



Providing information to our members and fellow unionists

ILWU Canada

January 2026

# Waterfront News

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Official Publication of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada

### Honouring a Lifetime of Advocacy as Peter Lahay Receives the 2025 Elisabeth Bertrand Humble Servant Award

by ILWU Local 400 and Jason Woods, Local 400 President



**P**eter Lahay, retired ITF Canada Coordinator and longtime member of ILWU Local 400, has been awarded the 2025 Elisabeth Bertrand Humble Servant Award by the Canadian National Seafarers' Welfare Board. The presentation took place during the Canadian Marine Advisory Council meetings in Ottawa and recognizes his dedication to the welfare of seafarers.

Peter's working life has always been connected to the water. Growing up on the British Columbia coast, he spent his early years in the fishing and towboat industries. These experiences gave him a deep respect for maritime workers and a clear understanding of the challenges, risks, and isolation faced by crews far from home. This first-hand knowledge shaped the compassion and determination that guided his commitment to seafarers.

In 1993 Peter became an ITF Inspector in Vancouver, beginning more than three decades of direct advocacy for international crews calling at Canadian ports. His work long preceded Canada's ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention, and he helped promote its standards and ensure they were respected once it came into force.



He boarded vessels at all hours, enforced agreements, addressed unsafe conditions, and supported seafarers facing difficult or uncertain situations. Through this work he helped define Canadian ports as places where crews knew they would be treated fairly and where their concerns would be taken seriously.

Peter was appointed Canada's first ITF National Coordinator in 2002, where he strengthened coastwide cooperation and helped build a more responsive structure for protecting seafarers' rights. Internationally, he served as an instructor with the ITF Inspector Training and Development Programme, helping develop and shape the skills and values of new inspectors around the world. Many continue to credit him for the guidance and clarity of purpose that influence their work today.

He also contributed to the establishment and development of Canada's National Seafarers' Welfare Board, bringing together unions, welfare providers, government, ports, missions, and shipowner associations and companies in a unified effort to improve the wellbeing of seafarers nationwide. During the COVID period he remained a steady and practical voice, advocating for vaccine access, recognition of seafarers as essential workers, and solutions to the crew change crisis.

Now retired and looking ahead to the next chapter of his life, Peter leaves an enduring impact on the maritime community. ILWU Canada proudly congratulates Brother Peter Lahay on this national honour. A humble servant indeed and a legacy that will guide us for years to come.

### A Tragic Anniversary: The Burrard Tragedy of 1975

by Tyson Compton, ILWU Local 333 Vice President



On Friday morning, October 3rd, [1975] just before 10 o'clock a series of violent blasts tore through Burrard Terminals on the North Vancouver waterfront. Within minutes the grain elevator became a blazing inferno.

One worker, **Ed Hooper**, apparently died in the blaze, while 16 other badly injured and burned workmen were rushed to the hospital. One of them, **John Sculley**, died on October 9. Another man, [**Melvin Hoey**], died October 13.

All the men are members of Grain Workers Local 333 of the ILWU.

The above passage, published in the October 17, 1975 edition of **The Dispatcher** describes the horrific events that occurred 50 years ago in the port of Vancouver. **James Evoy** and **David Brown** later succumbed to their injuries in hospital, weeks after the accident. The body of **Edward Hooper** was never found.

While the financial cost of the accident was estimated to be around \$8,000,000; the tab for the lives lost, injuries and trauma suffered is incalculable.

In the aftermath of the disaster, with a lot of pressure applied by the ILWU, the Federal Government commissioned an inquiry on health and safety in grain elevators. The commission made 35 recommendations to improve safety in grain elevators, several of which were implemented.

In the years since the accident, generations have passed through our workplaces. A new grain elevator has been built on the dock, with upgraded technologies. Many things have changed, but others remain the same.

The dangers of fires and explosions



in grain terminals persist today. Since 2020, fire departments have been dispatched 37 times to respond to fire alarms at grain elevators in the Port of Vancouver. Many of the recommendations from the commission are no longer followed.

The insatiable desire to maximize productivity begets an oppressive culture that undermines safety. The result is safety procedures that rely upon the actions of workers, and sometimes, luck.

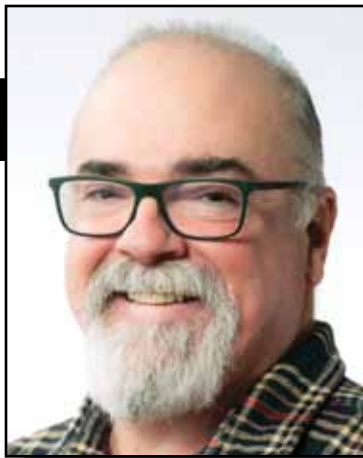
On Friday, October 3rd 2025, ILWU Local 333 marked the 50-year anniversary of the disaster by shutting down operations in Vancouver and Prince Rupert for a moment silence. We solemnly remembered the workers lost, and reminded ourselves that the responsibility for - and consequences of workplace safety have, and always will, rest upon the shoulders of the workers.

