



Providing information to our members and fellow unionists

ILWU Canada

August 2022

Waterfront News

Inside this issue

- OFFICERS REPORT
- 2-3
- NEWS
- 4-5
- CONVENTION
- 6-7
- NEWS
- 8-9
- RETIREES
- 10-12

Official Publication of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada

ILWU Canada Convention Concludes



ILWU Canada Convention Delegates. Photo by: JOSHUA BERSON

The 36th ILWU Canada Convention was a momentous event after four years. When COVID-19 hit the world in January 2020, no one knew what to expect. The ILWU Canada Executive Board voted unanimously to postpone the 2020 Convention until the health authorities deemed it safe to hold mass gatherings once again. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic and the restrictions in place, we thought this decision would help to stop the spread of the virus. This was an unprecedented time for our Union.

The week of March 29 - April 1,

2022, 130 delegates came together from across the British Columbia. We were joined by a delegation of our affiliates from Saskatchewan and BC to address some of the current struggles, celebrate victories and map out the path forward for the next two years and beyond.

Convention opened on the unceded land of the Coast Salish Territories *x̣ẉməθḳẉəỵəm* (Musqueam), *Sḳwx̣ẉú7mesh* (Squamish), and *Səḷíḷẉətaʔ* (Tsleil-Waututh). It was an honour to have Aaron Williams join us from the Squamish Nation to share a blessing and a song. The relationship of the ILWU and Indigenous communities along BC's Coasts goes back over 100 years, "when the early ships were made of wood and the men were made of steel". It goes back to the day when William Nahanee refused to run the ship's gear unless he was paid like a European, and his gang stood firm until the employer agreed to pay them like the Europeans that were doing the same job.

Our history as a Union has been to use our position in the labour movement to help those in need, and to use our earnings to help lift people. Chief Joe Capilano, did this in 1906, using his earnings as a Longshoreman to pay for a trip to England to Lobby the King of England for the rights of BC's Indigenous Peoples. Working people along the Waterfront have a gloried history of using our resources to better our lives and the lives of others!

After four years there was much to talk about, and it was good to be meeting in person again. Some important

resolutions were passed that will set the direction for ILWU Canada for the next four years. The delegates agreed to send a resolution back to their individual Locals to support the people of Ukraine financially. There were resolutions on organizing and protecting ILWU jurisdiction.

We were lucky to be joined by a few guest speakers this convention. Ed Ferris, International Secretary Treasurer brought greetings from the International along with Sam Kruetz, International Vice President from Hawaii and Dennis Young from the Alaska Longshore Division.

Bea Bruske, President of the Canadian Labour Congress over a video greeting spoke about their action plan "Forward Together".

Federal Minister of Labour, Seamus O'Regan, spoke following the showing of the tragic video "Tug Workers Sound the Siren" and was left a bit speechless. He spoke on how government and unions could work together to strengthen safety regulations in the future so tragedies like the one highlighted won't happen.

Laird Cronk, President of the BC Federation of Labour brought greetings of solidarity to the convention and thanked the ILWU for their continued support on campaigns and picket lines.

Elections Results

April 9 - 29, 2022, ILWU Canada held an election for the position of Secretary Treasurer. The candidates were Bob Dhaliwal (Local 502) and Cara Kerins (Local 502). Bob was successful

in his campaign and was elected for a third term.

Elected by acclamation were Rob Ashton (Local 500) President for a third term. Pat Bolen (Local 502) 1st Vice President serving a second term and Dan Kask (Local 502) as 2nd Vice President in charge of Education and History for his second term.

Cliff Wellicome, 3rd Vice President of ILWU Canada announced that he would not be seeking re-election and has decided to retire after 35 years in the industry. Cliff has served the union well in many different roles through his own Local and finally as ILWU Canada's 3rd VP of Safety. His knowledge and expertise will be greatly missed. The Officers wish him a long and happy retirement.

Finally, Jessica Isbister was elected by acclamation as 3rd Vice President in charge of Safety. She enters the position with a wealth of knowledge and is looking forward to serving the Union for the next two years.

The 2022 ILWU Canada Convention was a great success after a tough couple of years making our way through the global pandemic. There is a strong plan with a lot of hard work ahead to move the Union forward towards until the next Convention in 2024. It will be a challenge to get everything we would like accomplished in the next two years, but we look forward to the challenge with optimism.

In Solidarity,
The Officers of ILWU Canada

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President's Report

bargaining that management has been involved in with their first Collective Agreement. ILWU Canada Officers are committed to working with Local 400 and their members in getting the deal their members want and deserve to better their working conditions.

The latest issue ILWU Canada is dealing with is with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) and their attempt to destroy workers lives by driving the tugboat industry into a race to the bottom. The VFPA recently awarded a contract to a tugboat company that is new to the shores of BC. This company has a Collective Agreement that undermines the current standards by approximately 50% for the tugboat industry here in BC. We do not know why the VFPA has done this, because from what we have gathered there was and continues to be no issues with the service that our members provided through Seaspan. The only thing we determined is this other company is cheaper, which inevitably leads to a race to the bottom for the tugboat industry here in BC. What comes from these races to the bottom? Workers not interested in becoming seafarers! The VFPA will have single handedly created a shortage of workers in the tugboat industry and may soon be similar to the shortages that have been created in skilled trades across the province due to corporate lobbyists!

The residents of this province must not allow the VFPA to continue on with their current path of "cheaper is better" when it is awarding contracts! Workers and the environment must always come first before corporate profits! We

Continued on next page

The world after the last two years has started to move again, and ILWU Canada has been looking back at what we have learned regarding communication with our current and future members. We have taken to using social media more to reach a larger audience, and so far it has been working. We will continue to utilize this effective tool as well as others to keep our workers up to speed on important issues.

Through our engagement with the membership, our Union grew last year to include new members joining us from a variety of sectors, which means we have been bargaining more First Collective Agreements than ever before. The Officers of the ILWU Canada are committed to working with the Locals to bargain these new agreements, for better working conditions for our people, and when asked to lend a hand to work with our Locals on renewal Collective Agreements as well.

Not all rounds of bargaining go easily though, Open Road Mercedes in Surrey, at the time of this writing for example ILWU Local 400 asked and received a BC Federation of Labour Boycott of Open Road Mercedes. This is due to their anti-worker attitude and bad faith



1st V.P. Report

best interest of Canadian taxpayers and labour as a whole. I was able to stand in front of the whole body and remind everyone that the ILWU was not just an asset but an integral stakeholder in the VFPA.

