

Unifor's BC Regional Council, featuring Local 780G, holds meeting in Richmond

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Mason, Treasurer, Unifor Local 780G; Shop Steward at Queen's Printer

Unifor's BC Regional Council met on November 1-3 in Richmond, BC, and I attended as a delegate representing our Local and as the Chair of the BC Regional Women's Standing Committee I was elected to serve on four years ago.



Brenda Mason, Treasurer Local 780G, reports as Chair of the Unifor BC Regional Women's Standing Committee.

The meeting kicked off with opening remarks from BC Regional Council Chair Ben Williams from Local 333 in Victoria. He spoke about the importance of holding our newly elected politicians to their pre-election promises and that even though we elected a favourable government we still have our work cut out for us and all of the Locals need to remain politically active.

The meeting theme was Occupational Health & Safety and Our Mental Health. We heard from some great speakers including Victoria Maxwell who used humour to describe how she got her life back on track after being diagnosed with several serious mental health disorders. Delegates also heard from Steve Tizzard from Unifor Local 2121 who works at the Hibernia Offshore Petroleum Platform off the coast of Newfoundland where he facilitates a number of union training courses and spoke about how to be a better EFAP Rep in your workplace.

We also heard from Curtis Weber who told us the story of how he survived being electrocuted in a workplace accident that left him a double amputee with burns over 60% of his body.

National President Jerry Dias was on hand to give us an update on what's going on across the country and what's happening with the NAFTA talks. We also heard from Western Region Director Joie Warnock about issues going on in BC, post-election campaigns we still need to work on and an update on the BC Federation of Labour.

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Unifor's BC Retirees inviting new members to join the Lower Mainland Chapter

Also seeking new members to form Chapters across BC.

The Unifor Lower Mainland Retirees Chapter Financial Secretary John Lieferring is extending an invitation to all retirees in the Lower Mainland to join the group.

If you don't live in the Lower Mainland, John encourages you to get together in your community and form a new Chapter.

For more information on how to get involved, or to form a Chapter in your community, please contact us or get in touch with the Local 780G Union Hall:

Lower Mainland Retirees Chapter:
John Lieferring, Financial Secretary:
phone 604-271-1479
or email jlieferring@gmail.com;
Edward Pedersen, President:
phone: 604-729-0428;
Hank Pierce, Vice President:
phone: 604-980-2727;
Susan Stout, Secretary:
phone: 604-929-6782 **U**

Unifor's BC Regional Council meets

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As Chair of the Women's Standing Committee, I delivered a report on what we've accomplished in the last year, what our goals are going forward and the campaigns we are seeking support for which include Paid Domestic Violence Leave in BC, \$15 Minimum Wage and \$10 a Day Childcare. We also submitted three resolutions – ensuring that personal protective equipment made for women's sizing is available for our sisters; to lobby WorkSafe BC to adopt the Quebec model of protective reassignment for pregnant workers; and, to help end violence in the workplace by making sure that all BC Unifor Locals negotiate the Unifor model anti-harassment language into their collective agreements. We also elected Debra Elles to fill the vacant position on the Women's Standing Committee.

It was a very successful conference and I thank the members of our Local for allowing me to represent Unifor 780G and to participate in the position I was elected to serve on the Standing Committee. **U**



At the BC Regional Council meeting that took place in Richmond in November were, from left, Joie Warnock, Unifor's Western Region Director (BC to Manitoba); Jerry Dias, President of Unifor and Ben Williams, Chair of Unifor's BC Council.



Welcoming delegates to the traditional unceded lands of the Musqueam Nation were the Coastal Wolfpack Dancers.

Seasons Greetings
FROM YOUR UNIFOR 780G OFFICERS & STAFF

UNIFOR LOCAL 780G DONATION TO SUPPORT BCIT STUDENTS CONFIRMS A STRONG PARTNERSHIP WITH AN IMPACT AT BCIT

Unifor Local 780G president Alex Charles has accepted a major thank you from BCIT on behalf of Local 780G members on the impact of the financial support and equipment the Union has provided for training the workers of tomorrow in the Graphic Communications Technology Management Program at the Burnaby Campus.

