

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF LIUNA! LOCAL 1611

THE LABOURER

SPRING 2026



BUILDING BRIDGES

LiUNA! Local 1611
BC & YUKON



#WeAreTheLabourers

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LiUNA Local 1611 represents more than 10,000 members in B.C. and Yukon. Our construction sector represents construction, roadbuilding, pipeline, paving, utility, TCP, rail, mining, tunnel & rock work, diamond drilling, industrial plant, dock & shipyard sectors.

CONTRIBUTORS

Nav Malhotra, <i>Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer</i>	.3
Mark Olsen, <i>President</i>	4
John Zerucelli, <i>Secretary of State for Labour</i>	5
Manuel Alvernaz, <i>Lower Mainland</i>	6
Mike Berg, <i>Lower Mainland</i>	7
Lisa Flesher, <i>Lower Mainland</i>	7
Jesse Saunders, <i>Lower Mainland</i>	8
Greg Letkeman, <i>Lower Mainland</i>	8
Brady Carter, <i>Vancouver Island</i>	9
Thriving after an autism diagnosis	10
Shelley Moore, <i>Vancouver Island</i>	12
Jordan Heal, <i>Northwest</i>	13
Steve Hecoeks, <i>Okanagan, Interior and Kootenays</i>	14
Chris Mansel, <i>Northeast</i>	15
Roger Bennett, <i>Northeast</i>	15
Training	16
Tony Parkinson, <i>Workers' Advocate</i>	16
Dispatch	17
Organizing	17
Aleks Samardzija, <i>Pension and Benefits</i>	18
Manuel Alvernaz, <i>Retiree Club President</i>	19

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Editor's message

You're in LUC!

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

IF YOU WANT TO DO some good in your community, there is an easy way to do it—just send an email to luc@liuna1611.org.

LiUNA Local 1611 is proud to offer the Labourers' Union Charities (LUC) to empower communities and strengthen economies where our members live, work and thrive. As a new member of the LUC Committee, I'm excited to be part of the team tasked with promoting and expanding LUC's charitable impact.

But we can't do our work alone. We want you, our members, to tell us which organizations, services, programs and initiatives are important to you. After all, your hard work is the reason we are able to make a difference in the first place.

Sometimes I hear from folks who don't think supporting our community matters. And I tell them that our community supports our members, and we are simply giving back. I also challenge them to find me one single person who hasn't interacted in some way with a charitable or non-profit organization. For example, maybe you:

- Attended a Remembrance Day event;
- Used a school playground;
- Visited a museum or art gallery;
- Took a walk at a clean beach or park;
- Adopted a rescue pet;
- Signed up a child for organized sports;
- Shopped at a thrift store; or
- Used a free menstrual product.

If you did any of these things, it is likely you received a benefit from B.C.'s non-profit sector—a sector that employs over 86,000 people and contributes \$6.7 billion to the provincial economy. Supporting non-profits not only bolsters their good work, but makes our province prosper, which is good for our own members.

So, tell me which causes you support, because we want to support them, too.

Send us an email at luc@liunalocal1611.org. ■

ON THE COVER: Local 1611 members Regan Y. (left) and Scott B. share a laugh during a break at the site of the old Pattullo Bridge in New Westminster. Our members have been hard at work helping to build its replacement, the new stalówasəm Bridge. stalówasəm translates to "a space where you can view the river."



We support the NDP because the NDP supports workers, training, families and a strong economy

by Nav Malhotra | Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



LIUNA LOCAL 1611, a cornerstone of British Columbia's labour movement, has consistently championed the rights and well-being of the working class and their families. LiUNA Local 1611 and the BC NDP reflect a shared vision for a province where working people are supported and communities thrive.

Our mission is the protection of workers' rights. The BC NDP has a proven track record of implementing policies that uphold fair wages, safe working conditions and collective bargaining rights. For Local 1611 members, this means secure employment, proper benefits and protections on the job.

LiUNA Local 1611 members build and maintain critical infrastructure that keeps B.C. moving, from roads and bridges to public transit and hospitals. The NDP government has demonstrated a strong commitment to infrastructure investment and ensuring these investments are bound by Community Benefits Agreements and Project Labour Agreements, generating thousands of jobs for our members.

Our industry thrives on skilled labour, and LiUNA Local 1611 places a high value on apprenticeship and training programs. In November, the BC NDP announced the first major investment

in skilled trades training in almost 20 years. Over the next three years, the province will double trades-training funding through a \$241 million fund that will:

- increase per-seat funding for apprentice programs;
- address waiting lists for critical industrial trades, ensuring faster access to training;
- advance skilled-trades certification; and
- ensure workers can move easily between industries.

The investment will also help B.C. provide the critical workforce needed to advance major projects in construction, clean energy, mining and advanced technology. This provides opportunities for the next generation of Labourers to enter the workforce while strengthening B.C.'s economy.

The NDP's policies on health care, affordable housing and public services align with Local 1611's goal of ensuring that members and their families can thrive both on and off the job. By supporting a government that puts families first, LiUNA Local 1611 strengthens its commitment to the social well-being of British Columbia.

LiUNA Local 1611 and the BC NDP have shared principles: protecting work, investing in communities, strengthening skills and training pathways, and building a sustainable future. So ask yourself, if not the BC NDP then who? ■



Nav Malhotra joined construction industry leaders for the grand opening of the new stal'owasem Bridge in December. The bridge, which replaces the Pattullo connecting New Westminster and Surrey, was built by our members under the NDP government's Community Benefits Agreement construction framework.

Calm amongst the chaos

by Mark Olsen | President



NEVER THOUGHT WE would have to write an article about the President of the United States being the greatest threat to both the economy and sovereignty of Canada. However, Donald Trump's continued and ever-increasing policies of chaos, cruelty and corruption, threaten us more than at any time since World War II.

It is bad enough that Trump has tariffed (taxed) our aluminum, steel, lumber and auto sectors; he is serious about taking Greenland one way or the other; and threatening additional tariffs on countries like Canada who oppose this conquest; and Trump will very likely give notice to pull out of the free trade agreement between Canada, the USA and Mexico, called CUSMA or USMCA, causing more chaos and uncertainty.