I also reminded everyone when the ILWU did have a great relationship with the Fraser Port Authority (FPA) and Vancouver Port Authority (VPA) prior to the corporate takeover. There was a time when we were regarded with respect and dignity by the VPA and had the ability to move mountains cooperatively together. I also suggested it is well overdue for us to have a seat on their Board to bring the labour perspective to light in decisions being made going forward.

The ILWU longshore division is now getting ready for the main industry bargaining. We have some large hurdles to overcome due to the economy and automation. This will be, I feel a generational round of bargaining that we need to set the groundwork for future members' families in the years to come.

In closing, please put your families and your Union at the top of your priority lists. I promise the Officers of this great organization will do the same for all its members and casuals.

In Solidarity
Pat Bolen

would like to start by giving my gratitude and respect to all the members of the ILWU for supporting my run for another term as your 1st VP for ILWU Canada. The position is the most challenging I have had in my career representing the ILWU to date. I wish to give my word to the members that with all of the cooperation of the members I will fight to make this union the strongest and most well-respected entity in the union movement within Canada and globally around the world.

I recently took a trip to Toronto to attend the Association of Canadian Port Authorities (ACPA). The convention is held yearly in different locations across the country. Many large players in the shipping industry attend such as DP World and government officials. While I was there, I had the opportunity to comment on what I heard from our own Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) CEO, Robin Silvester. He spoke primarily on the corporate initiatives, that in my opinion are not in the

2nd V.P. Report

First, I would like to thank the rank and file for their continued support by electing me to a second term as ILWU Canada's 2nd Vice President. Its an honour and a privilege to serve the ILWU.

At the 36th ILWU Canada Convention, the Union made some important constitutional changes. We have altered some of our standing committees to make sure more space is made for rank-and-file members to participate in the Union. You can help us with implementing some of these changes by participating in the Member Engagement Committee survey that has been distributed to the Locals.

The ILWU Canada Young Workers' have been a busy committee after a phenomenal Labor Notes Conference in Chicago last month, for more details see their article to hear about their experiences.

The education programs are back in full swing. We have held Shop Steward courses in Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Surrey and Vancouver Island. At this point things are looking like there will be a Winter School again at Harrison in the new year and we are in the planning stages to host an ILWU Canada Leadership course again.

Outside of the education file I have continued to work with ILWU Local 522 workers at Ridge Meadows Recycling.



These workers have built a core group of stewards who are working hard at organizing internally and are not backing down from any challenge from an employer that is openly targeting union officials. Additionally, I have been working with Local 400 and the workers at Open Road Mercedes, again focusing on internal organizing, power building, and planning strategic actions against an anti-union boss.

There are great things happening in the labour movement: Workers are realizing the value of their labour. Workers are organizing against predatory bosses. Workers are withholding their labour and making gains in the workplace. The price of everything is going up, so should the price of our labour. I'm reminded of a quote from the late Bob Crow, "If you fight you won't always win. But if you don't fight you will always lose"

In Solidarity,
Dan Kask



3rd V.P. Report

in Saskatchewan.

Continuing the work that Cliff started with female coveralls is a challenge I took up immediately. Holding our employers responsible for providing PPE that fits properly will benefit all workers. I will continue to provide updates as we move forward on this. This is also now on the agenda Provincially, I sat in on a lobbying session to Minister Bains, who was very concerned to hear about the hazards associated with ill-fitting PPE.

Lastly, I would like to say how encouraging it is that the International Labour Organization (ILO) has added **Safety and Health** as a fundamental principle and right at work. Previously the ILO had four rights:

1. **Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.**
2. **The elimination of forced or compulsory labour.**
3. **The abolition of child labour.**
4. **The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.**

By adding this as a fifth right the ILO is elevating safety and health at work. ILO member states whether they have signed relevant conventions or not, will now be obliged to both respect and promote work environments that are safe. This has the potential to impact millions of workers around the world.

I would like to encourage members to reach out by email or phone if they have questions or concerns.

In Solidarity
Sister Jessica Isbister

To begin I would like to thank the Locals for the honour of serving as 3rd Vice President of ILWU Canada. My predecessor, Cliff Wellcome, stepped down after his extended term and I was acclaimed at our long-awaited Convention. My deepest gratitude to Cliff for the excellent job he did in protecting the health and safety of ILWU workers. Our transition has been a smooth one, with Cliff updating me on his latest works and my new duties. I look forward to the challenge and learning to come while working for our great union.

Since being sworn in at the May ILWU Canada Executive Board Meeting (CEBM) and the Longshore Contract Executive Board (LCEB) meeting I have already been very busy. On June 18th, we gathered to remember the **Battle of Ballantyne** at New Brighton Park in Vancouver. We had a good turnout and as always hearing from our Pensioners was the highlight of the day for me. Remembering our history is critical as we face the battles ahead. In June I also had the privilege of attending the **Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union's (RWDSU) 41st Biennial Convention** in Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Watching the democratic process at work was inspiring. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about our ILWU family

Scty-Treasurer's Report



Convention years are always extra busy ones for the ILWU Canada officers and it's staff. First planning and organizing convention, then the flurry of the convention week, clean up and lastly the debrief. This year was made even busier with an election. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members that took the time to vote, but I also want to continue encouraging all members to take the time to participate in future elections. ILWU Canada and its Locals are democratic institutions and can only run efficiently when members are engaged.

A trend I have seen lately is poor attendance at Union meetings. I cannot stress enough the importance of attending your Local Union meetings. They are an essential part of our process and keep members informed and allow us to carry on the business of the Union. There are many opportunities to get involved in your Local so please ask where you can be of help.

In my role as Secretary Treasurer my main job is to manage the finances of the ILWU Canada office. We have completed the audit for 2021, and it was a clean one. I am also responsible for the budget that is presented to the convention every two years and that was approved by the convention delegates. The Locals will see an overall decrease in per cap for the next two years.

I continue to sit on committees with the BC FED, CLC, ITF, United Way, Community Savings Credit Union and the Labour Standards Advisory Committee (LSAC) of the federal government. My two main interests are community engagement and automation. I have also

been monitoring changes to the Canada Labour Code. I continue to help with communications by putting out a monthly email newsletter, any members wanting to receive it can sign up on our website at www.ILWU.ca or email me at treasurer@ilwu.ca

For the Longshore Division I sit on the board for the Waterfront Pension and Benefits Plans. These plans are large and complex, we have over 7000 workers in the industry so you can imagine the demands of the job. Legislation governing these plans is constantly changing so it is important for the Trustees to constantly stay up to date. The Trustees have been able to improve these plans over the years and we hope to continue this going forward. Information on the plans can be found at www.longshoreplans.ca.

