



Providing information to our members and fellow unionists

ILWU Canada

January 2025

Waterfront News

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Celebrating Denise Block of ILWU Local 502

By Jessica Isbister, 3rd VP, ILWU Canada



In every industry, there are individuals whose courage and resilience carve new paths for future generations. At their October 23rd Local Union meeting, ILWU Local 502 paused the agenda to celebrate a woman who broke through barriers and paved the way for many others to follow. Her impact is undeniable, and her legacy will echo for years to come.

Sister Denise Block made history as the first woman to be registered at ILWU Local 502. Denise made her start on the waterfront in May of 1994, but it was not easy. Determined to get a job, Denise spent every day, all day at the old hall at 71-10th Street in New Westminster. This was an era where women were not welcome on the waterfront, yet she knew this was where she belonged. Denise recalls that "as soon as I would step out, I would come back and wonder, where did everyone go?" After six months of persevering, Denise was

sent to work at West Nav, a container loading facility, where she laboured for a full week. It was not until the following week when she was dispatched to Fraser Surrey Docks that Denise was officially registered. Her stubborn determination had finally paid off.

Denise is not just a trailblazer; she is a pioneer in every sense of the word. At a time when the industry was predominantly male, many questioned her abilities, but she demonstrated resilience and a groundbreaking work ethic that silenced her critics and earned her the respect of her coworkers.

Denise led the way for the women of Local 502, where now over 400 women proudly call themselves dockers. We thank those sisters that followed Denise; Shirley Scheffel in 1995, Erica Chalmers in 1999 and Jennifer Wilson in 2000. These sisters made space for women on the waterfront, and we thank them all.

Denise serves as a constant reminder that one person - one woman - has the power to transform an entire Local, and in doing so, create a more inclusive and dynamic workplace for us all. Diversity is our strength.

Denise, your bravery and determination has inspired the women of Local 502 to chase their dreams, break barriers, and create their own path to success. Your legacy is carried on by all of us as we build up our union.

Thank you!

Legacy of Advocacy: Honouring Brother Peter Lahay

By Nathan Smith, Inspector, International Transport Workers' Federation and Jason Woods, President, ILWU Local 400



It's challenging to capture in words the immense contributions of Brother Peter Lahay - a man whose life's work has been a beacon of advocacy and justice for workers worldwide. For over three decades, Peter's commitment to seafarers' rights has profoundly impacted countless lives, bringing justice, hope, and dignity to those in the maritime industry. As a lifelong advocate and Canadian Coordinator for the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), Peter has shaped maritime standards in Canada and left a lasting mark globally.

Peter's love for the sea began early. At just 15, he took his first job as a deckhand on a West Coast troller, gaining a deep understanding of the challenges faced by seafarers and a determination to improve their working conditions. This firsthand experience forged a bond with the sea and those who work on it - a bond that would guide him throughout his career.

In 1993, Peter became an ITF Inspector, launching a career that would make him one of the most respected figures in maritime advocacy. His deep knowledge of maritime law, shipping finance, and collective bargaining transformed him into a formidable advocate for seafarers. His compassion, honesty, and strength made him a trusted

ally for those facing exploitation or unsafe conditions. His appointment as Canada's first ITF Coordinator in 2002 expanded the ITF's reach, making Canada a safe harbour for seafarers seeking support and justice.

Peter's advocacy extended far beyond office work. He was always on the front lines, conducting shipboard inspections, securing the repatriation of abandoned crew members, and recovering unpaid wages years before Canada ratified the minimum standards of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). When the MLC came into force, Peter played a pivotal role in ensuring these essential standards were respected and enforced as they should be. His reliability earned him the respect and trust of seafarers worldwide, while his reputation as a man of action made him a steadfast defender of workers' rights.

One of Peter's most enduring contributions was his dedication to training and mentoring new inspectors. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive induction programme, he developed the ITF Inspector Induction Programme, guiding over 70 inspectors and setting a global standard of excellence. His efforts ensured that future inspectors were not only knowledgeable but also embodied the values that define the ITF's mission.

The mentorship Peter has provided us in the ILWU, and specifically within Local 400, has been invaluable. Without his guidance, many of us wouldn't have gained the tools or skills necessary to build and sustain a strong, democratic, and militant labour union. His impact cannot be overstated. Peter has been the moral compass of our Local and Union for many years, always stepping up to fulfill that role—whether at the ILWU Canada Executive Board, ILWU International and Canadian conventions, or as a rank and file ILWU member.

Peter also played a significant role in advancing worker safety and labour rights across various sectors. He served on numerous committees and task forces focused on improving port safety, worker education, and occupational safety and health initiatives. His work in the dockers' sector was particularly impactful, ensuring safer working conditions for both maritime and port workers.

Peter's retirement as ITF Coordinator and Inspector marks the end of an era, yet his legacy will continue to shape the maritime labour movement for generations. Even in retirement, Peter remains dedicated, mentoring new inspectors and passing on the invaluable knowledge he has gained over his career.

Peter's journey from a young deckhand to a revered figure in maritime advocacy is

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Trade Union Confederation of the Americas Women's Conference



The ILWU Canada Executive Board sent Jessica Isbister to the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) Women's Conference in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, November 27-29. As part of a delegation with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), Jessica joined

CLC Human Right Director Vicky Smallman, CLC Executive Vice President Siobhan Vipond, and United Steelworkers Project Officer Jessica Farias. The delegates worked on and adopted a base document to be presented at the TUCA Congress in May of 2025.

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President's Report

entire Coast in an attempt to force the government into enacting Section 107. It was quite clear the BCMEA and the member companies had zero desire or need to negotiate with Local 514. The collusion between the Employers Associations became obvious when the Maritime Employers Association (MEA) in Montreal then locked out CUPE 375 who were only engaging in an overtime ban as well, effectively shutting down the top three ports in Canada. This, even though it is unproven, seemed to be a concerted effort with the two MEA's in trying to force the Federal Government's intervention and effectively shutting down collective bargaining. The Federal Liberal Government then moved in and sent ILWU Local 514, CUPE 375, and CUPE 2614 back to work and, in doing so, ended free collective bargaining in the federal sector. The Federal Government allowed the Employers' Associations across the country and the railways to play them like fools. So where does that leave us as a Union? We will stand shoulder to shoulder with those Unions that are affected by this Section 107 in which a single person, the Minister of Labour, can destroy bargaining federally for workers and fight it till the end. Only together will we be victorious!

These past few months we have witnessed more strikes in the ILWU family. Local 333 went on strike against the Vancouver Terminal Elevators Association which lasted four

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Section 107: a term that the labour movement has come to know quite well, sadly. Since the last round of Longshore bargaining, Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code has been used six times, including in the following disputes: ILWU Longshore, AMFA, TCRC in the rail dispute, CUPE 375 Montreal Longshore and CUPE 2614 Grain Handlers in Quebec. So, what is Section 107? Section 107 allegedly gives the Minister of Labour unfettered power to end strikes or lockouts and force two parties into arbitration. But what does it really do? Section 107 of the Labour Code destroys collective bargaining in the federal sector completely and disastrously. It makes it so employers never have to worry about bargaining with unions ever again; they just sit back and wait until the Federal Government does their dirty work for them.