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## President's Report

the profits they make for their Employer, but also a better work life balance. These are definitely fights worth fighting. But during this struggle it has become very apparent that during this strike we are not only fighting Altagas, but we are fighting the Prince Rupert Port Authority as well. The Prince Rupert Port Authority has picked a side in this fight even though they are supposed to remain neutral. They have been forcefully removing our legal picket boats, with vessels from an assortment of law enforcement and port patrol boats. The port authority has been trying to remove the Unions lawful picket lines along side our terminal as well. The

port authority knows that it is our right to directly picket our employers sites. The Prince Rupert Port Authority has decided not to stay neutral as they should, they have chosen to pick the side of the employer and not the side of the people of Prince Rupert. They are now showing their true colours, they do not care about the Rank and File of the ILWU nor do they care about the population of Prince Rupert.

We were successful in negotiating a collective agreement between ILWU 517 and the Nanaimo Port Authority which saw staffing agreements and substantial wage increases for our members.

The ITF will be seeing a leadership change at the Presidents level come January 1st 2026. Long time President

Paddy Crumlin will be retiring from his position as President and Frank Moreels former President of the ETF will be assuming the role of President of the ITF. On behalf of the Rank and File of the ILWU Canada I thank Brother Crumlin for his many years of strong leadership of the ITF!

I would like to acknowledge the hardwork of the Officers and staff of the ILWU Canada over this last year. We have a small office but we make sure to do the hardwork of the Union everyday!

In closing I would like to once again wish you all a very Happy New Year

*In Solidarity,  
Rob Ashton*

Let me start off by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

As I am writing this article to you all, ILWU Local 523b is on strike up in Prince Rupert against AltaGas. This group of courageous ILWU Members are fighting for not only a better piece of



## 1st V.P. Report

to a foreign owned corporation on the understanding that they will take full advantage of the new greenfield site provided to them by the Canadian taxpayers to build a fully automated terminal. There are a number of reasons why workers, governments and local communities should be concerned about this, not the least of which is that the VFPA wants to use billions of dollars of public funds (our tax dollars) to build a terminal that will provide very little direct employment in operations while leading to the accelerated adoption and implementation of automation throughout the container sector.

The VFPA is following the model used by the Australian government where it forced competition by inserting a third terminal operator into existing port areas while providing greenfield sites to the new operators who in turn built new automated terminals in competition with existing terminal operators. This process led to what we see today where the Australian container terminal sector has levels of automation as high as 50%. In comparison, the global adoption of container terminal automation stands at around 5%. Research has shown that fully automated terminals operate with up to 90% fewer workers while semi-automated terminals see at least a 50% reduction in terminal employment.

Massive job loss does not have to be inevitable. Research points to lower productivity, higher capital costs, vulnerability to cyber threats and lower than expected environmental benefits with high levels of port automation. Dr. Greig Taylor, in his article "Automation and the Labour Process in the Australian Container Port Industry", states that there is "an empirical case demonstrating why automated technologies are adopted by organizations in certain circumstances. That is, not always to improve productivity or reduce costs as such systems are assumed to do, but to increase managerial control over the labour process." The argument for efficiency, cost savings and profitability is just not there. It's more about control than anything else. In Australia and here at home, port automation is about weakening the power of unions and the transfer of more power and more wealth to the already obscenely wealthy and powerful.

Another reason often used to justify

job-killing automation is environmental sustainability and that automated terminals produce little to no greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. While it is true that autonomous guided vehicles using battery power and electric yard cranes and dockside gantry cranes do not produce any GHG emissions themselves, there is still a very significant volume of emissions created by ocean going vessels while in port, locomotive engines pulling trains to and from the ports and hundreds of street trucks hauling containers every day.

Governments and industry only focus on one aspect of sustainability: the environment. However, true sustainability must be evaluated through social and economic assessments as well. Projects that eliminate jobs with no viable mitigation for the job losses are unsustainable. Individual workers suffer the loss of good paying unionized jobs while their communities lose the direct economic input that comes from those displaced

workers and all levels of government lose the tax revenue generated by well paying middle-class jobs. In contrast, employers can continue to produce at accelerating levels. Many of these operators are foreign-owned and they offshore their massive wealth while contributing almost nothing to the communities where they do business. How sustainable is that?

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*

Dear sisters, brothers, comrades and friends, I would like to extend my sincerest wishes to all of you for a happy holiday season and a peaceful, prosperous and healthy new year.

This year has been a busy one. There are so many challenges facing workers in this country, and our Union in particular. One of the key areas we have been involved in revolves around the question of technological change and automation. We have been actively engaging with the provincial and federal governments on this issue in a general way, but we have also been voicing our concerns specifically about Roberts Bank Terminal 2 (RBT2).

