Jackson's medical appointments were usually hours long, and he spent most of that time researching his wish. Did he want a dog? Did he want to meet a celebrity? If he selected a trip, where would he go? The options were almost unlimited. Jackson chose Disneyworld and it did not disappoint.

They stayed at the Give Kids the World Village outside Orlando, where everything kids dream of actually happens: pizza on demand, ice cream for breakfast, and instant access to the rides at Disneyworld and two Universal theme parks. On one ride, Jackson skipped a 3.5-hour lineup to ride nine times in a row. They also went to Gatorland and the Kennedy Space Center.

And the whole time, for seven solid days, no one asked Jackson a single question about his cancer.

"It was absolutely incredible," said Krista.

Christie Buono is the director of Make-A-Wish Canada's B.C. and Yukon chapter. She notes that according to research, wishes help improve health outcomes, making them not merely a "nice to have" but a "need to have" for psychological and emotional healing when a child is facing a critical illness.

"A wish isn't just a fleeting moment of joy – it's a powerful, transformative part of a child's medical journey," says Buono. "It fuels resilience, restores hope, and reminds families they're not alone."

As for Jackson, he's healthy with a bright future ahead.

Wishes do come true.

For more information about Make-A-Wish, visit makeawish.ca.



Jackson Dosen (second from right) with his family on their way to Disney World with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants life-changing wishes to children with critical illnesses. The wish was made possible by LiUNA Local 1611's charitable support of the foundation.

Revelstoke Dam Unit 6 gets green light

By Steve Hecoeks | Service Representative



GOOD NEWS FOR MEMBERS in the Revelstoke and Kootenay areas: **Unit 6** of the **Revelstoke Generating Station** will start construction in the spring of 2026. It will boost local spending on goods and services by an estimated \$60M and create 450-plus person-years of temporary employment. There is also the possibility of a capacitor station being

built near Summerland.

The construction of Unit 6 will add 500 megawatts of generating capacity to BC Hydro's system to help support electrification, meet peak demand, and support the addition of renewable energy sources. Construction will start with left bank rock fall and a new permanent warehouse next to the existing warehouse.

Some key components: a sixth steel penstock on the face of the dam, a generator transformer, switch gear, and ancillary mechanical and electrical equipment in the existing powerhouse.

The aim is to have it operational in 2032, which is six-plus years of employment for our members. There will be another open house in the early spring that will provide much more information on the project.

I want to thank all our contractors and all our members for what they do on a daily basis. I also want to thank all our Job Stewards for ensuring all members get fair representation.

I am honoured to be your Service Representative and Vice-President of our Local. My door is always open.

Wishing everyone time with family and friends this season, and a healthy and prosperous new year. . ■



Members at work with R.B. Somerville at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

2026



JAN. 22
FEB. 26
MARCH 26
APRIL 23
MAY 28
JUNE 25
JULY NO MEETING
AUG. NO MEETING
SEPT. 24
OCT. 22
NOV. 26
DEC. 17



TIME
6:00 PM



HEAD OFFICE
19092-26TH AVE.
SURREY BC

NORTHWEST

Local 1611 members worked more than 4 million hours at LNG Canada Project

By Jordan Heal | Service Representative



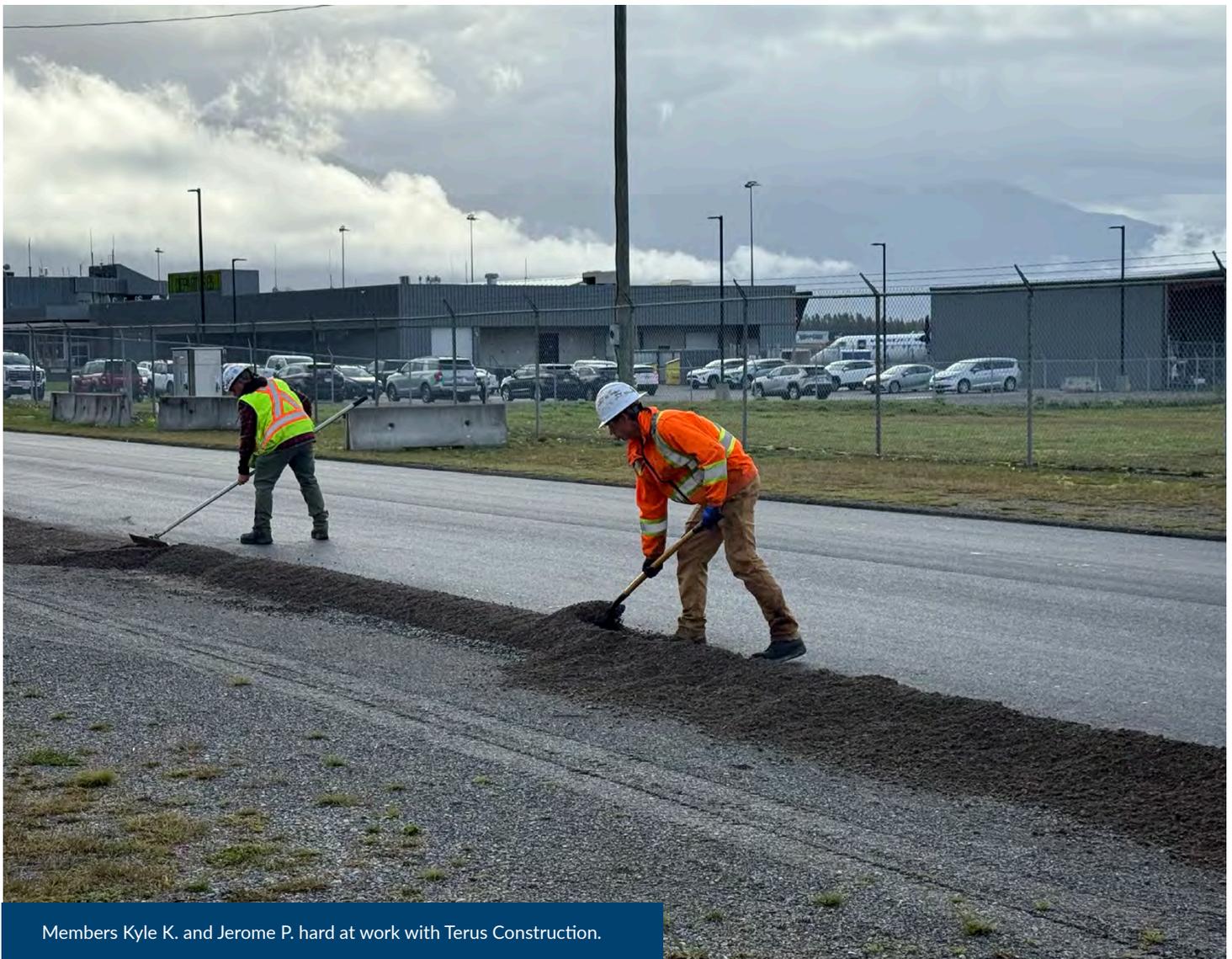
AS THE YEAR COMES to an end, so does the construction of Phase 1 of the **LNG Canada Project**, which remains the single largest private investment in Canadian history.