The most recent example of Section 107 here in BC is when ILWU Local 514 Ship and Dock Foreman went on strike, taking the action of an overtime ban which did not shut down the operations of West Coast Ports. The BCMEA then locked them out of the



1st V.P. Report

Introduction

It has been a busy five months since beginning my role as 1st Vice President of ILWU Canada. Our Union is facing serious issues that affect the working and personal lives of our membership. One thing that has become clear to me is that we are at a crossroads as a Union and as members of the ILWU. I have seen firsthand the effects of increased corporate control and domination in the workplace. We as Union members and workers are under increased pressure on the job and at home. Employers have ramped up their cynical attack on the very workers that are the backbone of our economy, whether it is through the weaponization of drug and alcohol policies, increased monitoring and discipline, or the very real threat of automation. Workers feel less satisfaction on the job and are under-valued for their long hours and contribution to the ports and terminals where we work. Workers have a greater feeling of disconnection with a more pessimistic outlook for the future. Workers and their families are being squeezed between

an increasingly toxic work environment and growing economic pressure in the form of higher mortgage rates and an increasingly high cost of living. But despite a reduced rate of inflation (price growth), the costs of daily living rose dramatically in a very short period and remain far too high and unsustainable for many workers. But if our history has taught us anything it's that when our Union is strong, engaged, and united, we can and will overcome great adversity. We just need to remember that as workers, our strength comes from our solidarity and our belief in one another.

Around the Waterfront Prince Rupert and the North

I had the opportunity to visit Prince Rupert in October for a few days and it was great to meet with some of the officers of Local 505 and to attend their membership meeting. I was able to see firsthand what is happening in the town and the surrounding area. There is a lot of activity going on in the Port of Prince Rupert with large scale developments underway on Ridley Island, Local 523 and billions of dollars invested by the Prince Rupert Port Authority to pave the way for future port and logistics activity on and around the Island. As these developments unfold it is important that we continue to protect ILWU jurisdiction and ensure that infrastructure development provides good sustainable union jobs for

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2nd V.P. Report

The education work continues at ILWU Canada. This summer we held our first "Summer Series" in Prince Rupert, a three-day education series that covered Stewards' training, Internal Organizing training, and Health and Safety training. ILWU Canada 3rd Vice President Jessica Isbister and Organizer Genevieve Lorenzo as well as Brian Campbell from the BC Federation of Labour Occupational Health and Safety department and I all had a great time facilitating these courses. But, as always, they were made successful by the support of the Locals and the rank and file members who attended. The next big education event will be ILWU Canada's Leadership course at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School from February 2nd to 7th, 2025, in Harrison, BC. Attending this course is a great opportunity for new and emerging leaders in the ILWU. All the Locals have been sent the registration information.

I would like to acknowledge ILWU Local 333 for achieving their latest Collective Bargaining Agreement. After months of negotiations and agitation for improved working conditions, preservation of jurisdiction, and fair value for their labour, Local 333 put up pickets. I had the pleasure of visiting a picket line and



talking with these workers. Even on the rainiest days while facing multiple legal challenges and the looming threat of government intervention, these workers held the line. The morale on the picket line was great. The workers shared stories, barbecued, marched, and chanted. Because of the nature of their work and shifts, some of these workers hadn't seen each other in a long time, and it took a strike to bring them back together. The whole experience speaks to why strikes work. Local 333 was able to win a contract, but what is just as important is that workers were brought together to stand up to global capital. It is a reminder that our greatest achievements are through struggle. Congratulations to Local 333 rank and file and leadership for achieving this victory.

Organizing the unorganized is a cardinal principle of the ILWU. With the help of ILWU Canada staff Catherine Dubé, Organizer Genevieve Lorenzo and I have put together a comprehensive

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3rd V.P. Report

Development Canada (ESDC) Labour Program is responsible for:

- Mooring activities.
- Operations on the dock.

Safety meetings with the ESDC Labour Program take place twice yearly under the Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Committee (OHSAC). The fall meeting took place on December 5, 2024, which I attended virtually. At this meeting, we had an informative presentation on Compliance Activities undertaken by the Labour Program to enforce Part II of the Code. Priority sectors included grain handling and elevators, longshoring, port and harbour operations, and water transport among other sectors. As you may be aware, compliance is an often-contentious issue that the ILWU is constantly pushing. This is especially true for Hazard Prevention Program (HPP) compliance, where we see many employers still lagging. Constant vigilance is needed to ensure that employers continue to work with Joint Health and Safety Committees to move the HPP along. Although the increased inspections are welcomed, many more are needed, followed by full transparency on all health and safety data. I urge you all to continue to submit health and safety concerns to your JHSC for them to be addressed.

In September, I had the privilege of attending a symposium titled "Collaborating to Respond to Harassment and Violence in the Workplace" in my capacity as a Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Harassment and Violence Prevention Advisory Committee member. Here we heard from leading experts working on preventing harassment and violence at work. Please check out their web page at

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While Employment and Social

Sec-Treasurer's Report

Working at ILWU Canada is never boring. There is always some new legislation, labour dispute or member issue to deal with. Our office has been keeping up with labour disputes in the rail, marine and aviation sectors. We have also been supporting other unions in their struggles. Each officer has been assigned different duties on top of their regular job to keep ILWU up to date federally, provincially, and internationally. In this report, I will update you on some of the committees I have been participating in as Secretary Treasurer.



Labour on changes to the Canada Labour Code. This committee is composed of employers, associations and labour unions. We met last in December 2024.

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)

I have been attending meetings virtually for the Transportation and Privatization working groups which are looking into the effects of privatization and technology on workers across the country. The working groups meet quarterly via Zoom. The CLC has also begun consultations on the gig economy and pensions in 2024.

For more information:
<https://canadianlabour.ca/>

BC Federation of Labour – Climate Justice and Jobs Standing Committee

I have been attending meetings for the Climate Justice and Jobs Standing Com-

mittee virtually. The committee is working on recommendations to the provincial government regarding a just transition for workers as the economy transitions from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy. The BCFED convention took place in November 2024.

For more information: <https://bcfed.ca/>

Invest Vancouver

Early in 2023 I was asked to join this board as one of three union representatives. The purpose of this recently formed board is to help attract more business to greater Vancouver in key sectors including transportation. This board meets quarterly. For more information:

www.investvancouver.ca

Community Savings Credit Union (CSCU)

I continue to sit on the board of the Community Savings Credit Union as a director representing ILWU Canada. We are encouraging Locals and Union members to bank with Community Savings because they are the only fully unionized credit union in BC. The credit union is growing and planning to open new branches soon to service underserved communities. Check out the union's credit union. For more information:

<https://www.comsavings.com/>

Committee for Workers Capital (CWC)

In early October, the Committee for

Workers Capital had a meeting in Toronto. This is a global organization that works with pension plan trustees to increase engagement with asset managers and push publicly traded corporations to respect labour rights and protect the safety of their workers. I was asked to speak on a panel to discuss some of the engagement work I have been doing with BlackRock and RBC. Also in attendance was Andrew Gerard, Local 502, who just joined the trustee board this year. Day two was opened by Paddy Crumlin, President of the ITF and Vice Chair of this Committee.

For more information:
<https://www.workerscapital.org/>

United Way BC (UWBC)

I continue to sit on the Labour Committee and Campaign Cabinet at United Way. This organization fundraises for smaller non-profit organizations that can't do it for themselves and focuses mainly on issues involving youth and the elderly. They have been doing amazing work on food security and after school programs for kids.

Find out how you can help at:
<https://uwbc.ca/program/labour/>

Longshore Pension and Benefits Boards

As the administrative trustee for the Longshore Pension and Benefit Plans, I deal with the day-to-day issues that arise from running such complex Plans. The main board of trustees meet quarterly. The

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1st VP REPORT...

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ILWU members and the community of Prince Rupert. Although container volumes at DP World Fairview Terminal have recovered somewhat from a dramatic decline post pandemic there is still a way to go. However, the Local is well positioned to capture back import container volumes and to build on the export side of the container trade equation. In Stewart, our northern most port, Local 519 continues to struggle with a very low volume of work but there is some reason for optimism. There is the possibility of more breakbulk and project cargo vessel calls, such as wind turbine components, to the Port of Stewart as renewable wind energy development is poised to take off in the North. We welcome Local 519's new President, Alysha Hughes, as well as new and returning officers, and wish them all the best as we stand by ready to assist the Local moving forward.