If Trump conquers Greenland, he will next focus on Canada, especially in the Arctic Region, to connect Greenland to Alaska.

That is why we are so fortunate at this crucial time, to have NDP Premier David Eby in B.C. and Liberal Prime Minister Mark Carney in Ottawa.

While no government is perfect, both the Premier and the Prime Minister are thoughtful, strategic and articulate leaders. They are both calm amongst the chaos.

Both leaders are working hard to expand and deepen relationships; secure Trade Agreements including with the E.U., India and China; drop inter-provincial trade barriers; and directly respond to the unfair tariffs imposed by Trump.

The Prime Minister is also focused on increasing both our commercial and military presence in northern Canada. This includes a plan to develop the Port of Churchill in Manitoba, which is promoted by Manitoba's NDP Premier Wab Kinew.

We fully support the BC NDP and the Federal Liberals, as their views and policies best coincide with ours. The Conservative Party, by any name, does not embrace Unions, Union members, balanced labour laws, improving WCB regulations and improving public services. The history of Conservative governments is the antithesis of the goals and beliefs of our Union and our membership.

We will be working through the newly formed federal Major Project Office (MPO); to connect with Project owners; to advocate for Projects in front of regulators; and to consult with Indigenous communities, all to help secure social licence for identified Projects of national interest. In B.C., potential listed

Projects so far include LNG Canada Phase II, Red Chris Mine Expansion and the North Coast Transmission Project. Once approved, it will be our Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra working with the other Building Trade Unions to secure Project Labour Agreements (PLAs).

And finally, we ask our members to refrain from going down right- or left-leaning rabbit holes. Conspiracy theories are nothing but disinformation and misinformation, designed to anger you, confuse you and divide us. Always look at sources that relay the facts, meaning truth and accuracy. The rest is garbage.

In closing, we are in a world of chaos. This is a time for calm, professional leadership and we are proud to stand with Premier David Eby and Prime Minister Mark Carney.

To our great members – please stay informed, stay safe and stay healthy. We will get through this rough patch in solidarity. B.C. AND CANADA STRONG. ■



Mark Olsen with Premier David Eby at the recent B.C. Natural Resources Forum in Prince George.

Nations don't build themselves—you do

by the Hon. John Zerucelli | Secretary of State for Labour



WE ARE LIVING THROUGH a defining moment in this country's history. Our economy is under pressure. Supply chains are being redrawn. Energy projects need to expand. Infrastructure must be built.

The Government of Canada has a plan to keep Canada Strong. The foundation of that plan is you.

LiUNA members build. As the highly skilled trades workers across diverse sectors, your contributions are invaluable.

The work you do every day demands dedication, passion and skill. Through your efforts we can build Canada Strong. To achieve this, we're committed to ensuring well-paying, meaningful jobs are there for you— so you can get the job done.

Major projects

We are focusing on becoming an energy superpower by using our abundant natural resources. For example, right here in B.C., the Ksi Lisims LNG project showcases our capacity in the global energy sector.

Also, we're supporting you through enhanced labour mobility

We are making sure nothing stands in your way so that you can go where the work is.

The first bill we passed, in record time, was the One Canadian Economy Act. With this bill, we removed all federal barriers to labour mobility.

Because one economy should not feel like thirteen.

Training for the skilled trades

We have doubled our investment in the Union Training and Innovation Program—this helps support union-led training across the country and ensures more apprentices are equipped with the proper training and skills needed to thrive.

Safety matters just as much

Harmonizing safety standards matters—not by lowering the bar, but by making the safest, most rigorous training the standard everywhere.

There may be different certifications across Canada, but there is only one law of gravity. It hits the same in Surrey as it does in St. John's.

We know there is a sense of urgency to:

- Advance labour mobility in the construction sector
- Implement credential recognition for tradespersons nationwide through digital verification
- Accelerate work to recognize priority health and safety requirements in the construction sector

So here's the bottom line. We are choosing to invest. We are choosing to build. And we are choosing to make sure skilled workers can do what they do best—safely, confidently and anywhere in this country. Because when workers succeed, Canada succeeds. So let's keep building—building together LiUNA Local 1611. Canada strong. ■



John Zerucelli, Secretary of State for Labour, joined (from left) LiUNA Western Canada Political Director Eric Olsen, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra and Training Plan Administrator Tom Miller (right) for a tour and meeting at our Surrey Head Office in February.

Our members build Alaska, too, without tariffs

by Manuel Alvernaz | *Special Representative*



CON-FORCE STRUCTURES secured another precast contract for the State of Alaska to build and deliver precast pile caps and heavy deck slabs for the \$137 million **Seward Cruise Ships Terminal Replacement Project**.

They are manufacturing these units now and they will be shipped by barge out of the plant in Delta to Alaska.

Notably, Con-Force won this contract over a precast contractor from Tacoma, Washington.

This contract, together with the **Highway 10** overpass girder units and the **Surrey Langley SkyTrain** contracts, will increase the workforce, keeping our members busy this year. As of this writing, the workforce was at 115 members, with the potential to increase slightly in the following weeks. An even better year for Con-Force than 2025!

Hyland Excavating is bidding on a few more EV charging stations, similar to the ones they have been building in the last couple of years in Vancouver and Richmond. Now they are bidding on EV stations throughout Metro Vancouver and into

the Fraser Valley, as well as on watermain work.