This project is in the planning, design and permitting phase and if completed will consist of a new 20-acre landmass and wharf structure adjacent to Deltaport and Westshore Terminals with an annual capacity of 2.4 million TEUs.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) is the proponent of this project, and the port authority has made the decision that they will now build this terminal themselves. Three construction teams have been short listed by the VFPA with the final team to be selected by the summer of 2026. Construction is proposed to begin by 2028 with terminal operations estimated to begin by mid-2030s. This project will increase container capacity on Canada's West Coast by more than 30%.

The terminal operator will be selected through a separate procurement process estimated to begin in 2028 or 2029. Once awarded the operating concession, the terminal operator will be responsible for completing the construction of the terminal on the new land mass provided by VFPA and procure all the container handling equipment and operating systems and to operate the new terminal.

The greatest concern for the ILWU is that RBT2 will be a fully automated container terminal. It is very likely that the operating concession will be awarded



## 2nd V.P. Report

*"within the labour movement locally, nationally and internationally. We believe an injury to one is an injury to all."*

The theme of this year's Young Workers Conference was United in Struggle. A strong effort was made to ensure that the theme was not just a slogan for t-shirts but was the actual basis for the event's presenters, panels, and workshops, and to make sure the delegates truly understood what the word "struggle" means as we look inward to our own Union, outward to our role in the local, national and international labour movement, and lastly, what it means for all workers, as a class, to struggle in the current economic and political conditions we live in.

The first day of the Young Workers Conference was about setting the context, and discussing our current conditions, highlighted by Jim Stanford, an economist from the Center for Future of Work.

Greetings Fellow Workers, At the time of this writing, we are sitting between two of ILWU Canada's cornerstone education events, the **Young Workers Conference**, which took place in September, and the **ILWU Leadership** course, which happens in February at the **CLC Winter School**. These two education events are the embodiment of point number 8 in the **Declaration of Principles** in the **ILWU Canada Constitution**, which reads:

*"8. To educate our membership as to their role and responsibilities as union members, working for unity*

Stanford spoke about the economic realities and the immense profits accumulated by employers off the backs of workers. This was complemented by a presentation by SFU Labour Studies Professor Mark Leir on the roles workers can play in organizing for a response to change these conditions, using the history of the IWW in Vancouver to frame the conversation.

On day two, the Young Worker Delegates dove deeper into organizing. Brian Skiffington (ILWU Local 23), Beau Logo (ILWU Local 10), and DJ Marin (ILWU Local 19) led a discussion about organizing young workers within a local. It was summed up perfectly by Brian when he said, "the young workers movement is about deepening the bench of the ILWU." This transitioned in the next workshop by Zack Pattin (Local 23) and Genvieve Lorenzo (ILWU Canada Organizer, BCWU) on beating apathy and challenging the idea that apathy is even real – a good organizer knows that all workers care about something at work. The day wrapped up with a workshop with Jon Brier (ILWU Assistant Organizing Director) on the power workers have when organizing along the supply chain.

The final day was about looking outward. We heard stories of struggle, defeat and victory in workspaces not traditionally associated with union organizing. A panel included Ryan Takas (ILWU Local 5) who has been organizing in multiple new areas, Sam Connolly (CUPE Local 2278) organizing Graduate Research Assistants at UBC, Félix Trudeau, a former Amazon worker and president of the Laval Amazon Workers Union-CSN, Reagan, a stripper, performance artist, activist, and union organizer, and Eddy Pedreira, President of IATSE Local 938, organizing in Vancouver's animation industry.

The final piece was looking globally and hearing stories of international struggle from our comrades from the ITF. It was an honor for the delegates to hear from Luiz de Lima Regional FoC Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Oliver Orobio Díaz of the National Union of Transport Workers (SNTT) Colombia, Miracle-Ann King, Co-Representative for the Dockers' Section on the ITF Youth Committee from Barbados Workers' Union (BWU), Dannan Edwards O'Neill docker and

member of the MUA WA Branch, and Laiara Martins who has been a Casual Port Worker from Brazil.

I need to say a special thank you to ILWU Canada office staff Catherine Dubé (BCWU) for all her work putting this together. Her contributions were greatly appreciated. As well, I would like to thank Zack Pattin, Brian Skiffington, Robin Walker (ILWU International Director of Educational Services), and Jeannie Magenta (ILWU Canada office staff, BCWU) and all the other presenters, volunteers, and the outgoing ILWU Canada Young Workers Committee, as well as congratulate the incoming Committee. And lastly, thank you to all ILWU Canada Locals and the ILWU International for continuing to support the Young Workers Conference and materialize its importance in activating the next generation of ILWU activists, organizers and leaders.