Vancouver Island

Local 508 on Vancouver Island covers a large jurisdiction and represents Longshore workers in Chemainus, Nanaimo, Victoria and Port Alberni. Conditions on the Island have been difficult over the past couple of years but there have been some areas of growth, notably in the cruise industry in Victoria, and there is reasonable optimism that new and existing operations will begin to yield more work opportunity for Longshore workers on the Island. In October, I attended a meeting of the Vancouver Island Committee with officers and executives of Local 508 along with member employers and representatives of the BCMEA. One positive take-away from this meeting is that there was a commitment on all sides that the Island Committee would continue to meet on a regularly scheduled basis to deal with issues facing ILWU members on the Island and attempt to resolve matters proactively. We shall see how the employers' side of the table intends to proceed

in the coming months. I look forward to continued involvement with Local 508 on this committee and in any other area they may want ILWU Canada to be involved.

Lower Mainland

Over the past few months, I have been working closely with both Locals 500 and 502 on a range of issues including various grievances, mediations and arbitrations. A common theme that arises is that the member employers and the BCMEA are pushing hard to gain more unilateral control over the entire industry, and most notably in training.

Local 514 Lockout

ILWU Local 514, representing 730 Ship and Dock Foremen, as well as Dispatchers and Ship Planners, have been without a contract since April 1, 2023. They have been negotiating with the BC Maritime Employers Association for nearly two years to renew their contract.

Negotiations stalled over the summer due to the BCMEA, a non-accredited employers' organization bargaining on behalf of the direct employers, filing several complaints against Local 514 at the Canada Industrial Relations Board, which the union had to defend against, using up valuable time and resources.

On October 30, 2024 the BCMEA tabled its final offer and refused to engage on any of the outstanding items left on the table.

On November 1, 2024, ILWU Local 514 served 72-hour strike notice against all their employers and notified them that job action would be in the form of an overtime ban. In response to this the BCMEA issued a notice that if the Foremen took any job action the Association would lockout all Local 514 members on the West Coast. The BCMEA then issued another notice saying that regardless of what Local 514 does or does not do, they would lockout all Local 514 members beginning Tuesday,

November 5, at 16:30.

On November 4, 2024, at 08:00, Local 514 members commenced their overtime ban by not reporting for work an hour early for shift change. The BCMEA locked out all Local 514 members at 16:30 that same day.

This lock out affected all ports on the West Coast of Canada and the only thing moving were grain exports.

On Saturday November 9, 2024, at the direction of the Minister of Labour, the parties met with the participation of the federal mediator. The session lasted about an hour with the mediator talking with each side separately and ending the meeting without scheduling further talks.

The Local 514 Bargaining Committee told the mediator they were committed to the process and would remain engaged. The BCMEA, on the other hand, showed up with the same final offer and was not willing to negotiate. Later the same day, the BCMEA withdrew their final offer and tabled a new offer.

The BCMEA's heavy handed and disproportionate response to an overtime ban is unconscionable. Their strategy is to create a crisis in the hopes that our Federal Government will get involved and use the Canada Labour Code against the Union to end the dispute – as they have done numerous times in the last year and a half.

On November 12, 2024, the Federal Minister of Labour, Steven MacKinnon, pursuant to Section 107 of the Canada Labour Code, issued a direction to the Canada Industrial Relations Board to declare an end to the lockout and impose final and binding arbitration. The Minister cited economic considerations as the rationale for this abuse of power and violation of our constitutional rights. In addition, and in the same decree the Minister ordered an end to the dockers disputes in the ports of Montreal and Quebec City and imposed final and binding arbitration in those disputes as well.

ILWU Canada Longshore Division

has a message for the member companies of the BCMEA: stop hiding behind the Waterfront Cartel, also known as the BCMEA, and step out of the shadows and negotiate with Local 514 on automation and the other issues of importance to their membership.

ILWU Canada and Local 514 condemn in the strongest terms possible this abuse of the Canada Labour Code to deny our constitutionally protected rights to collective bargaining, including the right to strike as a legitimate and sometimes necessary part of the collective bargaining process.

The Canada Labour Code has been weaponized by Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister MacKinnon, giving the Federal Government absolute power and discretion to end any labour dispute and impose any conditions they see fit. This is anti-democratic, unconstitutional, and immoral.

Grievances & Arbitrations

Currently in the Longshore Division there are at least seventy-two arbitrations that are in various stages of the process with many of those still waiting for arbitrator availability. This does not include the dozens of grievances still working their way through the process and are not yet at the stage of arbitration. This is a symptom of a broken system. Many issues could and ought to be resolved at the Local level between the direct employers and the Local Unions. This is becoming increasingly impossible with the agenda of the BCMEA to assert control over all areas of the industry, including day-to-day labour relations and operations issues at the various terminals. The direct employers whom I will name for you here: Fibreco Export Inc., Neptune Bulk Terminals (Canada) Ltd., Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd., Pinnacle Renewable Energy Inc., PKM Canada Services Inc., DP World (Canada) Inc., DP World Nanaimo Inc., DP World Fraser

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BCMEA Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative Mural Project

By Joulene Parent, ILWU Local 500



In late December of 2023, ILWU Local 500 received a letter from the BCMEA Indigenous Reconciliation Initiative to commission a mural by an Indigenous artist from a local Nation. The ILWU appointed me to represent the Union on the panel that would be overseeing this project. This Indigenous mural project truly embodies the spirit of collaboration and respect between the Nations, Musqueam, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh. The initiative commissioned Darryl Blyth, a Musqueam artist, who designed and painted the mural with the help of Michael Elias. The creation, "Oceans Together", not only highlights the cultural

richness of Indigenous communities but also reflects the deep connection between the maritime industry and the natural world. Darryl's mother is Susie Blyth of the Musqueam Nation, and a member of the Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU) 20964, and his father is Doug Blyth a maritime technician with the United Steelworkers (USW) Local 2009. Darryl Blyth is a member of Marine Workers Union Local 1 and former painter in the shipbuilding sector.

The mural's imagery of orca whales swimming alongside a marine vessel serves as a powerful symbol of harmony between nature and industry. It's particularly poi-

gnant that the orcas represent familial bonds and respect for the environment, echoing the Longshore community's commitment to safety and stewardship of the waters. "The orca whales, traveling with their family, represent our respect for nature, while the marine vessel behind them symbolizes the maritime industry that connects BC to the world."

Other than Longshore workers and the BCMEA, various stakeholders were involved, such as Indigenous artist Alano Edzerza, a Tahltan and an established entrepreneur and multimedia artist based in West Vancouver. The work emphasizes the importance of inclusive dialogue in

the reconciliation process. By showcasing Indigenous art on the Dispatch Hall, a central hub for Longshore workers and visitors alike, helps foster greater awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture on the West Coast.

Overall, this mural beautifies the space and surrounding area. The artwork also serves as a reminder of the responsibility we all share to protect our environment and supporting one another, both within the maritime industry and beyond.

Building relationships grounded in recognition and respect is crucial for moving forward together.

Solidarity Beats: Fundraiser Social Organized by ILWU Canada and United Steelworkers Union Young Workers

By Robert Crews, ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee

On September 26, 2024, the ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee, in conjunction with the United Steelworkers Next Generation Committee, hosted Solidarity Beats, a 1990's - early 2000's trivia night and dance party fundraiser. Held at the Maritime Labour Center, the aim of this event was to raise funds for the Sarah McLachlan School of Music, a school in our local Vancouver community that gives access to barrier-free music education and long-term supportive mentorship for at-risk and underserved youth. The school has three locations, two in British Columbia and one in Alberta, with over 1,100 students.