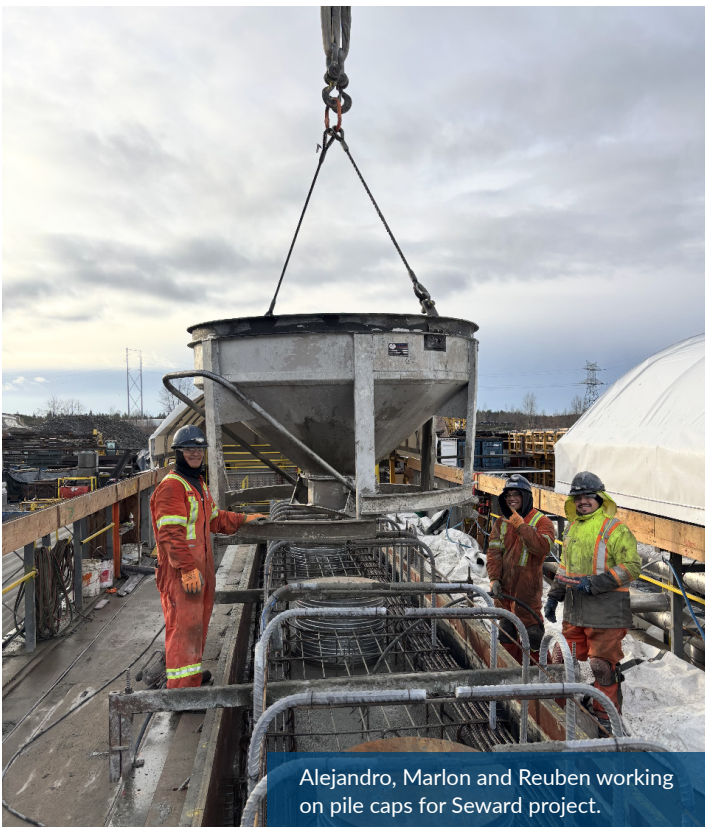
Greystone Design Management (GDM) secured more civil and maintenance work at Parkland—enough work to keep them busy throughout the spring and summer, keeping our 35 to 45 members working in Area 1 and Area 2.

CIMS at Parkland had just started orientations at magazine press time, and our members were expected to work the shutdown, which was to run until March 31 or longer, roughly eight weeks.

Fred Thompson Contractors is projecting another good year ahead in hydro infrastructure and maintenance work for Metro Vancouver. Most of their hydro work has been in Vancouver and Burnaby; they are hoping to secure that kind of hydro work in other cities, including Surrey, Delta, Richmond, Coquitlam and North Vancouver. This hydro work has been previously awarded to contractors signatory to the IBEW and the Christian Labour Association of Canada.

Berto Contractors is forecasting about the same hours of work for Telus as last year, and they are also bidding on some civil utility work.

In closing, I wish all our members a wonderful, healthy year. ■



Alejandro, Marlon and Reuben working on pile caps for Seward project.



Fahim, Joseph and Venny casting deck slabs at Con-Force for Seward Terminal in Alaska.

We're building a legacy across the Fraser River

by Mike Berg | Service Representative



THIS SPRING MARKS THE groundbreaking of an exciting new infrastructure project for our members: the **Massey Tunnel Replacement**.

This is a seven-year project constructing a state-of-the-art tunnel that will replace the Deas Tunnel (originally built between 1957 and 1959 and renamed the Massey Tunnel in 1967). This

original tunnel was to relieve traffic congestion from the Pattullo Bridge, which was the only route across the Fraser River at the time. The old tunnel was meant to divert traffic from the United States away from Highway 1, as part of the new Highway 99 superhighway initiative. Local municipalities and the current government favoured the tunnel over the bridge to reduce the environmental impact.

The original tunnel was a new type of engineering, marking the first of its kind in North America and the second worldwide. Today, the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Transit has made available a video on YouTube showcasing the construction of the original tunnel, highlighting its significance

and legacy. (Go to the ministry's YouTube channel at @MinistryofTranBC and search "building the Massey Tunnel.")

The current tunnel and two existing bridges—the Port Mann and Alex Fraser— are still not enough to alleviate today's traffic. The new Massey Tunnel or Fraser River Tunnel Project will feature two four-lane tunnels along with a multi-use pathway for cyclists and pedestrians, greatly improving capacity and expanding options for foot traffic and cyclists to get to the north side of the tunnel. Crews will utilize a massive barge designed to hold heavy equipment and material to install pilings and grade the river bed.

A precast concrete yard will be established on-site to manufacture the tunnel segments, a technique reminiscent of the original construction process. Using a method known as dry dock, segments will be fabricated and then floated across the river with controlled buoyancy bladders, allowing them to be settled into place on the riverbed. Once the full tunnel is set in place, they will clear the tunnels for final prepping.

LiUNA is expected to support the project with 35 per cent of the total workforce. The community around the tunnel eagerly anticipates the completion of this crucial infrastructure development: more history built by Local 1611. Feel the Power! ■



Rendering of the Massey Tunnel Replacement Project

LOWER MAINLAND

Contractors already reaching out so please stay job-ready

by Jesse Saunders | Service Representative



THE MILD WINTER let companies keep members working through the holidays and into 2026. Some of the big construction jobs are hitting their fourth quarter now, with contractors already planning future work and reaching out for workforce support this spring and beyond.

EllisDon is gearing up for jobs in Coquitlam, Kamloops and the **New Surrey Hospital** is still early in phase one. **Traylor/Aecon** continues strong on the **Water Supply Tunnel** at Annacis Island, finishing the steel pipeline through the tunnel and up to surface. The final phase will be building two large valve chambers on either side of the Fraser River.

In Squamish, **Frontier Kemper** and our members are boring

the new tunnel for the LNG plant feeder pipeline. This one has been extremely challenging with tunnel design issues and ongoing water infiltration on the Woodfibre side. I miss being in the thick of those TBM mining challenges our members tackle every day.

Our shoring companies are finally seeing relief after the slowdown late last year, with more projects being awarded. **Bosa** and **Bird** are working together on the new **VCC (CCEAI)** and are well above ground level. **Kingston** and **BEL Contracting** are side by side on the Holdom overpass and merge points. Shout-outs to **Vector Restoration**, **A Pullman Company**, and **Clearway Construction** for doubling their union membership.

With all these projects ramping up, we need skilled workers ready to go. If you're between projects or have downtime, keep your certifications current. Check our website for training opportunities. When we stay sharp and ready, we can take on whatever comes our way. ■

LOWER MAINLAND

Successful contracts bring solid start to new year

by Lisa Flesher | Service Representative



THE WORK OUTLOOK is getting better and I have some good news to report.