Convention has given the officers a strong mandate for the next two years and we will continue to serve the members and Locals of ILWU Canada. We will continue to represent ILWU Canada at the Local, Provincial, Federal and International levels.

I wish my ILWU family and friends a great rest of the year and hope to see many of you in person as things improve.

Bob Dhaliwal
Secretary Treasurer

Period Promise

Several years ago, ILWU Canada began participating in the United Way's Period Promise campaign. Lack of access to menstrual products is a serious issue in Canada. Statistics show that more than a quarter of people requiring menstrual products have gone without. This affects their ability to attend school, work and sometimes having to make a choice between buying food or menstrual products. This

should not be a choice they have to make.

United Way of BC has made this one of their annual programs and every year collect thousands of boxes of free product to be distributed to agencies around the Lower Mainland and the rest of the province. This year campaign took place between May 6 to June 7, 2022. To find out more or donate go to www.periodpromise.ca



PRESIDENT'S REPORT...

Continued from page 2

are attempting to find solutions to this grave decision made by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority in undermining the seafarers and their families here on the West Coast of Canada. Please feel free to send letters on this subject to ILWU Canada, we can then forward them onto the Federal Government as a package.

On behalf of the Officers of ILWU Canada I want to thank our rank and file for having our backs now and into the future. Be prepared for a call to action to rally in the streets in the months ahead if needed as we have quite a few challenges headed our way!

In Strength and Solidarity,
Rob Ashton

Magic and Lethal:

The Asbestos Memorial will be the first public monument in North America to commemorate this tragedy



Workers in mining, construction, power plants and shipyards, industrial insulators and firefighters are the most at risk. But so are teachers, office, and hospital workers. There is no safe level of exposure. Some people are impacted by a single known exposure. The disease can take 10 to 30 years to emerge. And when it happens, there is no cure. And while asbestos use was finally banned in Canada in 2018, the lethal material continues to exist in many homes, schools, hospitals, and daily products. While standards are in place for safe asbestos removal and disposal, unscrupulous contractors routinely cut costs by illegally dumping asbestos materials in parks and undeveloped lands. The Memorial will honour the thousands who have died, and spark public awareness of the ongoing danger that surrounds us.

The memorial will be installed on the north-west corner of the waterfront path of the Vancouver Convention Centre. This sits at the foot of the "Line of Work" installation that profiles workers killed and injured on the job. And it faces Burrard Inlet, where for decades asbestos was loaded into ships for

export. This corner viewpoint with its view of the water and mountains attracts millions of pedestrians and cyclists, including international cruise ship passengers from the nearby docks.

A powerful, contemporary metaphor "Wind Wheel Mobile", by Vancouver artist Douglas Taylor, is a dynamic kinetic sculpture, driven only by the wind. Rich in symbolism, it could become one of Vancouver's most iconic images. The wheel is a potent metaphor, says Taylor. In many cultures the wheel is a symbol of life, death, and renewal. Asbestos fibers and molecules bear a close resemblance to the spokes and wheels, while the sculpture itself has a visual relationship to the lungs and bronchial airways of human body. The mobile's vane, representing human lungs, steers it into the wind. The installation will include the text of the poem "Magic and Lethal" by renowned playwright John Gray, which evokes the ominous history of asbestos from its early days when it was heralded as "The Magic Mineral" to the discovery of its devastating impact on human health. The memorial is both beautiful and curious with constant motion.

To Register Email: rsvp@labourheritagecentre.ca

Indigenous Partnership Success Showcase 2022

Bob Dhaliwal and Joulene Parent attended the Indigenous Partnership Success Showcase held May 26-27, 2022. ILWU Canada attended the event to show support for reconciliation and to build on our long history of collaboration with Indigenous peoples. Some of the first longshore workers were indigenous and were known for their skill and expertise in loading and unloading cargo in the early days of dock work on the West Coast.

The event was filled with various success stories of partnership and collaboration. Economic development is a key component of reconciliation as well as self-government. We look forward to building on our long history of supporting indigenous peoples.

ILWU Local 400 has set up a \$2500 scholarship to help with the costs related to school for Indigenous workers that want to work in the marine industry.



Pictured above **CHASTITY DAVIS- ALPHONSE** who was the moderator for the conference. Chastity is a multi-award-winning **INDIGENOUS RELATIONS STRATEGIC ADVISOR** and the founder of 'Deyen - An Invitation to Transform'.

Greetings from Saskatchewan Joint Board RWDSU



Retail Wholesale Department Store Union (RWDSU) delegates from all our Local Unions across the province of Saskatchewan attended the Joint Board's 41st Biennial convention held in Humboldt, June 8, 9 and 10, 2022. This gathering is the single most important event for the Union, where policy, finances and the direction of the organization are set down for the next two years. As well, a new Executive Board was also elected representing our three Divisions, to conduct the wishes of delegates who came from every shop and Local Union across the province of Saskatchewan.

Election Results – Re-Elected Officers

President: **Wanda Bartlett**

Secretary Treasurer: **Garry Burkart**

Vice President: **Bonnie Lewis**

Co-op Division

Vice President: **Blair Estey**

Food Division

Vice President: **Craig Horbay**

General Division

Over 90 rank and file members from 16 Local Unions across Saskatchewan including staff and invited guests registered to

attend. The three days were packed with reports, presentations and debate of the various Executive Officer's reports given by the Executive Board and Local Unions. Overall, convention participants enjoyed the event and the only real dissent among members took place at the fun packed evening social event involving the Holey-Board Tournament.

Of worthy note, there were solidarity greetings brought by ILWU Canada's President, Rob Ashton, 3rd Vice President, Jessica Isbister, and, Provincial Representative of RWU British Columbia Randy Anderson-Fennell, and Hugh Wagner, General Secretary of the Grain Services Union that were all well accepted. Once again, RWDSU members clearly understand the respect that the RWDSU has for these loyal friends.