With the help of our Videomax DJ Ken Fraser, the 90's music was flowing, and people were mingling. The night was off to an awesome start. We had a special guest MC for the trivia portion of the evening, Avi Lewis, former MuchMusic host and fellow labour advocate. Avi did an excellent job delivering the night's questions and having him on the mic made for an entertaining time. The trivia was the highlight of the event, with people having a great time trying to answer some of the particularly tricky questions. Prizes were awarded

to the top five teams, including tickets to a local musician's show, four video games, and full-size prints of the coveted Solidarity Forever Young Workers poster.

Overall, the night was a great success, with over 50 tickets sold and people attending from all around our local community. Representatives from the BC Federation of Labour were present, as well as various youth from unions such as the BC Teachers Federation and our own ILWU Locals. While raising money for a good cause, this event also made it possible to connect with young workers from various other unions, build solidarity, network and create relationships that will help our common struggle.

Solidarity Beats raised a total of \$5,400 for the Sarah McLachlan School of Music. Thank you to all who attended, donated, and helped to make this event a possibility. Also, a special thank you to ILWU Local 400, ILWU Local 500, United Steelworkers, Victory Square Law, and ILWU Canada for the generous donations to the cause. Building solidarity for the future and helping our communities is what this whole thing is about, and Solidarity Beats did a fantastic job.

110th Association of Pacific Ports Conference in Kaohsiung Taiwan

By Bob Dhaliwal, Secretary Treasurer, ILWU Canada

From Aug 12 to 14, 2024, I attended the Association of Pacific Ports (APP) conference in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Kaohsiung is the largest port in Taiwan and is ranked 18th in the world for container volumes at around ten million TEU. The main purpose of my visit was to do research for the ITF Future of Work working group for which I am the chair. In 2023, Evergreen Shipping lines opened a new automated terminal in Kaohsiung. Terminal 7 is reported in industry articles as a highly automated terminal. A tour of this terminal was a part of the APP conference. Detailed information on terminal operations is difficult

to come by without direct access to these terminals, so the tour was an important opportunity. I discovered that the terminal is not fully automated as reported. Horizontal transport of containers is still manual. They are one of the first terminals attempting to use remote gantry cranes. After a year of operations, the productivity is still poor. It is important to attend international conferences like the APP conference, because many important contacts can be made and valuable information obtained. There were attendees from all over the Pacific. The next APP conference will be in Nanaimo, BC.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT...

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days, until they successfully negotiated a collective agreement without government interference. This goes to prove that with unity inside the Union and with the government staying out of labour relations, a deal can be reached. ILWU Canada wishes to congratulate the negotiations team and the rank and file of the Local for their successful negotiations in Vancouver and Prince

Rupert!

ILWU Local 400 successfully negotiated a collective agreement with Seaspan Oil after instituting an overtime ban against the company. This hard-fought battle against an anti-union company is another great ending for the rank and file of Local 400 at that employer!

The Industrial Inquiry Commission (IIC) into Longshore bargaining is in full swing with many meetings hap-

pening between Locals 500, 502, 505, 508, 519, 333 and 514 with the Commissioners. Your Union Officers are working diligently together to explain to the Commissioners that the problem with Longshore bargaining is that the CEOs of the terminals (our Employers) do not care enough to come to the table. We are pushing the point that if the CEOs were at the table, then talks would be able to progress at a greater speed and with more effectiveness. The

only way bargaining works is when the people that are affected the most are at the table. The BCMEA is a payroll-administrative company at best, and we want our Employers at the table. We are working with the Canadian Maritime Workers Council (CMWC) as well in regards to the IIC. The CMWC made up of the three Longshore Unions here in Canada: ILWU, ILA and CUPE 375. We will be reporting

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ILWU Local 142 Convention

By Rob Ashton, President, ILWU Canada



Photos Credit: JOULENE PARENT, LOCAL 500

I had the pleasure of being invited to and attending the ILWU Local 142 Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, during the week of September 9, 2024. The strength and unity of the largest ILWU Local on the West Coast was on full display at this Convention, as well as solidarity among the membership but also with other unions in Hawaii.

The Conference heard from many state and local politicians as well as the ILWU International Officers and the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) and the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Officers. The politicians talked about the Local's political engagement and how much it is respected in the state of Hawaii and federally in the US. Local 142's political work has gotten progressive politicians elected who want the best for the Union movement in Hawaii. Local 142 supports politicians that support the labour movement and the ideals of Union members. We can learn from Local 142 that political action truly does help Unions and the labour movement as a whole!

ILWU President Willie Adams addressed the Convention delegates and spoke about how the relationship between ILWU International and Local 142 has strengthened in recent years. He touched on what leadership means for ILWU. For example, President Adams stated "it's not about power that one holds over others, but their ability to inspire others". He talked about getting the youth of our Union more involved and giving them the training and skills that are needed to better our movement and to be ready to receive the torch of leadership when their time comes.

Christy Cain of the CFMEU discussed the attacks against their Union being brought on by the Australian government and, sadly, their Federation of Labour. The attacks have culminated in what I suspect to be an illegal action by the government in putting the entire CFMEU into receivership and firing all their staff in the name of false accusations against the strongest Union in Australia. We as the ILWU stand behind the CFMEU in their struggle to right this horrific wrong against them. This is just a power play from a government that

is afraid that workers may be getting too much say in how things work in Australia. We must stay ever vigilant against attacks on Unions and be ready to go on the offensive to protect our gains. We will be there to support the CFMEU in any way necessary to help defend them in their struggle!

We heard from Chris West, President of Local 142, about the immediate action taken by Local 142 when the fires hit Maui and wiped out the town of Lahaina. The grassroots response from Local 142 and the entire ILWU up and down North America proved to be the key to providing supplies to those that needed them most. Unfortunately, thousands of people lost their homes, which included many members of Local 142. Over 100 people in Lahaina sadly lost their lives. When the fires first broke out, the ILWU International Executive Board was meeting here in Vancouver, BC. We were able to watch how quickly and efficiently the Officers and Board members of Local 142 swung into action, with financial donations coming in from all the International Executive Board members on behalf of their respective Locals. It was truly humbling to watch, and it still is a reminder of how all areas of our great Union can come together when our family is hurting! The ILWU Local 142 Longshore division immediately started working with Mainland Locals on getting container shipments of goods sent to Maui. Only in Longshore fashion, they figured out a way to get necessities delivered to the community. ILWU were the first responders in getting the help to the people of Lahaina when government organizations were faltering. It just goes to prove that we are the best part of the communities we live in!

Lastly, we were able to support Unite Here Local 5 in their dispute with the Hilton Hawaiian Village, the most profitable resort in the Hilton chain. The relationship with Unite Here Local 5 and ILWU Local 142 has not always been the best, but under the leadership of President Chris West, the Officers and the Executive, this relationship has been fixed for the betterment of all workers in Hawaii. We marched 450 workers strong, taking the Hilton over in an orderly manner to express our support for the members of Unite Here Local 5 which culminated in a rally at the front of the hotel where we heard from the leadership of Local 5, President Chris West and myself. The message was simple: only united can the working class win the day against the employing class. We cannot allow the employing class to split us workers for any reason!

On behalf of the rank and file of the ILWU, I want to thank President Chris West and Local 142 for demonstrating what leadership should look like when put into action!

Solidarity on the Line: ILWU Local 333 Strike

By Douglas Lea-Smith, President, ILWU Local 333



On September 21, 2024, ILWU Local 333 served 72-hour strike notice to the Employer Association, the Vancouver Terminal Elevators Association (VTEA). Local 333 walked off the job the morning of September 23 at 7am, triggering the first strike action in over 50 years at the Grain Terminals in the Port of Vancouver.