- **Amrize** ratified their infrastructure agreement for another four years at the end of 2025.
- **Glen Traffic** secured the City of Surrey contract. This is a contract estimated at \$4.7 million a year and Glen Traffic has it for five years.

- **Universal Traffic 1611 Lower Mainland** (formerly **Ansan** and **Dinamac**) has secured a two-year extension with **BC Hydro**.

This is all great news showing that your Union contractors offer superior work.

As for pipelines, I am excited to share that **Michels Canada** will start work on a portion of the **Eagle Mountain Pipeline**. I know many are waiting to know what is going on with **Enbridge's T- South**. As of now, only the pipe is getting stockpiled in four locations. I will keep you all posted.

Have you heard of our Member Incentive Program? This is a program where your Union gives you money for helping your friends or family members certify their companies with your Union. Reach out to me for more details.

As always, thank you to the Job Stewards for all the work they do. I would like to thank the members for all that they do. Your Union is only as strong as its members. Please remember to send me a text at 604-833-1668 to let me know where you are working so I can come by and say hi and possibly bring goodies. ■

VANCOUVER ISLAND

Labourers are essential on every job site

by Brady Carter | *Service Representative*



FIRST, I WANT TO say thank you to everyone at the Victoria Shipyards for your patience and support. Bargaining has not gone smoothly and yet I think we are headed towards a positive result. I'm proud of all of you for showing solidarity. This last ratification vote clearly shows the power we have by voting together for a common purpose. It's also great

to see support from other trades on an issue aimed squarely at Labourers. People have a habit of forgetting Labourers are an equal part of the skilled trades. If Labourers disappeared tomorrow, every job site we are on would shut down. Labourers of every skill level are essential and you deserve to be respected for your contributions. Hopefully by the time you are reading this, we reached agreement with **Seaspan**, but if not, you'll be hearing and seeing a lot more of me on the shop floor!

We are also bargaining with **OK Industries/Island Asphalt**. Similarly, I hope by the time you read this we have already discussed and voted on a proposal.

We used to have a quiet season on Vancouver Island and now it seems Labourers are busy year-round and getting busier.

Despite challenging and chaotic times, it's always great to see the result of your labour. Between resurfaced highways, freshly poured concrete, freshly refitted ships sailing out of the drydock, and waste management, it's always a pleasure to know the names and faces that make it happen every day.

Thanks for all your hard work and the opportunity to represent you. All the best to you and your families in 2026. ■



Ryan M. is a senior chargehand at Victoria Shipyards who supports his fellow workers in any way he can.

LOWER MAINLAND

Local 1611 members build the future

by Greg Letkeman | *Recruitment Officer/Service Representative*



AS THE SUN SETS on another winter, and spring blossoms with new life and energy, we find ourselves looking forward to another season of growth and hard work.

Hard work is in the Labourers' DNA. We have sweated and toiled to build this province into the great place that it is. A place that each of us can be proud to call home. And speaking

of home, there's something to be said about coming together as a unified family that invokes a great feeling when we see our hard work come to fruition. It's something that we can all take some pride in knowing what we have accomplished by working together.

Whether we are out there building roads, mines, pipelines or railways, or we work in security, parking enforcement, landscaping or health care, we have all played a major role in bringing life to our economy and local infrastructure.

Do yourselves a favour this spring. Pat yourself on the back, give yourself and your colleagues a high-five. You deserve all the recognition in the world for your contribution to not only our beautiful province, but also to the greatest Local Union in all of North America.

LiUNA 1611 has made great strides for the working class for nearly 90 years in B.C., and we are not stopping anytime soon. We look forward to much more prosperity as we venture into the future together. That's the key word here: together. Together, LiUNA builds the future. ■

Thriving after an autism diagnosis

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

SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE BERG knows a bully when he sees one—and he will promptly shut them down on job sites.

He credits his son, Marcus, who has autism, for making him more compassionate toward people who don't necessarily meet society's expectations of them.

"One thing that I have learned from Marcus is that bullying, harassment and even teasing is completely unacceptable," says Mike. "We have no idea what someone is going through or has gone through in their lives, and we all need to be more compassionate."

Mike and his wife Nicole are sharing their experiences raising a child with autism as a way support other parents who might be going through some of the same things.

When Marcus was born, to his parents Mike and Nicole, he seemed like a regular, healthy, developing baby. But he was slow to talk, and didn't start walking until he was 18 months old. When the Sunny Hill Health Centre at BC Children's Hospital determined he had some gagging and sensory issues, autism was suspected and the Bergs were advised to have him assessed to "rule out" autism. The BC Autism Assessment Network provides free diagnostic assessments for children up to age 19 but wait times can exceed two years. Private assessments are quicker, but parents must pay out of pocket and the assessment will usually run them about \$3,000. (Mike, who was working at **Bay Hill Contracting** at the time, was lucky that his extended benefits from Local 1611 paid for the assessment.)

Financial barriers aside, some parents are simply reluctant to have their children assessed for reasons of their own.

"Not everyone gets assessed," said Nicole. "For a lot of

parents, it's not financially viable to do all this, or there are cultural reasons for not doing it."

Marcus's diagnosis was a double-edged sword. The Bergs finally had an explanation for how Marcus was developing, but they were also about to step on a bureaucratic hamster wheel of government support while navigating a world where children with autism often face social isolation, discrimination, judgment and outright rejection.