Local 1611 members have been a part of this amazing project since the spring of 2019. Local 1611 has dispatched 2,705 members to the site, and these members poured 240,000 m3 of concrete, placed 60,000 tonnes

of asphalt, and worked more than four million hours.

I would like to thank all the members who were a part of this project for the past nearly seven years. Every time I was on the site, the feedback I received from all the companies was always positive. The companies had nothing but great things to say about the work Local 1611 members do.

With the slower winter months coming up, I encourage members to take advantage of the Training Plan. Members can sign up for virtual training or look on our website on details about the BC Travel Reimbursement Incentive Program (BC TRIP). ■

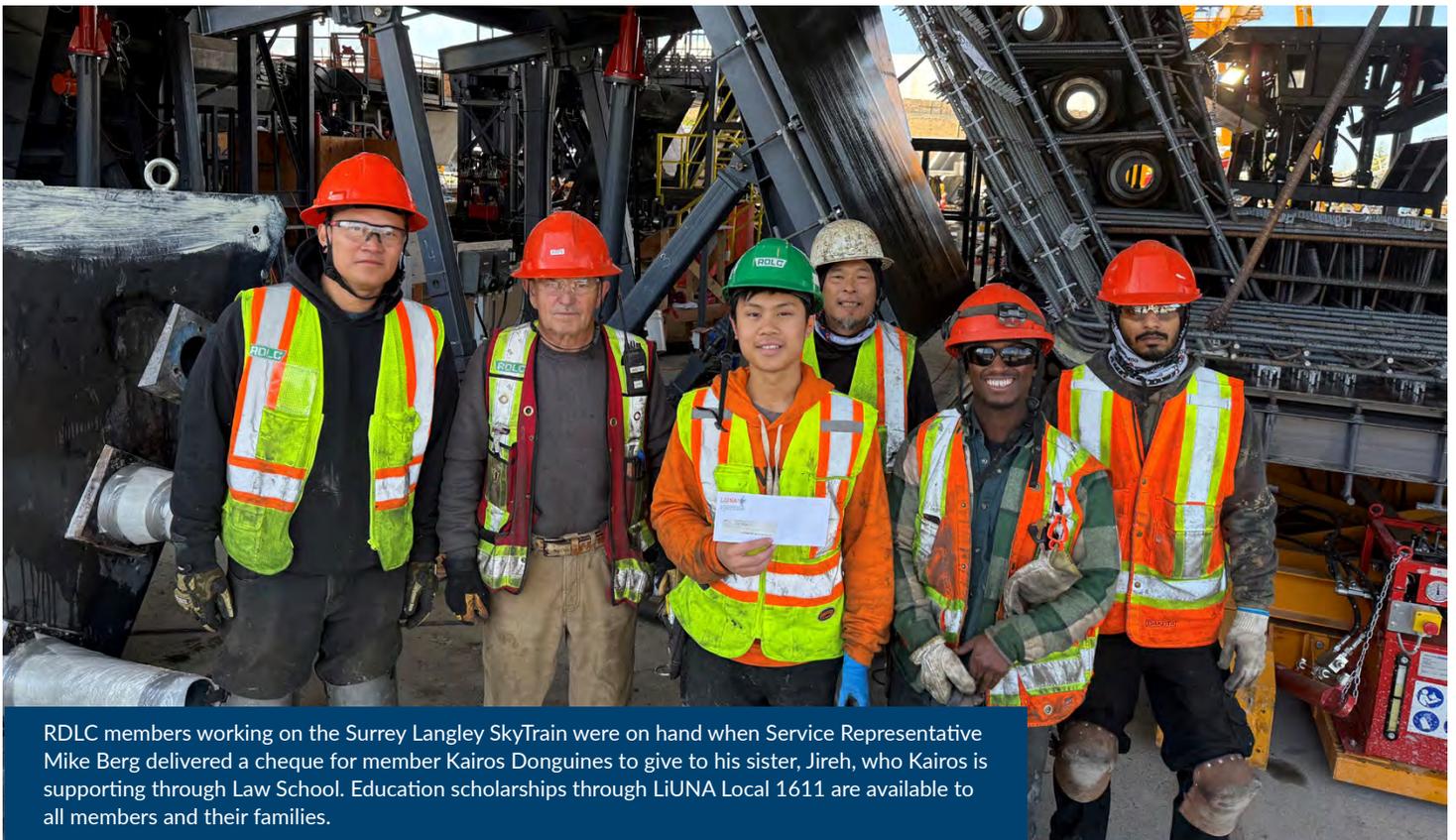


Members Kyle K. and Jerome P. hard at work with Terus Construction.