Overall, even with the COVID 19 pandemic problems that we experienced during the 2020–2022 period, while this convention will not go down as a record-breaking year for RWDSU and its members, progress continues to be made on all fronts. Many of our shops bargained the best wage increases that they could while under our government-imposed sanctions. A considerable number of grievances were

filed and resolved for members across the province. RWDSU completed a successful three-year legal case which was about to go ahead to the Court of Queen's Bench based on our Charter challenge case on the right-wing Saskatchewan Party's regressive anti-union Saskatchewan Employment Act (SEA), anti-union supervisory provision restricting supervisors from belonging to a Union in the same bargaining unit or in some cases no union at all. This successful challenge resulted in the reinstatement of the previous Saskatchewan Trade Union provisions allowing for supervisors to join the same union and same bargaining unit if they meet the definition of an employee under the Act.

We need to work on getting more involvement with Union activism by our members in their Shops and Local Unions. While some view shop floor militancy as old-fashioned we continue to advocate that this form of resistance is our best defense. The period going into our next convention 2022 – 2024 will be even busier with many of our agreements coming open for renewal and members negotiating for fair and decent settlements.

While the SEA pendulum has swung to the side of the bosses and their very

restricted provisions of the Labour Code which severely hampers Unions from organizing the unorganized workers in the province of Saskatchewan. We will not rest and will continue to work diligently and fight for the right to organize the unorganized which also includes changing the Saskatchewan Party government for a more labour friendly version of government.

Finally, on behalf of the President, the Provincial Executive Board and all RWDSU Members from across Saskatchewan, I wish to extend a safe and fun filled summer that we all deserve coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and to all ILWU Officers and rank and file members in Canada, USA, and the around Globe. Good luck and keep up the fight and struggle for the rights of all working people.

RWDSU will next meet again at the convention in 2024 and we will always invite the great labour organizations that have our back as we continue the fight against the bosses.

In solidarity and a respectful remembrance of Juneteenth.

Garry Burkart

Secretary-Treasurer

Saskatchewan Joint Board RWDSU

Grain Services Union

Delegates from GSU's Locals 1 and 2 met in Regina on June 23 and 24 for Union Education and Agreement Renewal Bargaining preparation.

The first session of the delegates meeting was a joint union education effort with delegates from Local 14 which centered on conflict resolution

and effective communication. The next morning Local 1 and 2 delegates focused on the collective bargaining process, and preparing for agreement renewal bargaining with Viterra for renewal of the collective agreement that expires on October 31, 2022

The June 24th sessions provided an initial sounding for the bargaining

priorities of GSU members employed in Viterra country operations, maintenance and Regina head office. Delegates were very candid about the experiences and bargaining expectations of union members at their locations. Several broad themes emerged but chief among them were wage increases that reflect employees' contributions to Viterra as well

as addressing the rising cost of living, pay equity for Facility Sales and Admin employees and actual performance pay for Regina's head office employees were central to the discussion. Hours of work and car loading issues were also top priorities for Country Operations and Maintenance employees.

Continued on page 8



GSU's Local 1 Bargaining Committee: Standing (left to right): **WILLIE HARRIS, TRAVIS BREWER, STEVE TORGERSON** (Staff Rep), **DAVID BARRETT** (new Local 1 president). Seated: **JIM BROWN AND MASON VAN LUVEN** (Staff Rep).



GSU's Local 2 Bargaining Committee: Left to right: **KAYLEE KRUGER, SHEILA TRAN** and **HOWARD WILSON**.

ILWU Remembers



National Day of Mourning – April 28

Every year on April 28, workers across Canada gather to honour workers who've lost their lives, been injured or made sick as a result of their job. As we marked the National Day of Mourning, it's important to recommit to fight for the living. Everyone has the right to be safe at work. We are more than statistics. We will not accept numerous people dying on the job every year, and hundreds of thousands more being injured or made sick as a result of their work. Working people deserve to be protected at work, for the sake of our families and our communities. Occupational Health and Safety should be a fundamental right. Workplace deaths are preventable deaths. Help fight to keep more names from being added to the list of those we've lost by speaking up.

An Injury to One is an Injury to All



ILWU CANADA 36TH CO



Right to left: **AARON WILLIAMS, ROB ASHTON, JOHN JACOBS, TINA BROOKS.** **AARON WILLIAMS** opened the convention with a blessing and a song. He is a member of the Squamish Nation. Photo Credit Jeannie Magenta



ROB ASHTON ILWU Canada President with Federal Labour Minister, **SEAMUS O'REGAN.** Photo Credit Jeannie Magenta



ILWU Canada's Young Workers Committee Presentation, **TYLER RASMUSSEN-23, BRITNI PAQUETTE-508, MATT WILLIAMS-400, BOB DHALIWA** (not on the committee) **BRYAN DELWO-502, TEREZA TACIC-500.** Photo Credit Jeannie Magenta



ILWU International Vice President – Hawaii, Brother **SAM KRUEZ** bringing greetings and speaking about the importance of family and sticking together. Photo Credit Jeannie Magenta



Members observe a moment of silence for those who have passed away since the last convention (**ILWU LOCAL 333 AND 502 MEMBERS PICTURED**) Photo by Joshua Berson.



Sister **JOULENE PARENT** Chairing the Officers Reports Committee. Photo by Joshua Berson



Affiliate Delegate **RANDY ANDERSON-FENNEL** from RWU-BC bringing convention greetings. Photo by Joshua Berson



ILWU International Secretary Treasurer **ED FERRIS** with **DENNIS YOUNG**, Alaska Longshore Division President. We were very lucky they were able to join us and participate in our convention bringing greetings and words of solidarity. Photo by Joulene Parent



Delegate **JASON WOODS**, President, Local 400, sharing the tragic deaths of **TROY PEARSON** and **CHARLIE CRAGG**, two tugboat workers on a non-union tug who were killed on the job. Blaming lack of inspection enforcement, training and dangerous weather conditions. Photo by Joshua Berson



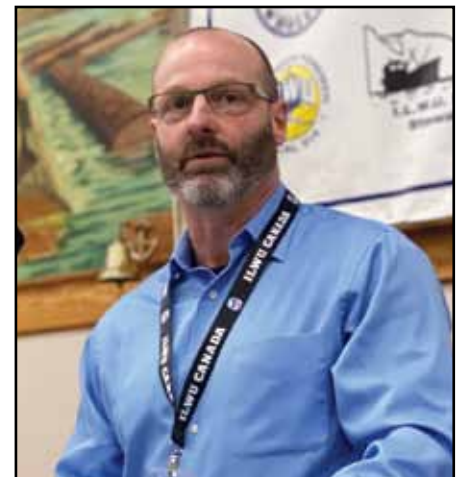
Delegate **BARRY HOLLOWAY**, Local 500 reminding the us all the value of our work. Photo by Joshua Berson



Delegates: **KAL UPPAL** and **ED PAWSON** from Local 502. Photo by Joshua Berson



NATHAN SMITH and **PETER LAHAY** presenting the ITF Report.