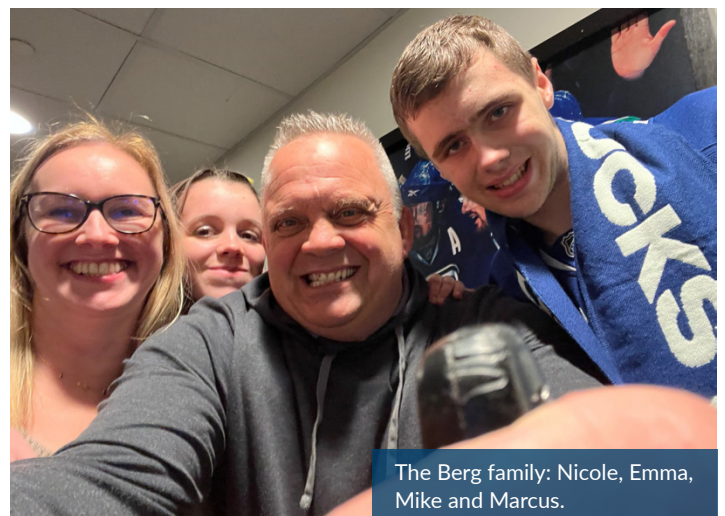
On top of all that, the psychologist who delivered the diagnosis to Mike and Nicole told them their marriage would suffer and they would be targeted by certain groups trying to leverage their situation for their own agendas.

"The first thing I remember him saying was the divorce rate for autism parents is higher than normal so make time for each other," Mike recalls.

That was the start of their autism journey. The couple went to an information night put on by Autism Community Training-BC and learned about the different types of education, programs and services that were available to Marcus. They chose Applied Behaviour Analysis; their goal was not to have Marcus's behaviours conform with everyone else's, but rather to teach him about communication, safety and respect around others, while also embracing his unique personality. Marcus became one of the first students in the Surrey School District to receive ABA therapy. They also got an ABA support worker, and Nicole became an expert at applying for and maintaining their available government funding support, sometimes spending upwards of 20 hours a week filling out and submitting all the requisite forms.



Marcus joined his dad making a donation to the Autism Support Network on behalf of Local 1611.



The Berg family: Nicole, Emma, Mike and Marcus.



Marcus in the rugby huddle before his beautiful try.



Mike and Nicole Berg taking time for each other.

“It’s almost like running a small business when you are running an ABA program at home, which is what we were basically doing,” explains Nicole.

At the same time, Mike was working full-time at Bay Hill and Nicole, a registered nurse, was working three-quarter time for the Fraser Health Authority—and they were raising their second child, born when Marcus was four.

Eventually, the family found their rhythm and Marcus, now 18, is a happy, healthy, funny, inquisitive young man. He loves exploring the family’s neighbourhood around Cloverdale Ball Park, and he knows every single baseball team that plays there by name, his favourite being the Spurs.

Marcus has multiple GPS trackers on him and usually carries his autism ID in case he is stopped by police, which has happened so far nine times after someone in the neighbourhood who isn’t familiar with him became concerned. Though Marcus was a “bolter” in elementary school, as a teen he keeps to a four-block radius around his house. On occasions when police officers have tried to escort him home, they often can’t match the teen’s pace, and instead show up at the Bergs’ doorway long after Marcus, out of breath from running.

Marcus can cook a few things and do laundry. He loves exploring with Google maps and he can recite the number of traffic intersections in certain towns. He will eat anything except tomatoes and always orders the first thing on any restaurant menu. He is obsessed with toilets and likes to lift the lid and read the production year, model number and manufacturer details, which are typically molded or stamped onto the underside.

He struck gold at Rolly’s Restaurant in Hope, B.C., where he found probably the oldest toilet seat he had ever seen. He was so excited that he ran around the restaurant cheering “1968 American Standard!” over and over. And much to the Bergs’ delight, no one cared.

“Rolly’s is what I would call ‘autism friendly.’ You don’t have to explain when you walk in the door – they just understand,” said Nicole.

Families with children on the autism spectrum can be hesitant to venture out in public; glares, whispers and finger-pointing can take a toll. Boston Pizza in Cloverdale where the staff all know

them is a Berg family favourite. Even the regular customers have got to know the Bergs over time.

“He’s always happy, cracking jokes to himself and laughing out loud,” says Mike. “He’s just a happy kid who wants to hang out with us.”

Marcus is often at events and activities arranged by Local 1611 and many members know him by name.

“He’s always seeking people and experiences,” adds Nicole.

One particular experience stands out. Mike was the tour manager for the Langley Rugby Club’s U18 boys team in 2024 and he brought Marcus along when the team played in Portugal. Marcus loves to get geared up and hang with the team on the sidelines. After the competitive match, the two teams got together and, despite a significant language barrier, arranged a special, no-hitting, non-competitive matchup allowing Marcus to catch the ball and run with it to the in-goal area, where he would ground it for a try and win the game for the team.

Right to plan, Marcus got the ball and ran like a bolt of lightning (he’s extremely fast) while evading the three Portuguese players who pretended to dive after him. As soon as he grounded the ball, the crowd erupted in cheers and some people even started crying.

“It was awesome,” says Mike.

Mike and Nicole can’t know what the future will bring, but they do know they are doing their best. Nicole urges parents to be kind to themselves.

“Never feel guilty for the things you can’t do and focus on the things you can,” she says. “It’s healthy and normal to grieve for the life you thought you were going to have and the life you thought your child would have.”

And Mike offers this advice to couples struggling with their relationship during their autism journey: “It’s important to take a break without the kids and enjoy each other,” said Mike.

Members can reach Mike at mberg@liuna1611.org to learn more about his personal experience.

For general autism resources, reach out to these groups:

B.C. Autism Support Network: autismsupportbc.ca

Family Support Institute of BC: familysupportbc.com

Thank you for being amazing members, and welcome your new Service Representative

by Shelley Moore | Service Representative



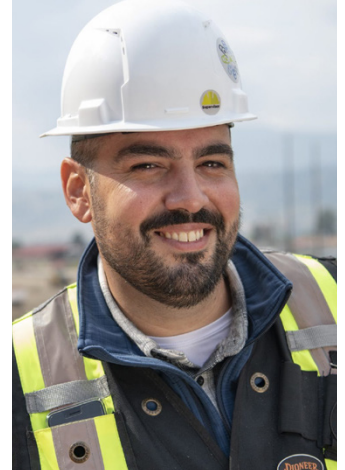
TO ALL MY MEMBERS at **Western Traffic, KMF Traffic Solutions, Cascades Recovery, HOME Society, Axis Family Resources, James Bay and Sandringham Care Centres:** happy spring!