Education scholarships ease financial burden

LOCAL 1611 MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES are eligible for financial assistance to offset the cost of their education. Education awards are provided by the Labourers' Union Charity Foundation (LUC Foundation), which awarded \$100,000 this year. Congratulations to the following recipients:

- | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| ■ Aaron W. | ■ Gaganpreet B. | ■ Jireh D. | ■ Mark L. | ■ Tallulah A. |
| ■ Alyssa H. | ■ Gavin L. | ■ Jiyeon L. | ■ Merck M. | ■ Tarnpreet D. |
| ■ Amelia A. | ■ Genevieve G. | ■ Joseph B. | ■ Mery M. | ■ Thomas O. |
| ■ Andrea R. | ■ Hannah O. | ■ Julia B. | ■ Monique S. | ■ Trevor B. |
| ■ Andrew N. | ■ Hannah R. | ■ Kassandra B. | ■ Myah K. | ■ Trey L. |
| ■ Brooke L. | ■ Heidi H. | ■ Lana P. | ■ Navdeep B. | ■ Yuvraj S. |
| ■ Clarice T. | ■ Imran A. | ■ Lily L. | ■ Richelle R. | ■ Zander M. |
| ■ Cristiano B. | ■ Ishai M. | ■ Marcus F. | ■ Sam A. | |
| ■ Danielle D. | ■ Jackie G. | ■ Marcus G. | ■ Samuel L. | |
| ■ Faith N. | ■ Jessica S. | ■ Marcus K. | ■ Tajveer B. | |



RDLC members working on the Surrey Langley SkyTrain were on hand when Service Representative Mike Berg delivered a cheque for member Kairos Donguines to give to his sister, Jireh, who Kairos is supporting through Law School. Education scholarships through LiUNA Local 1611 are available to all members and their families.

The doctor is in!

Local 1611 education scholarships help members' daughter pursue medical school

EVERY YEAR, LOCAL 1611 awards thousands of dollars in educational scholarships to our members and their families. Members and married couple Jasvir and Manjit Sandhu's daughter Monique is one of the recipients. Jasvir shares Monique's educational journey:

When did Monique win her first LiUNA scholarship? Do you remember what she was studying at the time?

Monique was awarded her first LiUNA scholarship in September 2017, as she was preparing to begin her first year of her Bachelor of Science program at the University of British Columbia. She went on to complete her degree in UBC's Integrated Sciences program, where she focused her curriculum on the disciplines of genetics and nutrition, and the applications of those to human health and well-being.

Can you tell me about Monique's educational journey?

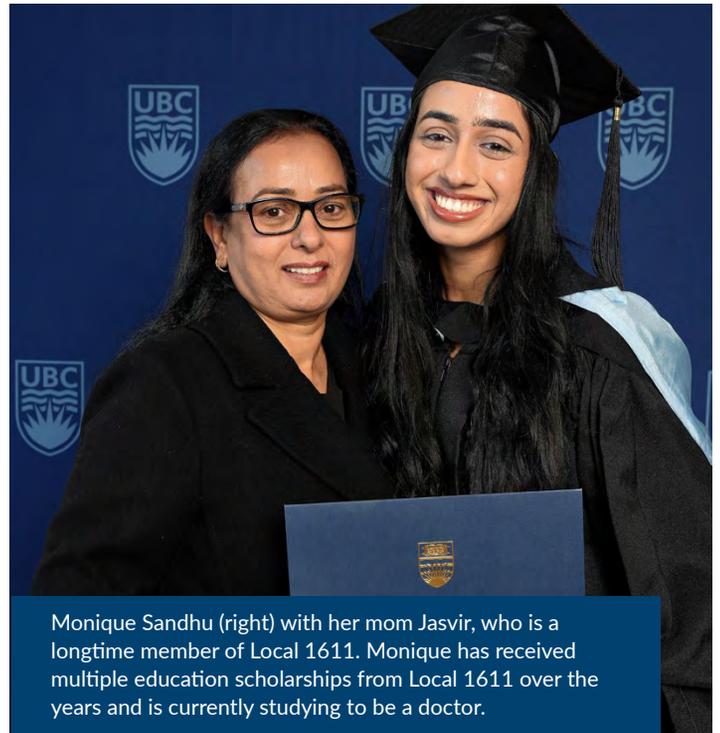
Following her BSc, Monique pursued a Master of Science in Experimental Medicine at UBC. For her master's research, she worked with young people who used substances and accessed health care services in British Columbia, and she wrote and defended her thesis on this work. Her passion for improving the health care landscape in B.C. and helping others led her to apply to medical school, and she officially started her studies at UBC's Faculty of Medicine this past August.

When she was a little girl, did you think this would be her path?

Even as a little girl, she always had a proclivity towards helping people and a natural curiosity about the world around her. She was a thoughtful and kind child who was always asking questions and loved to learn, so we are not surprised that she has found her path in medicine.

What kind of doctor does Monique want to be?