LAIRD CRONK, President of the BC Federation of Labour.

CONVENTION PHOTOS

Meet the Delegates



Local 333



Local 505



Local 517



Local 400



Local 508



Local 519



Local 500



Local 523



Local 520



Local 502



Local 522

Local 514 - No delegates were in attendance



Affiliates GSU, RWU - BC, RWDSU



Pensioner Delegates



ILWU Canada Officers



Young Workers Committee

Thanks to all the delegates for a successful Convention

ILWU Canada Young Workers Proudly Represented at the 2022 Labor Notes Conference

by Tereza Tacic



Seventy plus ILWU Delegates at the Labor Notes Conference representing their Locals along the West Coast of Canada and USA. From Canada there were 16 reps from **LOCAL 333, 500, 502 AND 508.**

This past June, 16 Canadian longshore workers attended the Labour Notes 2022 Conference in Chicago, Illinois. As stated on their website, “Labor Notes is a media and organizing project that has been the voice of union activists who want to put the movement back in the labor movement since 1979. Through our magazine, website, books, conferences, and workshops, we promote organizing, aggressive strategies to fight concessions, alliances with worker centers, and unions that are run by their members.”

Labor Notes has been hosting conferences regularly since 1982. This year, the over 4,000 attendees experienced three days of labor-related workshops, lectures, meetings, and meet-ups. There were over 100 different sessions to participate in, ranging from Bargaining Basics, How to Effectively Research Your Employer, How to Write Songs for the Picket Line, and everything in between.

Members of the ILWU were proudly representing the Union as panelists in many sessions, such as ILWU Canada’s 2nd VP, Dan Kask, for “Democracy Is Power: Leadership in a Democratic Rank-and-File Union,” International Delegate of ILWU Canada’s Young Workers Committee, Tyler Rasmussen (Local 23), for “Young

Workers Rising,” and Peter Olney (retired ILWU Director of Organizing), facilitating “Organizing for the Long Haul: An Intergenerational Panel.”

One of the most memorable experiences of the conference was the “Longshore Worker Meet-Up” where over 90 longshore workers from all coasts gathered in a room and discussed the nuances of their respective workplaces, how to strengthen union bonds, and upcoming contract negotiations along the West Coast. Facilitator Zack Pattin (Local 23) stated proudly, “I don’t want a fair contract. I want a great contract. I want the boss to lose!” He was met with an eruption of cheers as he did an immense job building union-wide solidarity.

Representing Canadian ILWU workers, there was one worker from Local 333, there were four workers from Local 500, seven from Local 502, and three from Local 508 (these numbers include four members of the ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee). Plus Dan Kask, 2nd VP and Genevieve Lorenzo, Organizer from the ILWU Canada office. Upon returning home, they had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and all that they have learned. They cannot wait to attend the next conference and have already begun organizing more of their fellow workers to join them.



ILWU Canada’s **DAN KASK** with **CHRIS SMALLS**, President of the Amazon Labour Union. Chris has been a driving force in the labour movement going head-to-head organizing Amazon workers in New York. He is hoping the strides they are making in New York will have a domino effect across the country. “We would like to thank Jeff Bezos for going to space because while he was up there, we were organizing a Union” **CHRIS SMALLS.**



ILWU Local 508 workers **BRITINI PAQUETTE, JAMAINA MCLEOD, AND KENDRA TITLEY** excited and ready to attend their first Labor Notes Conference in Chicago.

GSU...

Continued from page 4

Delegates elected David Barrett (Gull Lake) to be the new president of Local 1, while Colton Buck (White City) was elected vice president. They will be joined by Travis Brewer (Saskatoon) and Chris Yeo (Belle Plaine) as Local 1’s representatives on GSU’s Joint Executive Council (JEC).

In being elected president of Local 1, David Barrett replaces Jim Brown who continues to be president of GSU overall

and continues to serve on the bargaining committee. Colton Buck is the new VP of Local 1, while Travis Brewer returns as an incumbent and Chris Yeo joins as a new representative on the JEC.

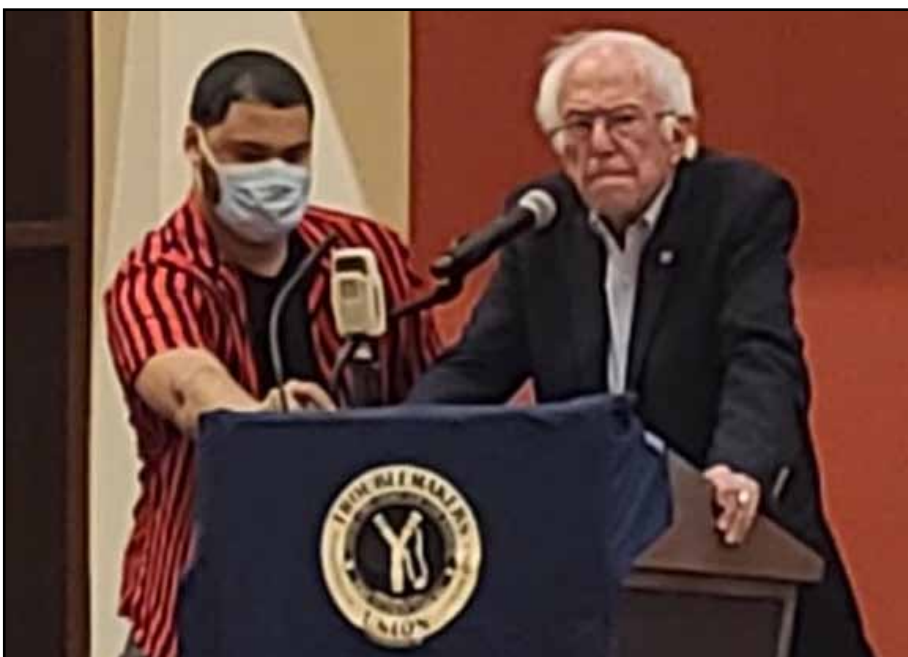
“We’re continuing GSU’s transition to a new generation of leaders,” said GSU President Jim Brown. “Welcome to David, Colton, Travis and Chris.”