Commenting that the students regard Unifor Local 780G as an organization who values advanced learning and technological change, BCIT has also indicated they honour Glenn Biech's memory in all their teachings in the Program, inspiring the next generation to follow in his footsteps. **U**



Unifor stands up for jobs at Queen's Printer in meeting with the Minister

By Alex Charles, President, Unifor Local 780G

Over the last 16 years under the BC Liberals, members working at the Queen's Printer in Victoria saw 35 of their co-workers lose their jobs as the BC Liberals closed the print shop and farmed out the work to their friends in the private sector.

In a report published in the Times Colonist in 2014, the government's ideological intent was made very clear when former Minister Andrew Wilkinson, now running for the leader of the BC Liberals, said, "We see this as an opportunity to transition from printing in-house to utilizing the private sector for government's printing needs."

Since the new BC NDP government took power in the summer, rumours persisted more jobs would be lost at this Crown agency that has served British Columbians and their governments for over 150 years. Fortunately, the doors to having a conversation are now open, and together with Unifor leaders (see photo caption), we set up a meeting at the Legislature in Victoria and spoke directly with the Minister about our concerns for our members' jobs and their futures at the Queen's Printer.

This venerable institution falls under the authority of the Ministry of Citizens Services, currently led by the Honourable Jinny Sims, MLA for Surrey-Panorama.

I can report we had a very productive meeting with the Minister who assured us that there are no plans to change things at the Queen's Printer. We asked about



Unifor was at the Legislature in Victoria standing up for members' jobs at the Queen's Printer. From left, Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor Area Director for BC; Brenda Mason, Treasurer, Local 780G and Shop Steward at Queen's Printer; Jennifer Moreau, Secretary Treasurer Local 2000; and, Glenda Berry, Shop Steward, Local 2000. Photo taken by Alex Charles, President, Local 780G.

recent regulatory amendments that have been made and voiced our concerns about additional job losses and received assurances this was not the plan, and were told that this government values the good work our members do, adding that our concerns would be further investigated.

It appears to be a new day in Victoria when we can actually have a productive meeting with a Minister who has a very welcoming attitude and understanding of the importance of our members' jobs and their futures. **U**

TC Transcontinental Printing invests over \$4 million at Annacis Island plant

By Tony Lopes, Vice President, Unifor Local 780G

TC Transcontinental Printing has made a significant investment at the Annacis Island plant in its quest to remain Canada's premier printer.

It's always a positive when an employer invests in its operation to provide workers the tools to remain productive and competitive into the future. The Union workforce was consistent in reporting their concerns about addressing serious maintenance issues as well as equipment upgrades that were required. The General Manager heard the concerns and was fortunate to secure the funds required from Head Office and proceeded to address the deficiencies. Needless to say, the members are pleased as these are moves in the right direction.

Recent capital investment that have taken place at the TC Transcontinental plant on Annacis Island includes:

- SLS 3000 Inserting Machine installation
- Digital proofing system on all 3 presses (Manroland 66, Harris NC 400, KBA 66)
- Two complete cylinder rebuilds on MR66 (Units 5 and 1) with Unit 7 scheduled for Feb 2018
- New De-serting line for NC400
- WPC Web Guides on NC400 and MR66
- WPC Close Loop Colour Registration on MR66
- New infeeds on MR66
- New Siemens infeeds and chill controls on NC400
- New spray bars for MR66 **U**



UNIFOR

HOLIDAY SOCIAL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2017

326 – 12th Street, New Westminster

OPEN HOUSE: 4 PM – 9 PM

**We are pleased to invite you to join us for our
annual Unifor BC Holiday Social**

Everyone welcome. Good food. Good company.

**All proceeds raised at this event
will be donated to the annual BC Federation of Labour
Community Christmas Dinners.**

**For more information, please call the Unifor office at
(604) 522-7911 or email newwestminster@unifor.org**

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 Unifor Local 780G

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