The outstanding issues at the bargaining table with the Employer were largely monetary, except that the Employer was hanging onto a proposal to remove earned time off from our members. The earned time off was the only thing we were able to achieve when the Union was forced into a Continuous Schedule through binding arbitration in 2002. Back then, the arbitrator had gutted our contract to make room for the onerous six-on, three-off schedule.

The Employer attempted to bargain directly on two different occasions with the membership. They also released periodic "bargaining updates" designed to rile the workers up against their elected Bargaining Committee. The Employer claimed throughout negotiations that the Committee was not representing the interests of the workers and that only they knew

what the rank and file desired.

What the Employer failed to realize was that they were creating an increasingly disgruntled workforce which was dissatisfied with the Employer, not the Bargaining Committee. This ultimately led to the strike mandate and the decision to serve 72-hour strike notice.

To say we didn't know what to expect on the picket line is an understatement. We had not been on strike since the early seventies and most workers who experienced the 2002 lockouts were few and far between. We took up the task and moved forward, hastily electing picket captains with the help of our Executive Committee and Shop Committees. Our Titled Officers who double as the Bargaining Committee worked around the clock with the rock-solid anchor that is our Local's Office Administrator, Cristina Coroliuc. They pulled through and made it all happen in quick time.

We received incredible support on the picket line from all the ILWU Locals, ILWU Canada, the BC Federation of Labour and the Vancouver & District Labour Council (VDLC). Different Union and

Continued on page 9

ILWU Canada Pensioners Club Hosts PCPA Convention

By ILWU Canada Pensioners Club Executive

The ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association (PCPA) held its annual Convention from September 15 to 18 at the Holiday Inn in Vancouver. The last time the ILWU Canada Pensioners Club hosted this Convention was 2019.

The event was very successful, and a good time was had by all. The PCPA Executive held its meeting on Sunday before lunch. The day was capped with a meet-and-greet buffet dinner hosted by ILWU Local 500 at the Maritime Labour Center in the evening.

Monday morning the Convention was called to order by PCPA President Mike Jagielski. The Honourable Harry Bains, BC's Minister of Labour, was the keynote speaker. Minister Bains was once a negotiator for the Steelworkers Union. He expounded on the positive steps the NDP government took for Labour in the province, a time accentuated with relative labour peace. ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton gave a welcoming speech and elaborated on some of the salient

issues affecting ILWU Canada members. There was a special presentation by economist and union activist Kay Tillow from Kentucky, who demonstrated that a Single Payer Health Care is the most economical and yet fairest system to provide universal health care.

In the afternoon, we had the always enjoyable and popular Harbour Cruise along the Port of Vancouver and up the Indian Arm Inlet to the Silver Waterfall.

The banquet was held on Tuesday night with gifts raffled away. Our resident photographer Brian Jones provided instant photos of our guests and took group photos.

Wednesday morning was the final session of Convention business. One of the main topics was the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) denying Chiropractic care to ILWU active members and pensioners.

The next PCPA Convention will be in San Francisco in September 2025.



Pensione



'rs' Picnic

Photos by JOULENE PARENT, LOCAL 500



1st VP REPORT...

Continued from page 3

Surrey Inc., DP World Prince Rupert Inc., GCT Canada Limited Partnership, Associated Stevedoring Co. Ltd., Ceres Terminals Canada ULC, Empire Grain Stevedoring Ltd., Pacific Stevedoring & Contracting Co., Pembina Pipeline Corporation, Squamish Terminals Ltd., Western Stevedoring Company Ltd., are all hiding behind the aggressive and cynical labour relations juggernaut known as the BCMEA. This unaccredited employer's association, who only survives on monies collected from numerous assessments levied against the direct employers, has become an over arching, self-serving, self-perpetuating bureaucracy that brings no real value to the Longshore industry. They have become outsized, out of touch, and out of control, and it is only to the detriment of the direct employers themselves and the thousands of Waterfront workers who are the real source of value and progress on the Waterfront. This industrial dysfunction shall not be allowed to continue unchallenged.

International Solidarity ITF Congress 2024

I had the great honour and privilege to attend the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Congress in Marrakech, Morocco from October 13 to 19, 2024. It was an amazing event bringing together dockers, seafarers, rail, air and ground transport workers from every region around the globe. It was a great learning experience for me, and it was eye opening to see the reach and scope of the ITF and that the ILWU though small in numbers compared to other giants in the ITF punches well above our weight class with the strength, traditions and influence we bring to the Dockers and Seafarers sections. I look forward to continuing to learn more about the work of the ITF and to build on connections and relationships made with so many dockers and seafarers from around the world.

CFMEU Under Attack

The Construction and General Division of the Construction Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) was placed under "administration" by the Australian government back in August of last year. The Australian Labour Party government joined with anti-union politicians to rush through legislation that seized control of the CFMEU Construction and General Division putting their property and assets under the control of government appointed administrators. The Administrators fired some 270 CFMEU staff and elected union officials while paying themselves salaries taken from the seized bank accounts of union members. This move by the so-called Labour Party which was abetted by the Australian Congress of Trades Unions was carried out under a cloud of unsubstantiated claims of corruption and ties to organized

crime within the construction division. These workers have been stripped of their rights to belong to the union of their choice and the 270 fired staff and democratically elected officials have been denied the fundamental right of due process. This is a shameful act of anti-union collaboration carried out by traitors to the working class they pretend to represent. Shame on the Australian Labour Party for perpetrating this crime against organized labour in Australia and shame on the Australian Council of Trade Unions for standing by and doing nothing to stop it. The Maritime Union of Australia will join other unions to gather funds to mount a High Court challenge to the Australian government's reckless actions. "We will support our fellow members in the Construction Division as they seek to clear their names and fight for the principles of natural justice, presumption of innocence, the rules of evidence and procedural fairness," says MUA National Secretary, Paddy Crumlin. ILWU Canada stands in solidarity with the CFMEU as they fight for their members and for the rights of all workers in Australia.

ILA Dispute – Holding the Line on Automation and Jurisdiction

The International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) concluded a three-day strike in October of last year with a tentative agreement on wages only, while other main contract issues still to be negotiated. The existing master contract between the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) and the ILA was extended until January 15, 2025. In November the ILA broke off talks with the USMX citing a change in position by the employers that are now insisting on their agenda to push through demands for greater automation in East and Gulf Coast ports. We wish President Harold Daggett and his team and the 85,000 members of the ILA success in their fight to protect their jobs and jurisdiction.

ILWU International – Transitions

At the ILWU International convention hosted in Vancouver BC, in June of 2024 it was announced that International President Willie Adams would not be seeking re-election. International Vice President (Mainland) Bobby Olvera Jr. was acclaimed at convention to become our new International President. Ryan Whitman from Local 23, Tacoma was elected as the new International Vice President (Mainland) and Brandon Wolff is the new International Vice President (Hawaii). Brother Ed Ferris was acclaimed for his third term as International Secretary Treasurer. We want to congratulate all the new and returning International Officers and we look forward to working together in the coming years and building upon our strong friendship and unwavering solidarity. We would also like to give special recognition to a rank and file longshore worker from the port of Tacoma, Washington who rose up through the

ranks to become one of the most respected and inspiring union leaders of our time. Brother Willie Adams dedicated the last twenty-one years of his life to the service of the membership of the ILWU, first as International Secretary Treasurer for five consecutive terms then for the past six years as International President. Prior to becoming an International Officer, Willie was active in Local 23 serving on numerous committees and he was also active in his community of Tacoma. He produced several "Celebrations of Black History and Labour" over several years in the 1990's and early 2000's. He was also executive producer on several documentary films featuring African American writers such as Langston Hughes and film score composers. There are too many contributions, accolades and achievements that have punctuated Willie's life to include in a few short paragraphs. Willie has always been a great friend and ally of ILWU Canada and I for one have always appreciated his honesty, humility and his inspiring oratory. Willie has a way of conveying thoughts and ideas that resonate with workers at a level that meets them eye to eye and heart to heart. Willie never once talked down to a group of workers because he never forgot where he came from. Willie was and always will be a rank and file longshore working stiff, just like the rest of us. Willie was bestowed the title of President Emeritus of the ILWU by unanimous consent of the International Convention in Vancouver, BC, on June 21, 2024. We wish Willie all the very best in his well-deserved retirement, but I'm sure we will see Willie involved in some way that continues his legacy of representing working people and telling their stories.