The delegates meeting also elected a bargaining committee comprising of Jim Brown (Balgonie), Wilfred Harris (Carnduff), Shannon Antonenko (Lloydminster), David Barrett (Gull Lake) and Travis Brewer (Saskatoon). Local 2 delegates, Sheila Tran, Howard Wilson and Kaylee Kruger were active participants in the dialogue. They serve as their Local’s bargaining committee and representatives on GSU’s Joint Executive Council.

Local delegates will be engaging members across Saskatchewan this summer to set the stage for assembling shortly after Labour Day to put the finishing touches on bargaining proposals to take to the table with Viterra later this summer and early autumn. Notice to bargain will be served on Viterra in August.

In Solidarity
Hugh Wagner, GSU
General Secretary

“Everyone does better when EVERY-
ONE does better.”



US Senator **BERNIE SANDERS** was a huge highlight for many in attendance. “No one person can win the fight against the corporate elite and powerful special interests alone. We will only succeed by standing together in solidarity.” **BERNIE SANDERS**

The Arrest of David Melquisedec Castillo Flores, General Secretary STIPES



Representatives of ILWU Canada, ILWU International and the ITF Dockers Section gather in support of David Flores.

Front row: LUIZ DELIMA, Middle Row: LOUISE ASHTON, ROB ASHTON, JESSICA ISBISTER, PAUL MCALEER, ERINCO TORTOLANO, WARREN SMITH, JOHN CANIAS, SAM KREUTZ. BACK ROW: NICK STAM, PADDY CRUMLIN, and ED FERRIS.

ITF Dockers comrade, David Melquisedec Castillo Flores - Secretary General of STIPES union in El Salvador was arrested on 16 May 2022 as he left a meeting with the Labour Ministry in the capital.

He was arrested twice under controversial emergency powers that the country's Congress has given to the El Salvador National Civil Police to suppress criminal gangs of "pandilleros", but it seems clear that David was being tracked and intimidated because of his unions' struggle against the privatization of the Port of Acajutla. David was also one of a group of union leaders who publicly questioned President Nayib Bukele's pension plans six months ago.

The day after David was first arrested and let go, police took him again, this time they took him to an unknown location. As soon as David was taken, the ITF Dockers' Section, along with ITF Americas and our affiliates in the region and globally, immediately mobilised international action.

We sent formal letters to the Salvadoran Ministers of Justice, Public Security, and of Labour and Social Welfare. We highlighted El Salvador's important obligations under UN and International Labour Organization conventions which prohibit their authorities from violating the rights and freedoms of trade unionists.

Our united movement then stepped up the campaign to free David, by quick-

ly filming and sharing powerful videos that spread throughout our global network of affiliates, activating social media platforms to pressure the regime to release him.

96 hours later - David was free, however on June 21, 2022 he was arrested once again at his home and accused of various criminal offences among which are bribery and drug dealing. In reality this is about the effective anti-privatization campaign he has been running.

The Salvadorian Government is treating David as a common criminal and using the Exemption Regime to keep him in prison until the Exemption deadline expires in 15 days or even more worrying is that they want to hold him in prison until the trial which could be months or even years away. Moreover, the ITF and IDC are deeply concerned about David's welfare and safety in prison.

Therefore the ITF and IDC have been working jointly to free David. We are going to call on all ITF and IDC affiliates to join international movement to push the Salvadorian Government to release our comrade immediately.

In order to start the process we will deliver a letter of protest on June 28, 2022

to the Embassy of El Salvador in London. This will be accompanied by a demonstration in front of the Embassy of El Salvador. ILWU Canada's President, Rob Ashton and current and former 3rd Vice Presidents, Jessica Isbister and Cliff Wellicome were in attendance at the rally.

Trade union members, leaders, supporters, and their families, continue to live in a climate of fear. They continue to risk persecution and arbitrary arrest every day, as the dangerous emergency powers have been extended by the country's Congress.

The International Dockers community is watching the situation carefully. We will not accept the targeting of trade unionists.

We demand that Nayib Bukele's government respect the fundamental human and workers' rights of the Salvadoran people.

#InternationalSolidarity #WeAreITF #SomosITF #ITFDockers #ITFAmericas



JESSICA ISBISTER, 3rd VP and PADDY CRUMLIN, General Secretary of the ITF

BATTLE of BALLANTYNE MEMORIAL



Photo by: JOULENE PARENT

June 18th, 2022 was the 87th anniversary of the Battle of Ballantyne Pier and a group of ILWU pensioners, members, casuals and guests were on hand to commemorate the anniversary. Like in years past, the ceremony was held at New Brighton Park, in front of the Battle for Ballantyne Pier monument which was installed in 2010. Guest speakers from the ILWU Canada Pensioners group, Vancouver and District Labour Council, New Westminster & District Labour Council, and the BC Labour Heritage Center, spoke about the significance of this day and the effect it had on BC's working history. It's important to remember that the Battle of Ballantyne Pier is not a victory to be celebrated, but a loss to be remembered.

It was ten years after the events of June 18, 1935, where police on horseback beat up workers fighting for their jobs, that the ILWU formed in Canada.

Back in 1935 roughly 1000 longshore workers peacefully marched through the streets of Vancouver towards Ballantyne Pier. The Shipping Federation determined to break the power of the Vancouver District and Waterfront Workers Union (VDWWU), had provoked the strike and hired scabs to replace the locked-out workers. When the workers tried to break through the police lines, they were met with tear gas, batons and a few workers were even shot in the back. The battle lasted several hours and resulted in many injured workers, fortunately no one was killed. The

longshoremen of 1935 lost the battle and after several more months the union of the time was broken. However out of the ashes of the VDWWU a new union was formed,

the ILWU. Finally gaining control of the hiring hall and over time negotiating the great terms and conditions we enjoy today.



Pensioners' Picnic

Pensioners Picnic Shows Solidarity With German Dockers Ver.Di

This year's ILWU Pensioners picnic hosted by Local 500 at New Brighton Park hosted by Local 500 took on a special twist in addition to the day's events.

A Show and Shine sporting several beautiful vintage cars and fun and games for the kids. The BBQ's were going full tilt roasting up an incredible feast sure to fill all the hungry bellies taking in the festivities.