Monique is quite interested in oncology. She has always been deeply moved by the stories of those affected by cancer, and she wants to provide hope and support to patients and their families during what can be one of the most challenging times of their lives. She is also fascinated by the constant evolution of cancer research and treatments and is driven by the opportunity to contribute to a field that is always on the cusp of new breakthroughs.



Monique Sandhu (right) with her mom Jasvir, who is a longtime member of Local 1611. Monique has received multiple education scholarships from Local 1611 over the years and is currently studying to be a doctor.

When Monique finishes Medical School, where does she want to work?

Monique hopes to work in a cancer centre or a hospital in British Columbia with a strong oncology program. Given that B.C. has an aging population, the need for oncology services is growing more than ever. She wants to be on the forefront of providing care in a community where it's deeply needed. She is particularly interested in a setting that combines clinical practice with research, as she wants to contribute to the advancement of new therapies and improve patient outcomes for those affected by cancer.

What difference did the scholarships Monique was awarded from LiUNA make? How important were they?

The scholarships from LiUNA were incredibly helpful to Monique's educational journey. She feels that the scholarships made her feel recognized for her work and inspired her to continue to do well in her studies. The funds from the scholarships also reduced her financial burden and enabled her to focus on her education and research rather than worrying about finances.

And finally, how did you become a Labourer?

My husband and I began our careers with a company called Cowie Building Maintenance. The owner, Lloyd Cowie, offered us the opportunity to provide custodial services for the 1611 Head Office, and we started that work in November 2002. We then joined the union in 2007. This has been a rewarding career for us and joining the union has provided a stable and fulfilling life for our family.

NORTHEAST

Coastal GasLink is source of B.C. pride

By Roger Bennett | Service Representative



SEASON'S GREETINGS. 2025 ushered in the completion of a few major project milestones in the Northeast. Our members worked on projects that made the news around the world and we should all be proud to be in a union with such diversified job opportunities. One project in particular was the **Coastal GasLink**

(CGL) Pipeline. As the first major pipeline to deliver gas to a fully operational LNG plant in B.C., the **CGL Pipeline** put B.C. on the map.

These large projects bring new direct and indirect jobs in all

communities along the corridors. A good example is the **Coastal GasLink Project** alone, which added 20,000 direct and indirect jobs for five years. Living in Prince George during the projects, I've seen home values increase by at least 50 per cent and city improvements by at least 100 per cent. Indigenous communities signed benefit agreements and with additional funding comes the ability to train Indigenous members for future job opportunities surrounding their communities.

With the B.C. and federal governments fast-tracking new projects, two more pipeline projects should come our way again starting in 2026 for the environmental work and 2027 for the pipeline project construction. We are aware that our signatory companies are bidding on these projects and hopeful our new year will be a prosperous start to another construction boom. ■

NORTHEAST

Members building, serving, protecting and caring for communities

By Chris Mansel | Service Representative



AS WINTER ARRIVES in Northeastern B.C., we thank you for another strong season. From Prince George to Fort St. John and everywhere in between, your work continues to support our communities and show the strength of LiUNA Local 1611.

The final phase is still under way at Site C. **AFDE** is pushing ahead and every member on site is helping move this

major project to completion. **Voith Hydro** has installed the turbines and is now focused on the fine details. **Mitchell Installations** is still going strong. I want to thank every member who worked on this dam; it was a huge project, and it wouldn't have been completed without your hard work.

In Prince George, **Pullman** (formerly Vector Restorations) finished a key project at the Coast Hotel this summer. The company continues to grow here in PG, which is great for the membership. **Garda Security** remains essential in Fort St. John, maintaining site safety, while **AXIS** keeps providing steady care and

support across the region.

As things slow down for the big freeze in the north, it's a good time to get involved in your community. I would love to hear from the membership in the Northeast to see how your Union and I, the northeastern rep, can get more involved. This Union is built and continues to thrive with the support of its members. Please send me an email at cmansel@liuna1611.org with your ideas on how to make LiUNA a major presence in the northern communities. ■



Members Gourav and Darryl, who work for GardaWorld, provide security services at the North Peace Regional Airport.

Trades training gives us an edge

Tom Miller | Training PLUS Administrator

Fred Webber, Alan Hanschke, Andy Smith, Tara Hadd, Ryan Nelson and Ben Smith | Instructors



TRADES TRAINING IS CRUCIAL for developing a skilled workforce that meets the demands of industry, contractors, government and members alike. By equipping individuals with practical skills and knowledge, trades training not only increases employment opportunities, but also helps to keep ourselves a cut above the non-union sector. Enabling our members to stay trained and safe will help to build and maintain the infrastructure across B.C. that our province so desperately needs.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the new Training PLUS training facility to help meet these various demands. Opened in October 2025, this school aims to address the growing demand for skilled labour while providing high-quality education and training for our present and future trades professionals. Our new 8,000 square-foot facility on 2.5 acres will allow us to do the following for our members:

- Develop skills. Training PLUS training equips members with specific and practical skills that are in high demand in the construction industry.
- Provide career opportunities. Training PLUS provides training that assists our members with gaining and maintaining employment across multiple sectors.

- Address skills gaps. Many members and potential members have significant skills gaps that lead to a shortage of qualified workers.
- Provide lifelong learning opportunities. Even for our qualified CCW journeymen, the learning never stops. Emerging technologies and constantly evolving protocols and regulations mean our members need to stay committed to continuous learning to remain competitive.

This new facility truly is the dawning of a new day for our entire membership. After a three-year search and a large-scale improvement to the property and facility, we are ready to start ushering in a wave of tomorrow. A wave of new apprentices, a wave of building out our operation, and a wave of building a workforce that truly sets our members above the competition.