Conclusion

Major Challenges for Labour

The coming months and years will be challenging for our Union and workers across this country. There is a vast reservoir of pent-up anger and frustration with a federal government that has let workers down and has not met very serious economic hardship and instability with any real solutions or compassion. All levels of government are tone deaf and out of touch with the realities of working people in this province and across this country. Working Canadians deserve and ought to demand a government that stands up for people

before profit, health care before tax breaks for billionaires, a government that fights for its citizens to protect their jobs, a government that understands that people ARE the economy – not corporations, a government that knows that robots don't pay taxes and investment in human workers is good economics. We are tired of governments and politicians of all stripes ignoring workers except at election time. Organized labour and working-class people need a strong and independent legislative program that will put the needs of people first. Unfortunately, this is going to be a very elusive thing to find in any of the upcoming elections.

Building a Stronger Union

There are some things that we can do to fight for decent work and an economy that works for people and that starts at home in our union. "Solidarity is the most important word in the vocabulary of the working class" said Harry Bridges. This is not just a slogan; it has proven to be the one thing that has kept the ILWU from disintegrating in the early years and the one constant immutable principle that has kept us going for all these years. We need to remember what our forefathers learned through hard struggle and sometimes bitter defeat, that workers are indivisible. We are one Union, one working class, one people with all our diversity. There is no room for hatred or discrimination based on race, colour, creed, ethnicity, religious or political belief, sexual orientation or expression. Dividing workers on any basis, real or imagined, is a tactic of the boss and is designed to weaken and defeat the power of organized working people. We are the ILWU – we look out for each other, we fight for each other, we protect each other. We may not always like each other but we will fight like hell against anyone who tries to hurt any single one of our ranks no matter who they are. That's what solidarity means to me, and I firmly believe it is on that basis we can heal any divide, bridge any gap and move together as one voice, one force, one Union.

So on behalf of the Officers and Staff at ILWU Canada, I wish you all, peace, kinship, solidarity, and friendship in this coming New Year

In Solidarity,
Tom Doran



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ILWU CANADA OFFICERS L TO R: BOB DHALIWAL, ROB ASHTON, TOM DORAN, DAN KASK and JESSICA ISBISTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT...

Continued from page 4

more on this as it develops.

The ITF just had their congress in Marrakech, Morocco in October 2024 that brought hundreds of delegates from around the world together from all Sections to discuss workers' rights and campaigns that will be coming. We heard stories of workers being killed in wars, workers being murdered just for standing up for their Unions and trying to defend the people from

their countries' leadership. As we go through our lives as members of ILWU Canada, we must always keep in mind that there are workers around the world that are literally fighting for their lives, and we must be ready, willing, and able to lend a hand to these workers when they need our support.

This year we saw the retirement of Peter Lahay, the ITF Coordinator for Canada, after many years of service to his Union and Seafarers around the world. Brother Lahay knew it was time

to move on and create space for another generation of activists. I want to thank Brother Lahay for his years of service and the countless numbers of Seafarers he has helped over the years!

Over the last year we have seen our Union go through many battles with many more to come, but with the strength and solidarity of our rank and file, we will win the day. The only war that should be fought in this world is the Class War! All other wars are only for the benefit of the Ruling Class and

it is the Working Class that go off to their death!

In closing Brothers, Sisters, and Friends, I want to thank the Officers and Staff of the ILWU Canada for their hard work and dedication over the last year in promoting the work of our Union and defending it against aggressors!

Be safe out there.

In Solidarity,
Rob Ashton

MUNZ CONFERENCE

By Tom Doran, 1st VP, ILWU Canada



I was very fortunate to attend the Maritime Union of New Zealand's National Conference on behalf of ILWU Canada, held in Wellington, New Zealand, from November 12 to 14, 2024. The theme of the conference was Building Worker Power. There were many speeches and presentations along that central theme and the common thread throughout much of the discussions was that the union must organize and grow, activate and involve its membership – especially women and the youth, as well as build worker-centered legislative programs and maintain and strengthen the bonds of international solidarity. ILWU Canada and MUNZ have a long history of friendship and solidarity. This was evident when Carl Findley and Grant Williams and their delegation came all the way to Vancouver during the Longshore strike in 2023 to stand in solidarity with us on the picket lines. They embody the great tradition of international solidarity that is so important to dock workers unions around the world. So, it was my honour to attend their conference and bring our heartfelt greetings of solidarity and friendship.



International Transport Workers Federation: 46th Congress 2024

By Jessica Isbister, 3rd VP, ILWU Canada



November 2024 marked the **International Transport Workers Federation's (ITF) 46th Congress**, held in Marrakech, Morocco. ILWU Canada was proud to send a delegation including ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton, 1st Vice President Tom Doran, and 3rd Vice President Jessica Isbister, as well as ILWU Local 400 President Jason Woods, ILWU Local 514 Vice President Perry Gato and Local 514 member Stephanie Dobler. The ILWU International delegation included President Willie Adams, President-elect Bobby Olvera, and Terri Mast from IBU.

Terri and Willie were both honoured by the ITF with Gold Awards recognizing their years of dedication to workers' struggle and unionism. ILWU positions coming out of Congress include Jason Woods as ITF Inland Navigation Section Committee

North America/Caribbean Regional Chair; Bobby Olvera as ITF Dockers' Section Second Vice Chair; Jessica Isbister as Dockers' Section Women Transport Workers' Representative; and Rob Ashton as Dockers' Section North America/Caribbean Regional member.

The week-long Congress sparked important conversations and intense strategizing among the delegates from around the globe. Delegates unanimously adopted six demands as they charted a courageous path for the next five years of work. The demands are:

1. **Rights for Transport Workers**
2. **Equality for Transport Workers**
3. **Safety & Health for Transport Workers**
4. **Shaping the Future of Work**
5. **Accountability in Global Supply Chains**
6. **Making Transport Sustainable.**

LOCAL 333 STRIKE...

Continued from page 5

labour organization representatives from Surrey to Stewart were seen walking the line with our members. Community members going about their day would stop and give us messages of solidarity, with endless food and drinks. ILWU Local 400, 500 and 502 provided us with logistical supplies as well as advice on how picketers should conduct themselves on the lines. ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton and 1st Vice President Tom Doran visited the picket lines to raise morale and offered words of support.

Furiously behind the scenes Local 333 and ILWU Canada were pulling every lever we had at our disposal to ensure our strike was successful. Engagement from the media as well as Ottawa became the

order of the day. We were not going to allow the Employer to get ahead of the Union in its messaging about the strike.

After four long days on strike, the Employer returned to the bargaining table and withdrew its demand to remove our earned time off. Shortly after, we had a Memorandum of Agreement to take to the membership. The rank and file achieved a fair and equitable contract solely due to their strength and will to take action by withholding their labour. Without that decisive direct action, we would have not made the gains that the workers deserved.

I want to thank everyone who was involved with supporting our strike. Your solidarity and support were an inspiration to our members. Long Live the ILWU!

PETER LAHAY...

Continued from page 1

a testament to resilience, dedication, and service. His leadership, humility, and commitment to seafarers' rights have left an indelible mark on our industry. His legacy will endure as a beacon of justice, guiding future generations of maritime advocates.