As I leave for my retirement, I would like to thank everyone for being amazing stewards and members while I was your Service

Representative. Your incredible dedication to your work sites and co-workers will always be an inspiration to me. I wish you all the very best as you travel through life and have safe, happy adventures.

Please join me in welcoming **Duncan Telford** (right), who will be your new Service Representative. We are very lucky to have him join our team.

Duncan hails from **BC Infrastructure Benefits**, where he was the associate manager of workforce operations on the **Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project**. He was also the regional representative on the **Highway 1 Chase East Project**.



Duncan has extensive experience working in the construction and health care sectors and is passionate about worker advocacy and creating safe and inclusive workplaces. Reach Duncan at dtelford@liuna1611.org ■



Shelley Moore is pictured with her Job Steward Shawn H. We wish Shelley all the best in her upcoming retirement. Thank you, Shelley!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2026

	APRIL 23		TIME	
	MAY 28		6:00 PM	
	JUNE 25			HEAD OFFICE
	SEPT. 24			19092-26TH AVE.
	OCT. 22			SURREY BC
	NOV. 26			
DEC. 17				

Get training now for work coming down the line

by Jordan Heal | Service Representative



WINTER IS OFFICIALLY over. Members completed another successful snow removal campaign at the **LNG Canada** site along with a five-week shutdown on Train 1, string 2 at the plant. This shutdown used nitrogen to clean out the lines.

While we are still awaiting a Final Investment Decision on Phase 2 of the LNG Canada Project, construction

of BC Hydro's **North Coast Transmission Line** is as of now scheduled to begin construction this summer. This project will be undertaken in two phases for a total of 450 kilometres of

new powerlines. Additional work for both phases will include fibre optic cable installed on new or existing transmission structures, capacitor station expansion and substation upgrades or expansions. Once completed, this will help deliver electricity for more industrial growth in Northwest of B.C. If our signatory contractors are successful in bidding on this project, our members will be heading out for work there.

I encourage all members to visit our website at liuna1611.org and check out the training that is offered. Courses are virtual and in-class, and there are also opportunities to travel for training through Local 1611's BC Travel Reimbursement Policy (BC TRIP). Taking training now ensures members are job-ready with all the required certificates when projects start. ■



MEET LOCAL 1611'S 2025 Member of the Year!

Chris Fagan is the Job Steward at **Fluor Constructors**.

He began his career with LiUNA Local 1208 in Newfoundland about 15 years ago, and transferred to Local 1611 to work for Fluor at the LNG Canada site in April 2021; by May 21, he was appointed Job Steward.

Back in 2021, there were no hubs from the East Coast and so Chris would pay his own flight to a hub and fly from there. Throughout his career with Local 1611, he has always been there for members—even taking phone calls from members as well as his Service Representative on his days off and during holidays, which was proof of his dedication as a steward.

For his part, Chris says he learns a lot from the people he meets and he likes to listen to their stories about the life they have had.

"I have a strong union working hard for me and other members every day, making sure we have good, safe jobs and go home to our families at the end of the day."

Thank you for all you do, Chris, and congratulations!

Emil Anderson: deep community connections

by Steve Hecoeks | Service Representative



AS WINTER WRAPS up and spring is upon us, I want to recognize **Emil Anderson** as Local 1611's **Contractor of the Year**. I have been working with them for over seven years now, and they are one of the biggest contractors in the Okanagan with many of our members working for them.

They are a driving force in the community. They regularly go to Kelowna Secondary and Mount Boucherie Secondary in West Kelowna to present career classes. They focus on construction as a career and ensure students understand that careers in the

construction industry are rewarding.

They discuss the different trades that people are not aware of, such as drilling and blasting, and the benefit of working in a Union environment.

They also attend many career fairs throughout the province.

A student in one of their classes is working at Hunters Hill in Summerland as a blaster.

I want to thank all the Job stewards out there for their tireless efforts in representing our members.

Members, please ensure all your tickets are up to date and you check in regularly with Dispatch for work.

Finally, I want to thank the membership for the trust they have in me to represent them. Take care and be safe out there. ■



Emil Anderson's Brad DeShane and Brian Atwell are pictured with Steve Hecoeks.



As Contractor of the Year, Emil Anderson was awarded a \$1,000 donation toward their charity of choice, from Local 1611. The contractor chose JoeAnna's House, which provides housing to family members whose loved ones are undergoing treatment at Kelowna General Hospital. Pictured are Carly Reuter and Nicki Hughes of JoeAnna's House with Brad DeShane, regional manager from Emil Anderson.

You don't have to struggle alone with substance use

by Chris Mansel | Service Representative



I WOULD LIKE TO take this opportunity to address addiction in the workplace. I am now serving as the Drug and Alcohol Liaison for LiUNA Local 1611. If you are struggling, confidential support is available through your Union. Please reach out; assistance is there if and when you need it. If you just need someone to talk to, call me 778-675-4517.

In Fort St. John, **Garda Security** continues to provide a consistent and professional presence on our worksites and throughout our community. Their efforts help ensure safe, secure

jobsites and support the day-to-day operations that allow our members to focus on their lives. Their commitment does not go unnoticed and is appreciated.

Activity at the **Site C Dam** continues, although at a slower pace. **AFDE** has brought back the majority of LiUNA members who were laid off over the Christmas break and had secured additional work at the dam and around the city of Fort St. John. This should keep the crews going a little longer.

Voith Hydro has completed its scope of work and has demobilized from the site. It is anticipated that they will return later this year in a shutdown capacity. Looking ahead, the Site C camp is scheduled to be taken down in April of this year. This is significant as it shows how close the project is to completion. ■

If you want to work on a pipeline, get job-ready now

by Roger Bennett | Service Representative



WELCOME TO springtime! We are optimistic that 2026 will be the start of a busy work picture for our Union in the Northeast. Quite a few of our signatory construction companies are bidding vigorously on tender for new work and it looks promising that projects will be coming our way.