When the ILWU gathers it's the perfect opportunity to send solidarity to our comrades struggling with the Employer. This

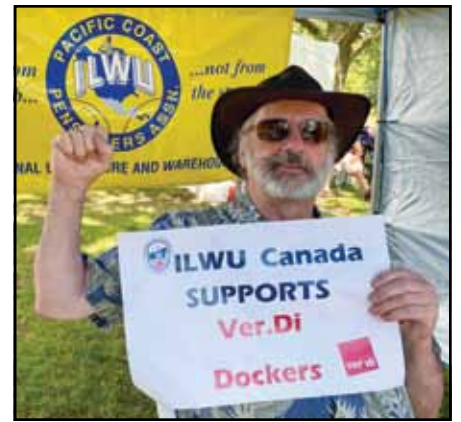
time around it is our Ver.Di docker friends in Germany who are in bargaining and fighting for their next contract a struggle that resonates with all longshore workers world-wide.

Joulene Parent, from ILWU Local 500, photographed the picnic volunteers and pensioners sending a strong message of support to our Union friends. In the words of US Senator, Bernie Sanders "No one person can win the fight of the corporate elite and powerful special interests alone.

We will only succeed by standing together in solidarity" and that is exactly what transformed the day's events.

As the photos of solidarity were shared on the ILWU Canada Facebook page the messages of gratitude and support began to flood in.

To everyone who took part we thank you, and if your curious as to how to become more involved contact your Local or the ILWU Canada office for the latest events and actions.



Grant's Law

By Mathew Williams

On June 4, 2022 the BCFED Young Workers' Committee held a Sit-In for Grant's Law. Some may wonder, what is Grant's Law? Let me explain.

In March 2005, Grant De Patie was killed while working alone at a gas station. Grant tried to stop what was known as a "gas and dash" and was dragged seven kilometers under the vehicle. His parents suffered a tragic loss and wanted to make sure this would never happen to another worker. They battled hard for better conditions and protection of workers who were working night shifts including, prepayment of fuel, two workers for the 11:00pm – 6:00am shift or a barrier between the customers and employees, and lastly proper training in safety and procedures at gas stations.

In 2008 Grant's Law finally came to life, and for the next four years things were looking good for the workers and their safety. Unfortunately, due to greedy companies that continually put a price tag on us, they were able to lobby the Liberal government into watering down Grant's Law. This meant only one worker during the 11:00pm – 6:00am shift, they removed the requirement for a barrier between the customers and employees, and lastly, the training of safety and procedures are now nonexistent. Have you ever noticed that the one thing that didn't change was prepayment at the pump? That tells me all I need to know about these corporate yahoos. This among many changes is truly an insult to



the life of Grant De Patie. Every worker should feel sick knowing that the Liberal government would rather give a company a break than care for your safety. Not to mention the fact that everyone, without a doubt, should always be able to go back to their family at the end of their shift!

This year's Sit-In was held outside the Circle K on Commercial Drive and East 10th Avenue. The Sit-In ran from 10:00pm – 5:00am.

One big push the BC Federation of Labour Young Workers' Committee is trying to add to Grant's Law is the shift of overnight hours being 10:00pm – 6:00am instead of 11pm-6am. Throughout the night we had the opportunity to educate and answer questions as many patrons and people in passing stop to ask why we were there. It was an easy explanation, as there

is a huge injustice occurring that needs to be corrected.

Throughout the Sit-In we witnessed the cashier deal with four different people attempting to steal. We also chatted with three security officers that patrol that area who told us how they work alone. One fellow told us about how he's been stabbed three times while on the job. **THREE TIMES!!!** The three security officers completely agreed that no one should ever work alone, especially in the evening and graveyard shifts. I chatted with the store clerk briefly, he seemed overjoyed that we were there. He told us how it would be nice if they even just had a safe area set up for him around the tills where the customers couldn't hurt him or try to rob him. We have started a survey, asking night workers to answer questions and tell their experiences, in the hopes that it will give us some leverage with the government.

I would like to end this with an important question to put things into perspective: What would you do if this was your brother, son, father, spouse or friend? Would you just sit by quietly while they stripped apart the law that you worked so hard to pass and made work unsafe for the employees again? Would you feel comfort in knowing that the only reason this law is watered down is due to the greedy chain companies putting profit over the safety of workers?

Grant's Law

In 2005, 24-year-old Grant De Patie was working alone at a gas station when he was killed following his employer's instructions to collect a license plate number during a gas and dash incident. His death shone a spotlight on the vulnerability of late-night workers, working alone.

In 2008, efforts by the De Patie family and the BC Federation of Labour resulted in the creation of Grant's Law, a BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation that better protected late-night workers. It was the first of its kind in Canada.

Grant De Patie's story continues to inspire young workers to take up the fight for better workplace safety.

BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE 2018 Union Made **BCFED**

Quotes for Grant's Law

"Every employee should be able to go home safe at the end of their shift. But many of the workers at this event know first-hand what it's like to be working alone at night and facing the risk of violence. Restoring Grant's Law is a simple, effective way to make work a lot safer for some of BC's lowest-paid, most vulnerable workers."

BCFED Young Workers' Committee co-chair Shauna Supeene

"It's gas station attendants and convenience store workers, but it's also security guards like Harmandeep Kaur. She was just 24 — the same age as Grant De Patie — when she was killed on an overnight shift this year. We need to restore the protections in Grant's Law, and do more to protect all overnight workers from violence."

BCFED Young Workers' Committee co-chair Rick Kumar

"Stripping out some of the most important protections in Grant's Law to satisfy corporate lobbyists was a terrible mistake. Many overnight workers are among the lowest paid in our province. And they shouldn't have to face the threat of violence, alone and unprotected. They deserve urgent action now."