This new facility isn't just a training centre; it is the physical embodiment of the next generation's workforce. This is a milestone that we should be excited about. LiUNA 1611 members, feel our collective pride and FEEL THE POWER!

See photos of the grand opening of the new training centre on the next two pages. ■



Tom Miller speaking at the grand opening of the new training centre.

Grand Opening of the new LiUNA Local 1611 Training & Resource Centre

Premier David Eby, BC Building Trades executive director Brynn Bourke, BC Federation of Labour president Sussanne Skidmore and many others attended the grand opening of our new joint Training & Resource Centre in Chilliwack on Oct. 4. The event included a speeches, a special ribbon-cutting ceremony, tours and interactive displays. A special event for members will be held in the spring or summer of 2026. Photos by Brian Howell





Olivia Weaver, Construction Craft Worker

By Corry Anderson-Fennell | *Director of Communications / Political Liaison*

OLIVIA WEAVER'S RESUMÉ is so packed with experience across the construction, environmental management and transportation sectors that it's hard to believe she's only 29.

Growing up in Vanderhoof, Weaver belongs to the Lake Babine Nation, which is the third largest Aboriginal band in British Columbia, located more than 230 kilometres west of Prince George.

Weaver has certifications in the transportation of dangerous goods, pipeline construction safety, WHMIS, fall protection, confined space entry and first aid – all gained through the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association's partnerships with training providers, including Training PLUS (Professional Labourers' Union School) of Local 1611. Weaver credits PGNAETA for the wraparound supports she received during her many certifications.

"They make sure you're grasping what you're being taught and they have the resources to help you."

Weaver put her many skills to use on the Coastal GasLink pipeline, where her work with SA Energy Group included recording and reporting erosion and sediment control, coordinating the alternate actions of crews doing ground disturbance, repairing bridges, managing and monitoring water pumps at water courses and in sensitive environmental areas, and returning right-aways to their natural forms in accordance with government-approved plans.

Safety is paramount on the pipeline, and Weaver, whose safety tailgates were a hallmark of her work, is relentless about it on every job site. She constantly checks in on other workers to ensure they are working safely; she makes sure they understand

the safety practices that are required of them, and she patiently addresses language barriers if any exist.

"Starting with the pipeline, I was the safety orientation, and so much so that I was annoying," she laughs.



The pipeline was mechanically completed in November 2023 and is anticipated to deliver 2.1 million cubic feet/day of natural gas. The end of the project gave Weaver an opportunity to focus on her next challenge: achieving her Red Seal certification as a Construction Craft Worker. She finished her first year in 2024, then relocated to New Brunswick for work. Weaver returned to Vanderhoof for her second year and passed the Interprovincial Exam in April to become a bonafide Construction Craft Worker Red Seal journey person.

Her travel and accommodation were covered through the Training PLUS BC Travel Reimbursement Incentive Program (BC TRIP).

With a Red Seal in her pocket and more than 12 years' experience, Weaver is excited about her next chapter. She lists giving back to her Lake Babine community among her first priorities.

"I want to be more involved for younger generations. I want them to know that if you keep your head up and stay positive, you have the ability to do anything."

She adds: "I want to give back to those that raised me and continue to teach younger generations they have much strength in them from our ancestors."

Weaver also has a message for anyone struggling with mainstream school.

"It might not be for you, but there are other options." ■

Be proud of the work you've done to build B.C.

Eddie Foong, Kyle Barry and Callum Barker | Dispatchers



FROM THE START of this year to the fall, we had a nice run of new projects, including pipeline work with **Michels Canada** in Fort St John and the Surrey Langley SkyTrain Project (with RDLC, the joint-venture comprising **Rizzani, Dragados, Ledcor** and **Con-Force Structures Ltd.** As winter begins, work is expected to slow down, and likely a longer winter, as predicted by "Punxsutawney Phil" and the Farmer's Almanac, which means there may be lots of snow removal work.

Simon Fraser University in Burnaby will need our members to enlist for their seasonal snow removal callouts during snow

days or nights. If you are physically fit and have a reliable vehicle to manoeuvre snow, going uphill and downhill, you may email your name and phone number to dispatch@liuna1611.org. Please write Days, Nights or Both as your preferred shifts in the subject line of the email and we will submit your request to SFU. Please be mindful that this is not a Dispatch but a request from SFU.

Members are also reminded to provide an updated resumé and any third-party tickets for us to update on file. This will ensure that our system can capture every eligible opportunity for you, thoroughly.

There has been talk of **LNG Kitimat Phase Two** and the **T-South Enbridge Pipeline Project**, which we hope to hear more of, come next year. Stay tuned.

At a quick glance, we have completed 1,774 dispatches from January until the end of August 2025, and about 1,673 dispatches for the same period last year, which is a six per cent jump. We are looking forward to an upward trend for work opportunities, for all our members and we will see you next season.

Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and safe holidays with your family and loved ones. ■

Friends don't let friends join CLAC

Keith Murdoch | Lead Organizer

Oscar Sanchez, Oscar Pena and Anegus Williams | Organizer



THE GROWTH OF OUR Union provides members with the power and resources to improve their lives. This year, your Organizing team has been focused on growing our union in core sectors such as construction, landscaping, security, traffic control and health care. We have also been holding rat unions, such as the Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) and the Canadian Iron, Steel & Industrial Workers Union (CISIWU) accountable and are pleased to report a successful raid at **Sunny Green Environmental**, a hydrovac company, where a majority of the workers voted to leave CISIWU and join our union!