We have already started off strong with a return to work for our local traffic control and the rail sector. The larger picture is the proposed pipeline projects that are just now coming to fruition. One of the projects is the **Enbridge T-South** pipeline project and we have received recent news that 42-inch pipe will commence delivery in April and will be stockpiled in four locations throughout the province. The pipeline construction year is 2027 and the fact that pipe is now being stockpiled is great news for our members, especially if our Union contractors are successful in winning the work.

In January, I attended the **Canadian Pipeline Advisory Council** reception in Prince George and the room was filled with pipeline proponents and pipeline contractors. It was exciting to hear news from **Enbridge** and **Western LNG** that their pipeline projects will proceed and they are very interested in having Union contractors

on their projects. I've said this lots to members before and can't stress it as much as we need to now: Members who want to work pipeline need to be job-ready for the work by making sure all their tickets are up to date and keeping mindful of pre-access testing. ■



Stay on top of training on our website

Tom Miller | *Training PLUS Administrator*

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



THE LANDSCAPE AROUND us is constantly changing and nothing is any different for all of us at Training PLUS. Whether it is the vast geography that our membership spans, changes to regulations, or insight from industry, we are constantly revising and evolving to help meet those needs.

That can make things difficult for us at times for a number of reasons. Staying on top of these evolving needs and demands is one thing, but also trying to communicate those adjustments efficiently can prove to be another.

As members, the most efficient way that you can stay up to date to changes in curriculum, policies, or course deliveries is through the website. We keep all of the training-related content on there current to try to make things easier for both

members as well as contractors.

To make things even simpler so members don't have to wade through all of the various sub-tabs, we have added a sub-tab titled "recent updates." Any updates to courses, curriculum, and all other things pertinent to training will be listed here, making all the latest information easily accessible in one place.

So many of our members have become accustomed to the way we have traditionally operated. This is fantastic because it really helps to create a sense of comfort, confidence and community in our operation. These changes aren't to make things more difficult but are vital in in order for us to stay at the forefront of skills and safety training across the construction industry. Visit liuna1611.org/training and liuna1611.org/recent-updates. ■

Don't let your workplace injury affect your retirement

by Tony Parkinson | *Workers' Advocate*



YOUR CANADA PENSION PLAN

(CPP) retirement benefits will be affected if you have been on Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) benefits for a protracted period. It is extremely important that you protect your accruing CPP pensionable time now, so you don't get a nasty surprise when you reach retirement.

I'm talking about when you sustain a severe injury that requires you to be off work and on benefits for a long period, not just a few weeks or months for something like a sprain, but an injury that might last for several years or even until you reach retirement age. This applies to both WCB wage loss benefits and permanent disability benefits.

If you are disabled from a workplace injury, especially for a lengthy period, your WCB claim and the benefits they provide are crucial to your recovery and maintaining your daily life. However, it is equally as important to apply for CPP Disability (CPP-D), because if you do not, your pensionable earnings for your CPP retirement benefit will be reduced. When you are

working for an employer, they deduct CPP contributions and remit them on your behalf, but contributions are not deducted from WCB benefits. If you have been out of the workforce for an extended period, and not making CPP contributions, you may already be out of time to apply, and even if you are still within time, your benefits may be reduced.

If you qualify for CPP-D, you will also receive monthly payments for disability benefits until retirement. This is an important source of additional income. You should know, CPP-D benefits will be deducted from your WCB benefits, but only up to 50 per cent. For example, if your CPP-D benefits are \$1,000/month, the maximum amount that will be deducted from your WCB benefits is \$500/month, therefore, you still earn \$500 more per month.

Many people do not realize the consequences of not applying for CPP-D. If you find out when you retire and have drastically reduced earnings, it will be too late. You need to take care of this as soon as you qualify. If you are not sure what to do, you can contact our office. Don't take the chance of losing part of your pension when you retire. *Continued on Page 18.*

Dispatches increased by more than 15 per cent in 2025

Eddie Foong, Kyle Barry, Callum Farish-Barker | Dispatchers



WE ARE BREATHING IN air of opportunity and optimism, which are known traits of the “Fire Horse,” the animal of the 2026 Lunar New Year, in celebration of the Chinese New Year, which began on Feb. 17. Two out of the five major projects earmarked for fasttracking by the federal government are in British Columbia: **LNG Phase 2** in Kitimat and the **Red Chris Mine Expansion**, 18 kilometres southeast of the village of Iskut in Northwestern B.C., to increase Canada’s copper production.

For the Lower Mainland, ongoing projects such as the **Surrey**

Langley SkyTrain under a Project Labour Agreement (PLA) and **BCIB** projects, under the Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) such as **Broadway Subway, Bruhn Bridge, Cowichan District Hospital Replacement, Ford to Tappen** and **Jumping Creek to MacDonald**, to name a few, are still holding steady. Slated to start in April 2026 is the **Fraser River Tunnel**, replacing the George Massey Tunnel between Delta and Richmond.

With the hope to see more projects in 2027, lately we have seen a rise in members communicating with Dispatch and Training, asking about upcoming work, and understanding the requirements to obtain or to renew their safety certifications, to be job-ready when the time comes.

Dispatch has cleared 2,641 dispatches for the entire year of 2025 compared to 2,293 dispatches for the year 2024, which is up by 15.2 per cent. **RDLC**, which oversees the precast yard under the Surrey Langley Skytrain Project, and **Michels Canada**, the short-term work at Fort St John, has boosted our dispatches by over 250 members. ■

We are all Organizers

Keith Murdoch | Lead Organizer

Oscar Sanchez, Oscar Pena, Anegus Williams, Ravi Dhindsa & Sikandar Johal | Organizer



WE DID IT! We are thrilled to report that your Organizing team brought 19 new companies into Local 1611 in 2025. This was through traditional organizing drives, voluntary employer recognitions (known as “top-downs”), raiding and successorship rights.

We began 2026 with the addition of two new organizers, making our current team of six, with more than 40 years’ experience, the biggest in Local 1611’s entire history. Our goal is to help our union reach 11,000 members this year by organizing bigger companies in diverse sectors.