The next project is the ILWU Canada Leadership course that takes place at the CLC Winter School in Harrison Hot Springs, BC. This is not a run-of-the-mill corporate leadership training. It is also unlike any other union leadership

training because there is only one ILWU. This course leans heavily into the ILWU 10 Guiding Principles. These principles may read as "rules," but they are not: they are a history lesson. The Leadership course highlights the importance of using the context of that history as a guidepost for new and emerging ILWU leaders to identify and adapt to changing material conditions, whether it be in the workplace, politically, economically, or in the intersection of all three of those areas.

Again, I find myself searching for words to summarize my thoughts about the Young Workers Conference and the Leadership course, as well as the importance of the ILWU 10 Guiding Principles, and what it means to be a leader in a real democratic left-wing Union. Once again, those words have already been written. The last paragraph of the 10 Guiding Principles reads:

"The above principles and steps to implement them, and an informed and alert membership make the union what it is."

*In solidarity, In struggle,  
Dan Kask*

In September 2025, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Young Workers Conference, where I discussed our four fundamental safety rights under the *Canadian Labour Code (CLC)*. It seems only natural that I share this reminder with the ILWU membership. Every worker has the right to a safe workplace and to leave at the end of the day in the same condition they arrived. Our basic safety rights cannot be denied by employers, but we must remain vigilant to ensure they are respected and upheld. Workers stood together and demanded these rights, which were fought for, and enshrined in the *Canadian Labour Code*. Part two of the *CLC* specifically addresses health and safety at work for federal workplaces. A general duty of employers found in the *CLC* section 124 states: "Every employer shall ensure that the health and safety at work of every person employed by the employer is protected". As trade union activists it is our job to ensure that the employers fulfill this responsibility conferred on them by the *CLC*.

Our first central health and safety right is the **right to know**, which is conferred unto workers in the *CLC* under specific duties of the employer section 125(1):

- (s) ensure that each employee is made aware of every known or foreseeable health or safety hazard in the area where the employee works; and
- (q) provide, in the prescribed manner, each employee with the information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to ensure their health and safety at work;

The Canadian Center for Occupational Safety and Health (CCOHS) website lists examples of the right to know which include:

- ☒ Workplace hazards identified during day-to-day operations, results of workplace inspections, steps to take for daily pre-use inspections of tools, safe use of equipment and machinery, reporting mechanisms for sub-standard working conditions,

procedures for various types of work (e.g., working in a confined space, working alone, working at heights, etc.) and the process for reporting hazardous conditions.

- ☒ Safe work policies, procedures and codes or practice, as required by both the legislation and the workplace itself.
- ☒ Emergency procedures, emergency evacuation, first aid procedures, incident reporting, and investigation procedures.

#### **Remember if you don't know - ask! You have the right to know about your own health and safety at work.**

Our second health and safety right is the **right to participate**. This right is found in the *CLC* under section 125(1) (z.01) through (z.15).

#### **Hazard prevention work**

Participation examples include sitting as a member on your site Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC), or acting as a health and safety representative, or submitting safety concerns to your JHSC or safety representative. Workplace committee participation can be found in the:

- ☒ *CLC* under section 135(7) Duties of committee (a) through (l),
- ☒ *Canadian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* section XIX, Hazard Prevention Program,
- ☒ *Marine Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* section VII., Hazard Prevention Program.

These sections of *CLC* and Regulations detail the participation of JHSC members including duties, to work jointly with the employer to address safety concerns and prevent hazards through a Hazard Prevention Program (HPP).

Our third health and safety right is the **right to refuse** which is bestowed to workers in section 128 of the *CLC*, which states:

#### **Refusal to work if danger**

### **3rd V.P. Report**

**128 (1)** Subject to this section, an employee may refuse to use or operate a machine or thing, to work in a place or to perform an activity, if the employee while at work has reasonable cause to believe that:

- a) the use or operation of the machine or thing constitutes a danger to the employee or to another employee;
- b) a condition exists in the place that constitutes a danger to the employee; or
- c) the performance of the activity constitutes a danger to the employee or to another employee.

The definition of danger is the determining factor in the right to refuse and must be clearly understood. *CLC* 122(1) defines danger as:

**"Danger** means any hazard, condition or activity that could reasonably be expected to be an imminent or serious threat to the life or health of a person exposed to it before the hazard or condition can be corrected or the activity altered".

For more information on the definition of danger see the Interpretation, Policy and Guideline (IPG) document titled Definition of Danger 905-1-IPG-062, available on the Government of Canada website. Remember your JHSC, Business Agent, and Shop Stewards are invaluable resources about danger at work; there are specific procedures for work refusals. In the event the hazard is not an imminent or serious threat, workplaces hazards can be addressed through the Internal Complaint Process found in *CLC* section 127.

Our fourth health and safety **right at work is the right to protection from retaliation**, found in *CLC* section 147 Disciplinary action, general prohibition re employer. Here the employer is prohibited from disciplining a worker in any way or withholding pay from an employee who has invoked the previous three rights. Including:



- (a) has testified or is about to testify in a proceeding taken or an inquiry held under this Part;
- (b) has provided information to a person engaged in the performance of duties under this Part regarding the conditions of work affecting the health or safety of the employee or of any other employee of the employer; or
- (c) has acted in accordance with this Part or has sought the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Part.