BCFED Secretary-Treasurer Sussanne Skidmore



Retired Longshore members

2022 RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL NAME	AGE	SERVICE DATE
RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE		
500 Anthony Baugh-Allen	65.67	25.64 01 May 22
500 Ram Bains	65.00	44.33 01 May 22
508 Rick Bryski	65.08	15.34 01 May 22
500 Steve Grant	61.25	35.66 01 May 22
500 Keith Hanna	63.25	35.33 01 May 22
514 Gianni Manfron	59.92	41.80 01 May 22
500 Wayne Meindersma	63.00	35.48 01 May 22
505 Peter Pilfold	65.67	41.83 01 May 22
500 Donald Scott	60.00	35.33 01 May 22
514 David Standing	60.42	39.31 01 May 22
514 Rasham Rai	60.58	24.93 01 May 22
514 Peter Rondpre	63.58	41.68 01 May 22
502 Leo Ahern	62.58	22 01 June 22
502 John Altman	63.08	4.9 01 June 22
502 Ron Altman	63.08	8.91 01 June 22
500 Vincent Bain	60.08	38.44 01 June 22
500 Mike Hanna	62.00	35.41 01 June 22
505 Douglas Hembroff	61.83	43.71 01 June 22
500 Henry Jones	58.08	35.82 01 June 22
514 Kelly Lattimer	64.25	42.41 01 June 22
514 Timothy Petrisca	60.00	27.89 01 June 22
500 Mike Phelan	65.42	45.81 01 June 22
514 James Tully	60.83	29.85 01 June 22
500 Johnnie Hui	70.25	13.5 01 July 22
500 Shelly Kennedy	56	16.81 01 July 22
500 Larry Oakes	65	45.97 01 July 22
508 Jeffrey Roe	61	36.70 01 July 22
505 Robert Trew	64.58	8.74 01 July 22

We remember them well

2022 DECEASED PENSIONERS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
502	Santokh Moore	19-Dec-21	73
508	Ronald Malone	2-Apr-21	83
500	Ken Klassen	01-May-21	70
500	Bernard Burke	2-May-21	81
508	Edwin Banner	12-May-21	101
500	Fraser Barr	13-May-21	81
500	Hart Schorneck	20-May-21	83
514	Vittorio Debenedetto	11-Mar-22	87
505	Johann Klement	17-Mar-22	88
514	Joseph Savorelli	19-Mar-22	71
500	Lawrence Ashyn	22-Mar-22	58
500	Merle Marshall	4-Apr-22	65
500	Giovanni Zalunardo	6-Apr-22	89
508	Melhius Frederick	9-Apr-22	97
505	Carlo Milanese	11-Apr-22	86
514	Terry Evans	15-Apr-22	85
500	Harold Lloyd	24-Apr-22	97
502	Jack Labinsky	28-Apr-22	80
502	Ken Kelley	28-Apr-22	72
500	Norman Watt	16-May-22	89
505	Norman McKay	17-May-22	78
500	Virgolino Regales	18-May-22	83
508	Graeme Cave	24-May-22	83
500	Sylvester Risby	25-May-22	78
500	John Swindle	07-Jun-22	88
500	Angelo Moretti	18-Jun-22	83
514	John Hughes	19-Jun-22	81
502	Robert Ewart	27-Jun-22	76

DECEASED WIDOWS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
500	Michelina Santolla	05-Feb-22	84
508	Eunice Lainchbury	13-Mar-22	82
508	Barbara Wilson	17-Mar-22	84
514	Addeline Gilfillan	23-Mar-22	86
508	Elaine Smith	11-Apr-22	87
508	Dorothy Westra	11-Apr-22	84
508	Charmaine Rolston	TBD	
514	Mary Gowen	01-May-22	89
500	Patricia Senger	01-May-22	82
500	Faye Chaplin	03-May-22	82
502	Grace Danroth	04-May-22	91
508	Maureen Fourmeaux	21-May-22	80
502	Helen Smith	23-May-22	94

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
505	Elias Tsakonas	12-Mar-22	43
502	Guy Moise	10-Apr-22	59
500	John Ennis	15-Apr-22	61
505	Steven Newitt	15-Apr-22	59
500	Jagdeep Kang	12-Jun-22	32
500	Tejinderpal Gill	13-Jun-22	47

Member Engagement Committee (MEC) Survey

To All ILWU Locals and Affiliates,
We Need Your Feedback

Greetings Members and Casuals

We are in the process of forming the MEC which creates space for any worker to participate by the formation of working groups. To start there will be an "Education", "Human Rights/Equity", "Kill a Worker Go to Jail", and "OH&S in Provincial Jurisdictions" working groups and they will meet as needed.

A role of the committee as per the resolution is "To track, analyze, and improve worker participation in the Union". We have created a survey to start analyzing worker participation as well as help us

identify people who want to participate in these working groups and identify issues important to the rank and file that could potentially be addressed in a working group
Please Scan the QR Code and Fill Out the Survey!

(paper copies are available at ILWU Canada)

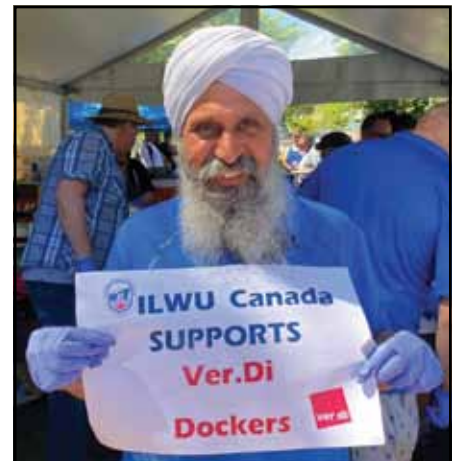


ATTENTION ILWU PENSIONERS

The next ILWU Pensioners meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2022 and will continue to be on the first Thursday of the month at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street in Vancouver. All ILWU Pensioners from all Locals are welcome to attend. Also, after two years there will be an ILWU Pensioners' Banquet on October 20, 2022.

This is a stag dinner for Pensioners only, no spouses or guests.
The bar will open at 6:00pm and dinner will be served at 7:00pm at the Maritime Labour Centre.

The ILWU Pensioners Club welcomes retired members from all Locals.



PORT LEGEND

333 – GRAIN WORKERS UNION	514 – SHIP AND DOCK FOREMEN
400 – MARINE DIVISION	517 – PORT OF VANCOUVER
500 – VANCOUVER	519 – STEWART
502 – NEW WESTMINSTER	520 – PILOTS AND DISPATCHERS
505 – PRINCE RUPERT	522 – RIDGE MEADOWS RECYCLING
508 – VANCOUVER ISLAND	523 – RIDLEY TERMINALS

AFFILIATES

RWUBC – RETAIL WHOLESALE UNION BC
RWDSU - RETAIL WHOLESALE UNION SASKATCHEWAN
GSU – GRAIN SERVICES UNION

Waterfront News

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Secretary-Treasurer, Bob Dhaliwal

Hours of Operation
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,
Monday through Friday.

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