It's been another great year, as we have exceeded our organizing target of unionizing 17 new companies a year. Our Union's success was made possible in part by the BC NDP's improvement to the Labour Code, which aided three successful worker-led (bottom-up) organizing drives. We would also like to thank our Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra for his dedication to our Union and its continued growth.

The best gift you can give this holiday season is a pathway to union membership. With the Membership Incentive Program (MIP), you could also earn some extra money during this expensive time of year. MIP is all about unionizing new workplaces and finding workers to help us do that; we're not looking for members to join the Hall. Check out the QR code on this page to get started.

Your union wants members to earn up to \$800 in cash. Let us know what improvements we can make to this program to help even more members get involved. Get in touch with the Organizing team (organizing@liuna1611.org) with your suggestions or if you'd like to learn more about MIP.

On behalf of the entire Organizing team (Oscar, Anegus, OP, and Keith), we wish you all a happy and enjoyable holiday season. ■

Detailed description of your injury vital on WCB Claims

By Tony Parkinson | *Workers' Advocate*



"I WAS WORKING ON A TRUCK," Gary told WCB (WorkSafeBC), describing his recent injury. "I stepped off a stool into the cab. I was leaning inside the cab to reach for the key switch and suddenly my knee went 'pop.'"

Gary's doctor suspected he had torn his ACL. The MRI confirmed it a few months later. Gary was sure WCB would accept it, since he never had prior knee

problems. The WCB decision: "The accepted workplace incident of stepping into the cab would not cause a tear or aggravate your pre-existing degenerative tear."

Gary realized WCB did not understand how his injury happened. "You're thinking I stepped onto a flat surface," he emailed the case manager. "I was working on a cab-over. The cab was tilted forward. I stepped from the stool onto the doorframe, which is at a 45-degree angle. I wedged my foot into the corner of the doorframe and leaned forward into the cab with all my weight on that leg. That's when my knee went 'pop.'"

Gary's case highlights some potential problems to avoid when reporting a work injury. It's important to provide adequate detail and make sure WCB understands the specific factors that contributed to your injury.

Assume WCB knows nothing about your job. In Gary's mind, it was too obvious to mention that he was planting his leg on an awkward spot, because he's always working on cab-overs that are tilted forward. No one at WCB picked up on that. You can't count on WCB to ask for clarification. Sometimes they do, but in Gary's case, no one asked him whether the surface he stepped on was uneven. They just assumed it was flat.

Make sure your doctor understands how the injury happened.

In Gary's case, WCB sent his initial description of injury to its WCB doctor, the physiotherapist and the surgeon. They all assumed he was claiming for a workplace incident of stepping onto a level surface. As a result, they were less supportive of his case than they could have been.

Correct the record as early as possible. WCB tends to prefer the earliest reports of injury. Once you make a claim, you can access it online and see what WCB has documented. Had Gary checked, he could have intervened before it was decided and provided a more detailed description. When Gary emailed the case manager after, they did not reconsider their decision or even respond at all.

It can be stressful to remedy these problems afterwards. Gary had to recover from surgery without compensation, waiting for

his appeal to be decided. He won his appeal based on the detailed description of injury, but it took almost a year for WCB to backpay his benefits. All this could have been avoided by being a bit more careful in the initial reporting of the injury.

If your WCB claim is denied and you disagree, it is important that you contact our office as soon as you receive the decision letter. We can assist you through the appeal process, but there are strict time limits. Contact us at 604-538-6992, toll-free 1-888-788-2888, or email lms@liuna1611.org. ■

*With thanks to Rolf Harrison,
Tradetalk*



Our silver anniversary

By Manuel Alvernaz | Retiree Club President



2025 WAS A MILESTONE year for our LiUNA Local 1611 Retiree Club – it was our 25th anniversary, and we celebrated with nine special banquets around the province honouring our retired Brothers and Sisters, their spouses and special guests.

All retirees received a unique commemorative vest, and those who did not get a vest at the banquets were

mailed or couriered a vest.

It was wonderful to connect with our retirees and see them also connecting with each other, sharing old stories from the job site and boasting about the achievements of kids, grandkids and in some cases even great-grandkids.

Well over 700 people attended these nine events and feedback was incredibly positive. We were delighted to host each celebration; after all, our retirees built this province and this Union and helped us get where we are today.

Going forward, we want to double the membership of our Retiree Club, which is already the second largest club in the LiUNA family, at close to 900 retirees. We need your help to

grow these numbers. If you know someone in our Union nearing retirement, call me at 604-323-4442 or call the union office at 604-541-1611 and we will explain the benefits of belonging to this amazing club.

On behalf of your Retiree Club Executive Board, thank-you to all those who attended. Wishing you good health and prosperity until we see you at the next banquet!

And finally, a big thank-you to the folks who worked on these events to make them such a success: the Retiree Club Executive Board, Merrick, Tom and Corry. Also, a big thanks to Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra and Local 1611 President Mark Olsen for attending each event and bringing greetings to the members and their families.

In closing, warm regards to all retirees and their families. Wishing you a restful holiday and prosperous new year. ■

LOCAL 1611 RETIREE CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

- President & Secretary-Treasurer – Manuel Alvernaz
- Recording Secretary – Merrick Walsh
- Executive Board Trustees – Bruce Ferguson, Jack Ferreira, Derek Kirk, Eduardo Gomes and Manuel Figueiredo
- Local 1611 Liaison – Nav Malhotra

Remembering visionary Vic Morden



IT IS WITH DEEP SADNESS

that Local 1611 mourns the passing of a true LiUNA visionary: Vic Morden

Vic was a consummate professional, a visionary and a real gentleman.