In closing, our four fundamental health and safety rights the right to know, the right to participate, the right to refuse unsafe work, and the right to protection from retaliation are not abstract concepts, but concrete tools meant to keep every one of us safe on the job. These rights were fought for, won, and enshrined in the *Canadian Labour Code* because workers stood together and demanded them. It's now our collective responsibility to ensure they are never taken for granted. By staying informed, raising concerns, supporting our Joint Health and Safety Committees, and standing up for one another, we uphold not only the letter of the law but the spirit of solidarity that defines our union. Let us continue to champion these rights, protect each other, and ensure that every worker returns home safe today and every day.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

*In Solidarity  
Sister Jessica Isbister*



## Sec-Treasurer's Report

which looks at the effects of automation on dock work globally. We are very close to having version 2.0 of the Automation Toolkit ready to help dockers deal with automation. It was always meant to be a living document that would be updated continuously as we obtained new information. Along with chairing the committee, I am responsible for tracking the progress of automation globally. <https://www.itfglobal.org/en>

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

**W**orking at ILWU Canada is always a busy place. We are constantly dealing with new legislation, labour disputes or member or Local issues. We have been keeping up with disputes in the transportation sector and have been trying to support 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. I will update you on some of the committees I have been participating in.

### ITF Dockers' Section Future of Work and New Technology Working Group

I continue to chair this working group

### Labour Standards Advisory Committee (LSAC)

The Labour Standards Advisory Committee consults with the federal Labour Department on changes to the Canada Labour Code and labour standards. This is made up of both employers, associations and labour unions. The committee met on November 20 and discussed upcoming changes to the Labour Code.

### Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)

In October, the Transportation and Pension groups met virtually. We discussed recent disputes in the transportation sector and improvements to pension standards. <https://canadianlabour.ca/>

### BC Federation of Labour - Climate Justice and Jobs Standing Committee

I have been attending the BC Fed Climate Justice and Jobs Standing Committee meetings virtually. The committee is working on recommendations to government regarding a just transition for workers as the economy transitions from fossil fuels to more sustainable forms of energy. <https://bcfed.ca/>

### Community Savings Credit Union (CSCU)

I continue to sit on the board of Community Savings Credit Union as a director representing ILWU Canada. We are encouraging Locals and Union members to bank with them because they are the only fully unionized credit union in BC. The credit union is growing and has recently relocated its New Westminster branch. Check out the union's credit union: <https://www.comsavings.com/>

### United Way BC (UWBC)

I continue to sit on the Labour Committee and Campaign Cabinet for United Way BC. This organization fundraises for smaller agencies 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. Trust me, there are issues every day that need to be addressed in a timely manner. The plans continue to maintain a strong financial position even in these volatile times. For more information: <https://www.longshoreplans.ca/>

Anyone wanting monthly updates on what going on in the industry should email me to get on our email newsletter list: [treasurer@ilwu.ca](mailto:treasurer@ilwu.ca)

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](mailto:sec-treasurer@ilwu.ca)

*In Solidarity,  
Bob Dhalival*

## Bringing Members Together No Matter The Distance

*by the Grain and General Services Union, Affiliate of ILWU Canada*



GSU Defense Fund Board of Directors meeting on November 7, 2025. The directors live and work in different locations with different employers across Saskatchewan, and they get together twice a year in Regina, SK.

**S**taying informed and connected to what's going on in your union is an important part of being a union member. Many union members are fortunate to work together in a single building - like nurses, teachers, health care workers, and government employees. For Grain and General Services Union (GSU) and its members, staying connected is made even more challenging by geography. Our 1,700 members are spread thinly across Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia, making it hard to collaborate, build community, and take action together.

Adapting communication methods

and bringing together members who work many kilometers apart isn't new to GSU. When we began in 1936, organizers visited farms, hosted town halls, and spoke directly to members about the importance of standing together. Over the decades, we have reached out to our members between in-person meetings using tools such as newsletters, mail updates, voicemail news lines, and digital tools like email, text, websites, and real-time communication platforms. Like others, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us online, virtual meetings, remote bargaining, and digital communications became the norm.

While technology can help us share information, it cannot fully build the solidarity that makes a union strong. Each innovation helped us share information, but nothing replicates the energy and trust of face-to-face meetings, because real power happens when members gather, talk, and act together.

That's why GSU is focusing on bringing members together in person again. Executive meetings, education events, and mem-



A highway sign, taken by a GSU staff representative who was on the road doing member visitations.