Thank you, Brother Peter Lahay, for a lifetime of extraordinary service. Your legacy stands as an example of courage and integrity, a reminder to us all of the power of one person's commitment to make a difference. May your passion, wisdom, and pursuit of justice continue to light the way for all who follow in your footsteps.

SEC-TREASURER'S REPORT...

Continued from page 3

Plans continue to maintain a strong financial position. The trustees are looking to advance benefits and pension improvements for 2025. These have been announced in our LCEB bulletin. There are some exciting changes to the benefits for 2025.

For more information:
<https://www.longshoreplans.ca/>
 Members with questions or concerns can email me at sec-treasurer@ilwu.ca

Bob Dhalwal
 Secretary Treasurer

Former Canadian Olympian and Local 500 member dies at 87

By Bob Dhaliwal, Secretary Treasurer, ILWU Canada

Walter Allan Birtles, affectionately known as "Al" by his close family and friends, passed away peacefully at the age of 87 in North Vancouver, surrounded by his loved ones. Al was a man of few words, but his actions spoke volumes about his character, demonstrating his commitment and strength. He was preceded in death by his wife Margaret, his parents Walter and Elizabeth, and his brother Jim.

Born on April 16, 1937, in Carbon, Alberta, Al grew up in Summerland, BC, and graduated from Summerland Secondary School. He later attended the University of Hawaii, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and became an accomplished athlete. Al was a dedicated runner, completing the Hawaii Marathon, and at 6'6", he was also a talented basketball player who represented Canada at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics

1964 Canadian Olympic Basketball Team

The majority of the team consisted of players from the Toronto Dow Kings, who had won the 1963-1964 Canadian Senior Men's Basketball Championship. All the players held regular jobs, and since Canada had not qualified for the 1960 Rome Olympics, they had to fund their own travel to the qualifying tournament.

Qualifying Tournament

Canada ended the qualifying tournament with a 7-2 record, finishing behind Australia and Mexico, who both went 8-1. Typically, only the top two teams would advance, but Canada got a fortunate break when two teams withdrew, allowing them to secure a spot in the Olympics. Walter played a key role in Canada's success, delivering several strong performances during the pre-tournament games, including a standout 27-point game against Taiwan.

1964 Olympics Tokyo

Canada opened their first game against the dominant Soviet Union. Over 3,000 spectators showed up, not just to watch an Olympic basketball match, but also to "gawk and stare" at the towering Russian center, Jānis Krūmiņš.

"I remember they called him the Russian woodchopper, but he had to be at least 7-foot-6 and 350 pounds... a huge man... and I had to cover him," recalled Canadian Walter Birtles, who at 6-foot-6 and 198 pounds had to cover Jānis Krūmiņš. "They would try to post him inside and then just lob the ball into him for an easy basket. But I would make sure I beat him back before he came down and held him with all my strength."

Canada put up a valiant fight in the Tokyo Games, but they were outmatched by teams that featured many professional players. However, they did secure a memorable victory, edging out Peru 82-81 in overtime, thanks to a buzzer-beater in the final seconds. In the end, Canada finished 14th out of 16 teams, ahead of only Peru and South Korea.

Of their 1964 performance, McKibbin (who led Canada in scoring during the tournament) said in an interview: "Most of the countries did not outshine us. United States and Russia are out of reach in the immediate future. But there is no reason at all why we can't match the other countries."

Although Walter was not a professional basketball player, he had a solid tournament, averaging 5.6 points per game and delivering a strong 15-point performance in Canada's final match against Hungary.

Walter was a modest individual and rarely spoke about his Olympic experience to his coworkers. While much of the information for this story comes from online sources, I felt it was an interesting story that should be shared with the membership.

Angela Talic (Local 500) Appointed to the Canada Industrial Relations Board

By Jessica Isbister, 3rd VP, ILWU Canada



On December 20, 2023, the Federal Minister of Labour, Seamus O'Regan Jr., announced the appointment of Angela Talic to the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB). On January 3, 2024, Angela, a member of ILWU Local 500, started her term of three years as a full-time member of the CIRB. Given that the law forbids full-time members of the Board from holding any other employment in order to maintain independence and impartiality, she has taken an approved leave from Longshore.

The CIRB is an independent administrative tribunal, composed of a Chairperson, full-time and part-time Vice-Chairpersons, four Employer Representative Members and four Employee Representative Members. Angela is the youngest member to be appointed to the Board, and the first member to have worked in the Longshore industry.

The CIRB's mandate is to promote free collective bargaining and the constructive resolution of workplace disputes arising in federally regulated workplaces,

including air transportation and airports, banks, broadcasting, grain storage and distribution, postal services, shipping and navigation, telecommunications, interprovincial or international transportation, and uranium mining. To fulfill its mandate, it hears complaints, applications and certain appeals that arise under the Canada Labour Code, the Status of the Artist Act and the Wage Earner Protection Program Act.

Angela started her career as a Longshore worker in 1997. After making membership in 2007, she took on various roles with her Local and she served as the Vice President at Large of ILWU Canada between 2012-2014. Throughout her career on the Waterfront, she continued to pursue post-secondary education. She obtained a law degree from the Peter A. Allard School of Law at the University of British Columbia in 2021 and articulated with Koskie Glavin Gordon, a union-side labour law firm in Vancouver. She was called to the bar in British Columbia in 2022, and continued to practice labour law on a part-time basis while working full-time as a Longshore Trainer.

When the opportunity with the CIRB arose, Angela was hesitant to leave the Waterfront. After careful consideration, she decided that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that she could not pass by, and any short-term financial losses would be outweighed by the knowledge and insight she would gain that could assist the Union and workers in the long-term. The transition from working on the docks to working from home with limited human interaction was also not easy for Angela; she continues

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2nd VP REPORT...

Continued from page 2

document to guide the work of the ILWU Canada Organizing department. Through past Convention proceedings, reports, and resolutions we have gained a better understanding of the historical challenges to organizing, but also the direction and intent laid out by the Convention body for ILWU Canada's organizing activities. There were a few notable resolutions written by the late ILWU 514 member, Brother Mike Isinger, that spoke to a strategic, industrial approach to organizing.

We are in the early stages of working with the ILWU International Organizing department and the International Transportation Federation (ITF) to find ways to include Canada in the Supply Chain, Logistics, and Transport Project. This is an exciting opportunity for ILWU Canada and we hope to have more to report in the future.

While writing this, I am reminded of those who have written on this theme of "educate, agitate, organize" far better than I can. They emphasize the importance of using every opportunity, no matter how small, to raise awareness among the masses about the true nature of society and the state and build political education for workers. The role of the agitator is to clarify events in a way that exposes the ongoing struggle between labour and capital. They stress the need to unify all workers into unions, steadily expanding these groups and connecting them with the broader political movement of the working class.

*In solidarity, In struggle,
Dan Kask*

3rd VP REPORT...

Continued from page 2

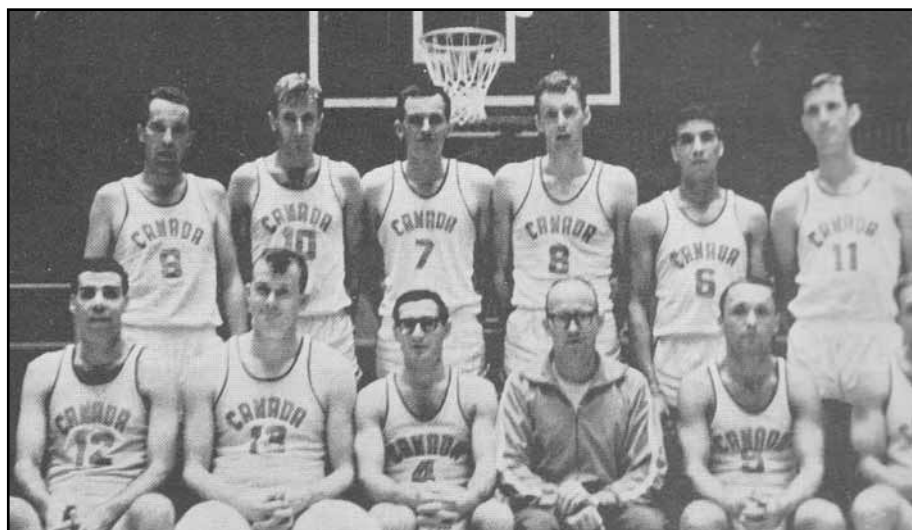
www.itsnotpartofthejob.ca. This work is a joint project with the CLC and Federally Regulated Employers – Transportation and Communications (FETCO). I was also honoured to partake in a panel where union leaders shared their work on harassment and violence prevention.