Vic is a former Western Canada Sub-Regional Manager and during his tenure, LiUNA started the first golf tournament of its

kind in B.C., which ran annually for 30 years.

Vic also oversaw the merger of four LIUNA Locals to establish Local 1611, now the largest Local in the Northwest Region.

A family man, Vic was liked and respected by all and we offer our deepest condolences to his family. We will miss him.



Meet Al Madsen, LiUNA Local 1611's longest serving member! Al joined LiUNA on Aug. 26, 1957 when he was just 17! He is now 85 and enjoying a well-deserved retirement. Service Representative Jordan Heal stopped by Al's place recently to present him with a certificate celebrating his status. Congratulations, Al!

Retirement Banquets

THIS YEAR IS THE 25th anniversary of the LiUNA Local 1611 Retiree Club and we were busy honouring our wonderful retirees at special banquets across the province. We held celebrations in Kamloops, Revelstoke, Nelson, Kelowna, Terrace, Victoria, Nanaimo, Prince George and Vancouver.





We held area meetings for our members in Prince George, Kelowna, Kamloops, Nelson, Castlegar, Chilliwack, Port Coquitlam and Victoria in the spring and fall.



Local 1611 Celebrates our 50+ year members

65 Years

Adriano Lameiro
Marcello Sernaggia

60 Years

Lodovico Basso
Phillip Bidinoff
Edmundo Cabral
Stanko Djonlic
Ivan Gallinger
Mirko Pavic
Mike Postnikoff
Domenico Sampogna
Gino Vinciguerra

55 Years

Ross Advent
Jose Andre
Larry Barker
Loreto Baruffa
Luis Bilhete
Brian Brown
Richard Clarkson
Luciano Dalla Valle

Joao Faria
Joaquim Ferreira
Filippo Ferrigno
Franco Guarascio
Edmund Hamel
Vic Jabs
Leonard Mann
Victor Martinho
Louis Marton
Robert McDonald
Victor McPherson
Doyle Meservia
Garry Nielsen
Sebastian Pinto
Antonio Pires
Gordon Rowley
Miodrag Sekulic
Sam Tomelin

50 Years

Manuel Alvernaz
Richard Anderson
Robert Anson
Ron Armstrong

Frederick Ayling
John Botelho
Donald Brown
Ljubo Cutura
Donald Cyr
Rick Delorme
Ronald Deptuck
Armindo Dos Reis
Jose Dos Santos
Manuel Figueiredo
Ron Ganert
Johannes Ganzeveld
Brendan Gillen
Leif Grave
Miklos Hegedus
James Horne
Helmut Koch
Willi Krenz
Larry Lambrecht
David Letkeman
Michael Lillos
Jose Lima
John Mac Donald
Thomas Mandseth

Abilio Matos
Arlindo Nobre
Jose Nobrega
Kenneth Nummela
Dennis Peart
Giovanni Perri
Domenico Piccolo
Jose Reis
Rex Rema
Ian Rhead
Manuel Rodrigues
David Roth
Gerald Samborski
Joaquim Santos
Richard Schleppe
Antonio Silva
Eduardo Silva
Jakob Skovgaard
Terry Sobkowicz
Jose Sousa
Debra Standbrook
Peter Tolen
Edwardo Uncao
Nick Vanikiotis

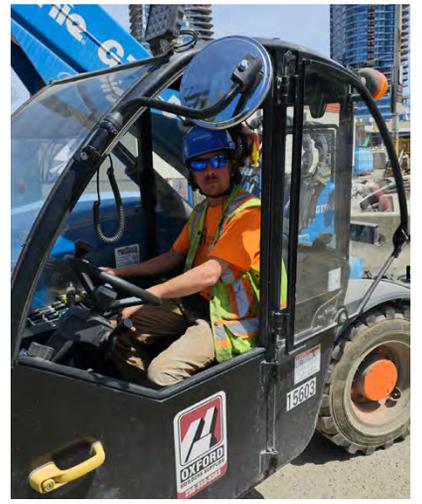
In Memoriam

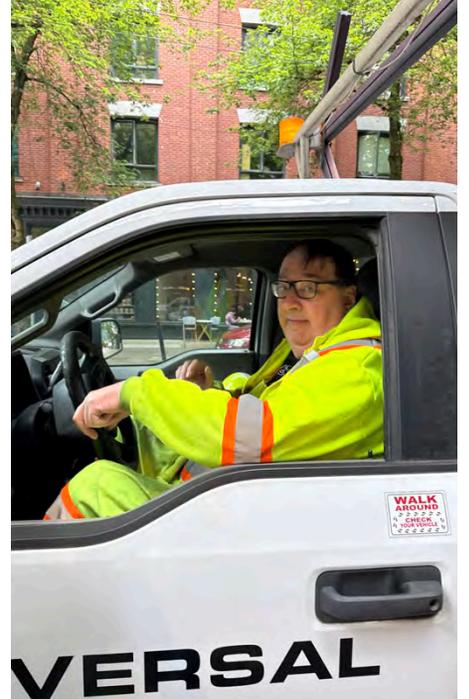
We honour our deceased members. May they rest in peace.