**ILWU CANADA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**  
**LEADING WITH LEGACY**  
**HER STRENGTH, OUR FUTURE, TOGETHER WE RISE**  
**MARCH 6, 2026**  
**FREE EDUCATION SESSIONS 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM**  
**MAIN EVENT DOORS OPEN 4:30 PM**  
**DINNER 5:30 PM**  
**LOCATION: MARITIME LABOUR CENTRE**  
**1880 TRIUMPH ST. VANCOUVER, BC**  
**TICKETS: \$55**

bership meetings give members a chance to connect, ask questions, and strengthen the relationships that turn information into action. Physical distance between our members' workplaces will always be a challenge, and technology will always play a role, but whenever possible, we prefer to bring people together in person while supplementing with digital tools. It may be simpler and more cost- and time-effective to hold board meetings and education ses-

sions online, but we know that when we get our members together to share information, important personal connections and a sense of belonging happen.

GSU's strength comes from its members standing together. Across the kilometers, through challenges, and despite the distractions of busy lives, we are working hard to keep our members engaged, informed, and powerful. Connection matters.

# ILWU Women's Conference

by Genevieve Lorenzo ILWU Canada Organizer



The ILWU Canada delegation to the Conference included **LISA KLYNSTRA** (Local 502), **TRACEY NOULLETT** (Local 502), **WENDY BORDEN** (Local 505), **ALLISON SMITH** (Local 505), **BRITNI PAQUETTE** (Local 508), **SHANTEL SWITZER** (Local 508), **STEPHANIE DOBLER** (Local 514), **PAULA NEIL** (Local 514), **WENDY CLAYFORD** (Local 517), **TALEEN TCHAKEDJIAN** (Local 517), **VIRI GÓMEZ** (Local 519), **CRYSTAL PEARL** (Local 519), and **TANYA BALLENDINE** (Local 523), **MONICA APPELT** (Local 502) and **CINDY MILLER** (Local 502). The Delegation was joined by **JESSICA ISBISTER** (ILWU Canada 3rd Vice President), **GENEVIEVE LORENZO** (ILWU Canada Organizer), **CHERISE NOULLETT** (Local 502) **JOULENE PARENT** (Local 500).

I was invited to the 3rd Biennial ILWU Women's Conference this past September to facilitate a panel on organizing. We gathered together at the Hyatt Regency in Maui, a hotel fully staffed by ILWU members, for two days packed with education, lively discussion, and inspiring stories. I interviewed Dawn Feikema of Local 63 OCU, Myka Dubay of Local 5, and Neeve McGrath of Local 142 about organizing for ILWU. I was also asked to talk about why we must organize. The following is a transcript of the speech I gave to the conference.

Why do we organize? The simple answer, and the one we're most familiar with, is that we organize to build power and grow the union. But what does that actually mean in our day to day, when we're on the shop floor, or at meetings, rallies, picket lines, and out in the community? Organizing means bringing people together for a common goal. A shared value. A means to an end that we all want, no matter who we are or where we come from.

But what do we want? What does the working class want? Again, the simple answer is job security, safe working conditions, good wages.

But we all know there's so much more to it than that. You might know the term "bread and roses", but do you know the context? It was popularized by the suffragist Rose Schneiderman speaking at the Women's Trade Union League of New York in 1912:

*"What the woman who labors wants is the right to live, not simply exist - the right to life as the rich woman has the right to life, and the sun, and music, and art. You have nothing that the humblest worker has not a right to have also. The worker must have bread, but she must have roses too."*

We want a job that puts food on the table, but we also want a job that allows us to live and dream and grow and participate in our communities. We want dignity.

Now, all of this is nice and good, and most people would agree, but it's all just talk unless we put action behind it. It's easy to say all of this, it's much, much harder to do the work the union needs to actually move the needle.

Unions tend to focus their organizing efforts on bringing in new members and work-sites. But we can bring in 1000 new members, and it won't mean much if none of them show up to a meeting, join a picket line, or volunteer

for committees.

Organizing needs to happen internally as well, or our unions won't survive. We need all hands on deck, and we need them now. The world is messed up right now, and people are scared, and we are all exhausted. More than ever, we need everyone pulling in the same direction, working towards the same goal. But we can't get there if we're distracted.

You might be thinking about your local or your worksite right now, thinking it feels downright impossible. That you're starting from scratch. That everyone is checked out, disengaged, apathetic. That you're alone in trying to make things happen. And I promise you, you are not alone. This conference is proof of that.

People disengage for a lot of reasons, but everybody cares about something. And your job as an organizer is to figure out what that is. People who care are motivated to act.

One of the easiest ways to bust a union is to sow division among the rank and file. To isolate us from one another and make us feel like we're fighting each other, when it's the boss we should be fighting. The corporations, the

billionaires, the powers that be that want us confused and afraid of each other and thinking it's a zero sum game where we have to fight each other just to get a few scraps. Division is a very effective weapon of the boss. And we cannot let anyone divide us.

As an organizer, I spend a lot of time talking to workers of all stripes and identities, across the political spectrum. My job is to bring them all together, have them agree on something and cooperate. How I do that is straightforward - not easy, but straightforward: I frame the conversation around a common goal with something like, "Listen, outside of work, you might not agree on this thing or that, but right now none of that stuff matters. Right now, we need to focus on the job to make sure it's getting done, and done well, and to not let the boss come in and screw things up."