In addition to national meetings, I sit on several international committees where I bring a worker's perspective to important ongoing work that impacts ILWU workplaces. In September 2024 I attended, virtually, Carriage of Cargos and Containers (CCC) meetings on a working group for enclosed spaces aboard vessels. This was the end of an over yearlong effort to make recommendations to Resolution 1050(27) aimed at improving safety on board vessels. I find this work is rewarding but slow moving. Our work has been forwarded to the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) for debate and hopefully adoption in June of 2025.

Locally, I have begun to hold Monthly JHSC co-chair meetings where safety committee members from across all of ILWU Canada are gathering to make connections and share safety concerns and ideas. The more we work together, the stronger we become: An injury to one is an injury to all. Please email me at 3rdvp@ilwu.ca if you would like to receive a zoom invite for these meetings.

Wishing you all a joyous New Year.

*In Solidarity
Sister Jessica Isbister*



Local 333 Strike



Pensioners' Picnic



Retired Longshore members

2024 RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	AGE	SERVICE DATE	
RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE				
500	Joe Carrigan	63.42	40.58	01 Aug 24
500	Roger Ceotto	61.42	37.58	01 Aug 24
502	Melvin Gerein	65.00	15.00	01 Aug 24
502	Charles Kish	62.92	42.91	01 Aug 24
514	Nicolangelo Lucarino	65.00	22.12	01 Aug 24
500	Randy Newman	61.33	34.03	01 Aug 24
500	Jaime Torres Bolanos	65.00	29.26	01 Sept 24
500	Lance Cassells	57.92	18.00	01 Sept 24
500	Amarjit Gosal	55.83	24.01	01 Sept 24
514	Dan Lepitre	63.83	44.67	01 Sept 24
502	Dalvir Mangat	67.83	20.96	01 Sept 24
502	Dragan Totovic	68.67	20.99	01 Sept 24
502	Murray Franklin	71.25	30.00	01 Oct 24
500	Joe Mauricio	70.83	31.00	01 Oct 24
505	James Robinson	71.25	15.45	01 Oct 24
500	Stephen Rollins	64.25	29.67	01 Oct 24
500	James Beltz	65.17	15.75	01 Nov 24
514	Joseph Dixon	65.00	04.00	01 Nov 24
502	Richard Gallant	65.00	13.00	01 Nov 24
514	Lars Lyngsoe	65.00	07.14	01 Nov 24
514	David Reid	65.00	03.00	01 Nov 24
514	Michael Weir	62.50	12.34	01 Nov 24
500	Mark Foster	65.00	12.01	01 Dec 24
514	Michael Galla	62.50	20.31	01 Dec 24
505	Larry Lawson	65.83	06.67	01 Dec 24
500	Leonard Moody	65.00	38.65	01 Dec 24
500	Kulwant Khaira	71.17	20.00	01 Dec 24
500	Inderjit Parmar	70.92	45.00	01 Dec 24
502	Meb Padamsey	65.00	12.25	01 Dec 24
500	Barry Reid	65.00	29.83	01 Dec 24
500	Robert Stewart	64.58	28.68	01 Dec 24
500	Ewan Lewis	62.50	24.88	01 Dec 24
514	Harminder Dosange	64.33	37.98	01 Dec 24

ANGELA TALIC...

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to miss the comradery she shared with her Longshore family.

As the end of her first year with the CIRB came to a close, Angela is grateful she opted to have faith that this was the path she was meant to follow. The shift in careers has presented fresh challenges and new learning experiences, which has allowed her to acquire a new skill set and broaden her knowledge base of industrial relations in the federal sector. With her growth mindset, she believes that she will be a true asset to the ILWU upon her return.

More Picnic Photos



We remember them well

2024 DECEASED PENSIONERS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
500	Gus Cambly	22-May-24	84
500	Martin Beerens	22-Jun-24	90
514	Robert Siegerist	29-Jun-24	87
500	Robert McVeigh	03-Jul-24	80
500	James Johnstone	10-Jul-24	81
500	John Herbert	11-Jul-24	65
500	Hans Neumann	11-Jul-24	96
500	Alexander Miller	10-Jul-24	83
500	Mike Kolibas	12-Jul-24	99
500	Jasmer Jheeta	23-Jul-24	63
519	John Rogers	23-Jul-24	73
500	Robert Braithwaite	TBD	73
514	Michael Isinger	26-Jul-24	72
514	Ian Morrison	30-Jul-24	81
500	Armand Gamache	01-Aug-24	93
500	Carlo Benetton	05-Aug-24	88
502	Neil Maedel	19-Aug-24	92
500	Larry Madden	24-Aug-24	85
502	Peter Fida	27-Aug-24	83
500	Bjarne Christoffersen	31-Aug-24	81
500	Victor Anderson	08-Sep-24	83
500	Jim Leary	12-Sep-24	74
500	Walter Birtles	14-Sep-24	87
500	Dawn Anderson	16-Sep-24	93
514	Rolf Grigull	16-Sep-24	86
500	William Reid	25-Sep-24	72
500	Barry Shaw	25-Sep-24	71
514	Kenneth Davis	28-Sep-24	80
502	Arnie Appelt	29-Sep-24	70
514	Frank Kilian	01-Oct-24	95
500	James Lyons	07-Oct-24	82
508	Joseph McKinley	07-Oct-24	79
500	Gary Chassie	16-Oct-24	66
500	Terence Bowes	20-Oct-24	74
500	Clement Michaud	01-Nov-24	82
500	Glenn McGee	11-Nov-24	77
500	Robert Sloof	17-Nov-24	62

DECEASED WIDOWS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
508	Elizabeth Argotow	29-Jun-24	86
508	Lillian Girard	02-Jul-24	89
505	Paolo Torresan	15-Aug-24	81
500	Gail Springer	25-Aug-24	89
500	Helena Calvert	30-Aug-24	76
508	Mabel Bowne	31-Aug-24	93
500	Noelline Marsan	14-Sep-24	90
500	Dawn Anderson	16-Sep-24	93
500	Rosetta Merandi	28-Oct-24	97

DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
505	Kyle Howden	13-Jun-24	39
502	Brian Rougeau	01-Jul-24	51
500	Robbie Sidhu	09-Jul-24	48
502	Frank Debruyne	11-Jul-24	47
502	Murray Irwin	11-Jul-24	65
502	Patrick Presly	19-Jul-24	64
500	Kyle Chidlow	24-Jul-24	40
505	Kevin Campbell	28-Jul-24	59
500	Lloyd Agar	Aug-24-31	58
502	Stephen Bye	19-Sep-24	56
505	Skye Robinson	06-Oct-24	27
505	Gerald Carter	21-Oct-24	53
500	Kirat Haer	13-Nov-24	42
502	Bruce Power	21-Nov-24	55
505	Frederick Jackson	25-Nov-24	66

Waterfront News

International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada

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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 – MLC AND SGS
508 – VANCOUVER ISLAND	523 – RIDLEY TERMINALS

AFFILIATES

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