October 2024 to October 2025

Erik Alfaro Ruano	John Corbett	Benito Grata	Joey Newman	Jose Sousa
Barry Anselmo	Bruno Covaceuszach	Carmelino Greco	Charles Oed	Anthony Stard
Eduardo Arruda	Raymond Craig	Novelio Gubert	George Pater	George Steil
Gordon Bale	Jose Da Silva	Janessa Guliker	Jose Pereira	Ron Stevenot
Dale Barby	Manuel Da Silva	Adam Hanlon	Andre Picard	Anthony Strudwick
Darcy Barnes	Gareth Davies	Alfred Harju	Graham Provan	James Therres
Sabato Bellico	Michael De Melo	James Hiddleston	Manuel Raimundo	Sandy Toma
Andrew Berry	Oliver Delawsky	Said Ibrahim	Dan Randolph	Michael Tombe
David Bettridge	Don Delorme	Liborio Intile	Leo Rietveld	Tony Tomic
Timothy Boyd	Patrick Devlin	Vic Jabs	Andrea Roselli	Kyle Visser
Steve Branyik	Luciano Duarte	Artie Johnson	Robert Rowley	Ilija Vukovic
Ian Breland	Thomas Edmondson	Andrew Johnston	Juan Salas	Irvine Whitehead
Carmillo Brienza	Richard Emard	Sukhvir Khaira	Tony Sandrin	Daniel Wright
Richard Bryant	Jose Fernandes	Bradley Kooznetsoff	Joaquim Santos	
Rino Canal	Frank Ferrucci	Luigi Lupacchino	Jose Santos	
Marvin Cardinal	Alexander Gabos	John Mc Laughlin	Mariano Soares	
Anna Carter	Lajos Gal	Diamantino Mendes	Dennis Sorge	

MEMBERS AT WORK





EARN CASH

For Organizing



3 ways to
earn cash for
leads!

Every day, our members and their families benefit from belonging to Local 1611. With your help, we can ensure even more people have the benefit of Local 1611 representing them.

Member Incentive Program (MIP)

WHY IS UNION GROWTH IMPORTANT?

The more unionized companies we have, the stronger our union is, which helps members win superior wages and benefits.

WHAT IS A LEAD?

A lead is information that helps LiUNA Local 1611 unionize a workplace. We want to connect with workers, managers and owners interested in unionizing their company.

CASH FOR LEADS

- Receive **\$100** for a lead that results in the start of an organizing drive.
- Receive **\$200** if a mass card-signing campaign is launched.
- Receive **\$500** if your lead results in a newly unionized workplace.

WHERE DO I SEND LEADS?

DO YOU HAVE A LEAD?
ALL LEADS & QUESTIONS
CAN BE SENT TO:

 **1-888-788-2888**

 **organizing@liuna1611.org**

*For helping us
grow, LiUNA
Local 1611
members can
earn up to*

\$800

LiUNA! Local
1611
BC & YUKON

Scan to
start
earning
cash for
leads!

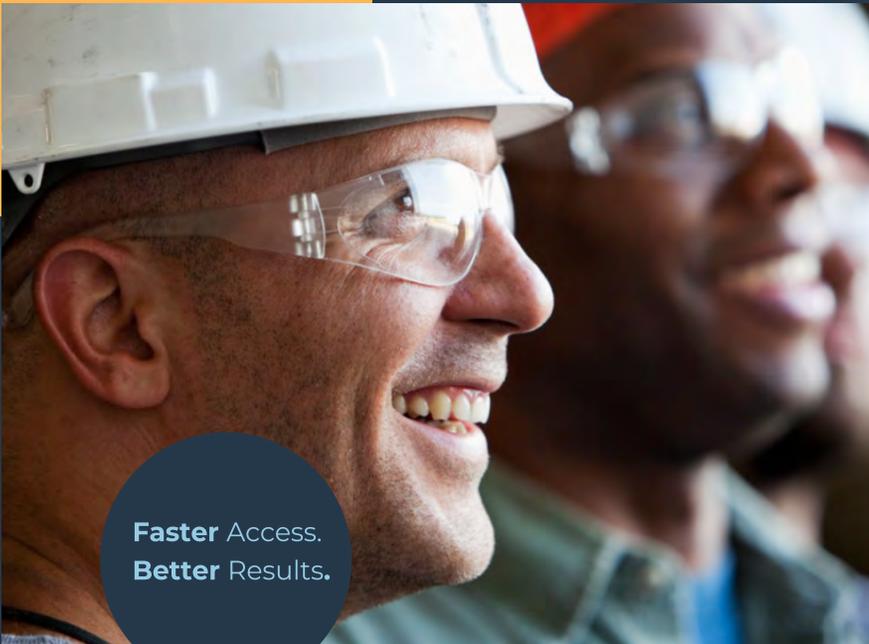




BUILDSTRONG BY CIRP

100% Confidential. 100% Free.

Supports for BC Building Trade members and their families.



Faster Access.
Better Results.

100% Confidential.
100% Free

Individualized **treatment plans** up to 12 months

Counselling, bed-based treatment, and family support

Union & contractor training, **overdose prevention**

NEW LOOK, SAME SERVICES!



BUILDSTRONG by CIRP

Founded in 1980 by six construction workers, CIRP has supported thousands of workers and families across the unionized construction industry.

In **November 2025**, we move forward as **BuildStrong by CIRP** new branding that reflects our commitment to **free, confidential** support for substance use and mental health, in-depth treatment plans, and industry-focused training.

Our look may be new, but our mission remains the same: to honour our history, strengthen our industry, and improve the lives of workers and their families.

**You're Not Alone,
We're Here to Help!**

Built for the trades.

 **1-888-521-8611**

 **1-604-521-8611**

 **BuildStrong.org**

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LiUNA! LOCAL 1611

THE LABOURER

WINTER 2025

Shoulders of a Giant

Bruce Ferguson's
legacy to LiUNA is
unmatched

Pages 6-7



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