*So, when you get onto the shop floor, they've got your back. Do you have theirs?"*

And their answer is always **yes**.

Because we are all workers. This is our shared experience, our shared identity, and we are in this together. That is where our power comes from. That is how we build the union.

## Third Biennial ILWU Women's Conference in Maui, Hawaii

by Jessica Isbister, ILWU Canada 3rd Vice President

**ILWU**'s 3rd Women's Conference was held in Maui, Hawaii this year from September 27 to 29. The theme of this year's conference was Strength, Self-Care, and Sisterhood. The conference covered issues such as gender equity, developing and mentoring new leaders, self-care, and women's contributions to building the union. ILWU Canada's organizer Genevieve Lorenzo facilitated a session titled "Spotlight on Organizing." Monica Appelt and Jessica Isbister presented on *Workplace Harassment and Violence and Domestic Violence*. A highlight for everyone was the "Women Make History" session, when we viewed a documentary titled *Ab Quon McElrath, the Struggle Never Ends*. Ah Quon McElrath was a Hawaii labour leader and social activist who spent her career advocating for unions and pushing for equal pay and equal treatment.

Delegates enjoyed learning practical skills to bring back to their unions and workplaces like the session titled "Find-



*ing Your Voice: Speaking Up Effectively at Union Meetings,* led by Kesa Sten, and in a self-care session where we learned strategies to manage stress and keep ourselves healthy. We were honoured to hear from our esteemed sisters who paved the way for women in the ILWU in two sessions: the first titled "Women Pioneers in the ILWU" and the second titled "Mentorship and Passing it Forward."

We are thankful to all the Locals who sent delegates to this fantastic event and continue to support education for women in the ILWU. A special thank you to **Robin Walker, ILWU International Director of Education**, for organizing the event.

## Honouring the late Glenton Wood, MUA

by Joulene Parent, ILWU Local 500



His presence on the picket line in Canada was a powerful reminder of his lifelong belief that **an Injury to One is an Injury to All. No distance too far, no struggle too great.**

Glen embodied the spirit of unity and internationalism.

He stood shoulder to shoulder with workers around the world, defending fair wages, safe conditions, and securing a better living for all the working class.

His passing leaves a profound void within the Sydney Branch and the wider Union family, but his legacy of courage, solidarity, and principle will continue to guide us.

We extend our deepest condolences to Glenton's family, friends, comrades, and all who had the honour of walking beside him in the struggle.

May we all will ensure that Glenton's contributions, his character, and his commitment to justice are never forgotten.

Thank you for sharing your presence with us, on our picket lines, and at our past **ILWU International Convention**.

Rest in power, Brother Glenton Wood.

Your legacy lives on in every fight we continue.

It is with deep sadness that the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) Sydney Branch mourns the passing of esteemed retired Official, Veteran, and much-loved comrade, Glenton Wood.

It feels like only days ago Glen travelled to Canada alongside Assistant Branch Secretary Nathan Donato and a strong MUA contingent to stand in solidarity with us, **ILWU Canada**, on our picket lines.

Glen's life was defined by unwavering commitment to the labour movement, fierce dedication to the rights and dignity of working people, and unshakeable loyalty to the **Maritime Union of Australia (MUA)**.

He was a fighter, a mentor to many and a friend to countless members across generations, across borders, across oceans on a global scale in the labour movement.

# Pensioners' Dinner



# Pensioners' Dinner



# Retired Longshore members

## 2025 RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	AGE	SERVICE	DATE
<b>RETIREMENTS - LONGSHORE</b>				
514	Kenneth Skibo	65.00	24.28	
502	Mike Fournier	65.00	22.93	01 Aug. 25
500	Anthony Moores	64.50	25	01 Aug. 25
502	Glen Doduk	56.42	22	01 Aug. 25
500	Yevgen Kochev	60.08	9.85	01 Aug. 25
500	Allan Borgstrom	69.42	37.95	01 Sept. 25
502	Darchan Singh	65.00	17.25	01 Oct. 25
500	Norbert Buschke	65	32.25	01 Oct. 25
505	Thomas MacDonald	65.33	43	01 Oct. 25
500	Shavinder Mooker	71.08	20	01 Oct. 25
502	Frank Lewis	61.42	15.99	01 Oct. 25
500	Simon Condon	61.25	36.86	01 Oct. 25
502	Gurnam Dhillon	70.92	24	01 Oct. 25
502	Irene Brealey	65.83	10.23	01 Oct. 25
500	Gennadiy Boklashchuk	65.33	14	01 Oct. 25
514	Brent Cleathero	55	2.69	01 Oct. 25
514	Dick Carson	65.00	2	01 Oct. 25
500	T. William Mitchell	71.17	47	01 Nov. 25
505	Jennifer Skog	67.92	11	01 Nov. 25
514	Ronald Johnson	67.00	8.77	01 Nov. 25
505	Dennis Langdale	67.17	3.83	01 Dec. 25
500	Charles Wallace	70.92	39	01 Dec. 25
502	Balbir Deol	71.42	24	01 Dec. 25
500	Ron Watt	71.00	33	01 Dec. 25
500	William Yap	70.92	2.34	01 Dec. 25
500	Roy Breznik	60.50	21.46	01 Dec. 25
500	Suresh Rup	71.33	29.83	01 Dec. 25
502	Balwinder Dhaliwal	71.58	26	01 Dec. 25
502	Douglas Banno	65.00	17.92	01 Dec. 25
500	Lakhibir Takhar	70.92	12	01 Dec. 25
505	Irving Barton	71.08	0.94	01 Dec. 25
514	Edward Smith Jr.	71.25	28.96	01 Dec. 25