While our department is the biggest ever, it is important to remember that organizing is up to all of us. Members, service representatives and leaders all have a role to play in the growth

and success of Local 1611. Simply sharing the benefits of belonging to Local 1611 - from knowing your union has your

back to the superior wages and benefits—helps us.

One way to organize a non-union workplace is through traditional “bottom-up” organizing drives, in which a majority of employees sign union cards, which are then certified by the BC Labour Relations Board. Of course, the process is much more complicated and rule-bound than we can offer here, but that is generally how it is done. We recently organized **Reotech Construction** and **Vane Lawn and Garden Services** through a traditional organizing drive.

Our future looks bright and we are committed to achieving our goals! If you have a lead that can help us organize the unorganized, our Member Incentive Program (MIP) offers cash for leads. Email organizing@liuna1611.org for details. ■

New mental health supports are here

by Aleks Samardzija | Pension and Benefits Administrator



I'M PLEASED TO SHARE the CSW Medical and Benefits Plan's approach to the well-being of our members. We are making enhancements to our mental health benefits in order to give members faster access to care, greater flexibility in treatment, and stronger support to stay healthy and at work.

Homewood Health: Ongoing support

Homewood Health remains a core part of our mental health support, offering confidential counselling, crisis intervention and wellness resources to members and their families. These services are available quickly and at no cost to the member, helping address concerns early. This service is available to all LiUNA Local 1611 members and their families. We ask members to access Homewood Health first before billing Pacific Blue Cross.

You can find more information and access Homewood Health here: <https://www.liuna1611.org/member-family-assistance-program>

Increased mental health coverage: Now \$4,000 per year

Effective this year, the annual mental health benefit has been increased to \$4,000 per covered member and dependents. This coverage combines services from registered psychologists and clinical therapists, giving members more choice and flexibility in accessing care.

Importantly, these services can be directly billed to Pacific Blue Cross (PBC). Members can search the Pacific Blue Cross website (pac.bluecross.ca) provider directory to find psychologists and therapists who offer direct billing, helping reduce out-of-pocket costs and the need to submit claims.

This combined and increased coverage reflects the reality that mental health care looks different for everyone and allows members to choose the provider that best fits their needs.

Introducing Medeca: Coordinated care that supports staying at work

We are also introducing Medeca, a new service that helps members navigate the health care system more effectively. You will be able to access top mental health experts within days, not months.

This service is currently offered only to CSW Medical and Benefits Plan members with active coverage, on a trial basis for 2026.

Medeca supports members by:

- Connecting them with a psychiatrist when clinically appropriate
- Coordinating care between the psychiatrist and the member's family doctor to come up with a treatment plan.
- Supporting timely treatment plans focused on recovery and keeping members at work

You can access more information on our website at liuna1611.org/medeca

Why These Enhancements Matter

Together, these improvements:

- Increase access to professional mental health care
- Allow for direct billing through Pacific Blue Cross
- Reduce wait times and system navigation challenges
- Support early intervention and recovery
- Help members remain healthy, productive, and engaged at work

How these supports work together

- Step 1: Contact Homewood Health for immediate, confidential support. You can call 1-800-663-1142 for 24/7 assistance.
- Step 2: If ongoing care is needed, utilize your \$4,000 mental health coverage through PBC, including direct billing providers
- Step 3: Access Medeca for coordinated psychiatric and medical support when appropriate within days, not months. ■

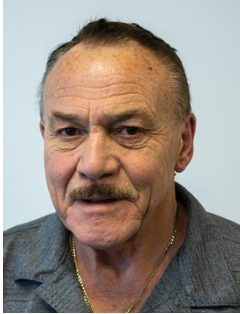
Continued from Page 16.

Labourers' Membership Services assists members with WCB, CPP and EI claims. If you receive a decision that you do not agree with or you have questions, it is important that you contact our office as soon as possible. If an appeal is needed, we can assist you through the process, but there are strict time limits. Contact our office at 604-538-6992, toll-free 1-888-788-2888, or email lms@liuna1611.org.

-with contributions from Sarah O'Leary

More than 700 attended Retiree Banquets

by Manuel Alvernaz | Retiree Club President



CELEBRATING AND HONOURING

our retired members and their families throughout the province last year—during the Retiree Club's 25th Anniversary year—was an absolute pleasure and a real success.

We held nine banquets and more than 700 members and their guests attended in Kamloops, Revelstoke, Nelson, Kelowna, Prince George,

Terrace, Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver.

This year we will do it all over again, and we are aiming to have an even larger number of attendees. We want to increase the membership in our Retiree Club, and with your help, we certainly can. Speak to your friends and relatives from Local 1611 who are retiring and let them know about the Retiree Club.

Also, speak to any members you know who are not in good standing but are nevertheless retired and collecting a pension; if they contact me, I can help them become a member in good standing. They merely need to pay their retiree dues of only \$8 a month to gain the benefits of being part of the Retiree Club.

A special thanks to everyone who worked on our banquets, and to Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Nav Malhotra and Local 1611 President Mark Olsen for attending the events and bringing greetings.

Upcoming banquets

- Aug. 26, Kamloops
- Aug. 28, Nelson
- Aug. 30, Kelowna
- Sept. 12, Prince George
- Sept. 13, Terrace
- Oct. 3, Victoria
- Oct. 4, Nanaimo
- Dec. 13, Vancouver

Local 1611 Retiree Club Executive Board

- President & Secretary-Treasurer- Manuel Alvernaz
- Recording Secretary - Merrick Walsh

Executive Board Trustees

- Bruce Ferguson
- Jack Ferreira
- Eduardo Gomes
- Manuel Figueiredo

- Local 1611 Liaison-Nav Malhotra

In closing, I wish warm regards and a healthy year ahead to all our retirees and their families. ■



Retiree Banquet in Nelson last year.

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**

Scan to
start
earning
cash for
leads!



**AWESOME
UNION
MEMBER**

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

\$800

LiUNA! Local
1611
BC & YUKON