### WESTSHORE RETIREES NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED

Jim Miller	63	9	01 Nov. 23
Don Parker	69	51	01 Dec. 23
Brent Cleathero	55	17	01 Oct. 25
Wade Robertson	67	46	31 Jan. 25
Paul Copland	66	16	01 Jan. 24
Cheyne Macdonald	63	49	01 Feb. 24
Allan Davies	65	28	01 Mar. 24
Dusan Vasic	62	37	31 Aug. 24
Lars Lyngsoe	65	21	01 Nov. 24



## PORT LEGEND

333 – GRAIN WORKERS	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

# We remember them well

## 2025 DECEASED PENSIONERS - LONGSHORE

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
500	John Skoczylas	27-Jun-25	63
508	Frans Vandenbrink	17-Jun-25	89
508	Robert Oscar	08-May-25	83
500	Robert Glover	09-Jul-25	83
500	Stanley Kolba	16-Jul-25	91
508	Howard Old	15-Jul-25	85
500	Ronald Masi	15-Jul-25	72
500	Sabino Debenedetto	13-Jul-25	65
500	Alvin Waechter	09-Jul-25	93
514	Orlyn Graham	15-Jul-25	95
500	Wayne Machin	TBD	83
508	Rod McLeod	03-Jul-25	77
500	Antonio Dellisanti	06-Aug-25	89
500	Randy Morris	15-Aug-25	67
500	W. Alan Higginbottom	09-Aug-25	76
500	Jack Karall	22-Jul-25	81
514	Russell Jacobs	14-Aug-25	88
505	Michael Bigford	29-Aug-25	78
500	Clarence Cordocedo	12-Aug-25	92
502	Mike Fronzo	05-Sep-25	65
500	Stephen Turner	29-Aug-25	94
514	Joseph Dore	06-Sep-25	92
500	Josef Eberl	15-Aug-25	86
505	Vernon Woods	24-Aug-25	74
500	Marko Perovich	01-Sep-25	91
500	Cyril Craig	06-Oct-25	95
500	Terry Cheseeger	21-Sep-25	79
500	Michael Marino	11-Oct-25	90
500	Daniel Palanio	06-Oct-25	62
500	Donald Bennett	14-Oct-25	92
502	Otto Gruenheit	20-Oct-25	67
500	Erwin Mauthe	07-Oct-25	93
502	David Fleming	07-Sep-25	82
508	Dave Van Horn	15-Oct-25	66
500	Brian Sheppard	30-Oct-25	77
514	Gary Govier	01-Nov-25	87
500	Boris Markovic	14-Aug-25	81
500	Jack Gossen	08-Nov-25	88
500	Zdenek Novak	03-Sep-25	84

### DECEASED WIDOWS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
508	Rosemary Willis	02-Jul-25	82
500	Barbara Bath	17-Jun-25	91
500	Carmen McKay	21-Jun-25	91
500	Cesira Ambrosi	30-Jun-25	95
500	Gloria Hall	30-Jun-25	81
508	Helen Kogstad	26-Jun-25	90
500	Mary Cox	19-Jul-25	90
500	Sheila Strachan	03-Sep-25	94
500	Darlene Cancellieri	27-Sep-25	75
508	Sharon Spraggett	08-Oct-25	84
508	Anne Kalugin	14-Nov-25	93

### DECEASED ACTIVE MEMBERS

LOCAL	NAME	DATE OF DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
500	Rick Catton	01-Jul-25	61
502	Robert Thomson	13-Jul-25	60
500	Jaspreet Minhas	10-Jul-25	42
500	Shane Ritchie	13-Jun-25	54
502	Maxwell Hoyt	08-Jul-25	32
500	Wendy Robinson	17-Jun-25	65
508	Kelly Kozar	23-Apr-25	62
500	Kristine Fournier	11-Sep-25	41

# Waterfront News

International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada

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2nd Vice-President, Dan Kask

3rd Vice-President, Jessica Isbister

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