

Your Local 780G Shop Stewards – A Friend Indeed!



When questions or problems arise at your workplace, your Local 780G Shop Steward is your best resource to help you find an answer or an effective solution. And you can help them help you by getting to know them and keeping them informed about what's going on in your workplace!

Our Local 780G Shop Stewards serve as the vital link between you and your Union in your workplace. A Shop Steward will be there to help you and provide you with representation

if and when there is discipline or other issues at work. They are able to assist you with any questions you may have about your collective agreement and can provide guidance when dealing with supervisors or other workplace matters. They are your first line of defense in the workplace and can get in touch with the right people if they need a hand in resolving your problem or getting an answer to your question.

If you have been called in to a meeting with your supervisor and are concerned about the possibility of discipline, you should always take your Shop Steward with you. If a Steward isn't available and the meeting can't be delayed, you should take another co-worker with you and phone your Union office to let us know what's going on. You have a right to know what the meeting is about before you go into it and you have the right to have a Union representative attend the meeting with you.

Local 780G Shop Stewards are elected annually in each workplace. This important leadership role can be very rewarding, and can also, at times, be difficult. Please support your Shop Stewards by getting to know them, and keep them informed and up to date with what's happening in your workplace.

Your Local 780G Shop Stewards:

ABC Press: Donald German;

Garage Rock: Scott Nicholetts;

Trader Publications: Michael Crouch;

Printcraft Solutions Ltd: Anick Emond;

Westkey Graphics: Randy Jean, Kevin Warren, Rick Nichol;

Transcontinental Printing: Steve Berg, Parm Kaler, Amerjit Johal, Justin Singh, David Hunter. 

Queen's Printer: Brenda Mason;

Northern Sentinel: Misty Johnsen;

Thunderbird Press: Dave Ball;

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LAYOFFS AT TRANSCONTINENTAL Trump Tariffs already hurting BC families

Think again if you think American tariffs (duties) imposed by Donald Trump aren't affecting Canada's printing industry. The duties imposed on ground wood products – which is newsprint – has had a direct effect causing layoffs for Local 780G members who work at Transcontinental Vancouver.

The duty, which is between 22% and 32% depending on the type of newsprint being imported, has increased the cost of paper for an industry that already has tight margins. These increased costs have also been a factor in decisions being made by newspaper and advertising companies to change their production schedules to try to fit into already constrained print budgets. The result is reduced page counts or fewer print runs. For our members working in these industries it has meant job losses. Ten members in Transcontinental's bindery department have now received layoff notice.

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Workers at Surrey's biggest hotel ratify a new collective agreement after four-week strike



Photo from Unifor Local 3000 Facebook page.

After 28 days on the picket line, striking Unifor Local 3000 members at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel voted 92 per cent in favour of a new three-year collective agreement, ending the four-week strike.

After “disrespectful bargaining tactics” by the employer, 120 workers in all areas of Surrey’s biggest hotel, including guest services, the lounge, banquets, kitchen, laundry, room attendants, and maintenance began legal job action early in the morning of Tuesday, May 1st.

During the strike major bookings at the hotel were moved as several organizations chose to respect the workers and the picket line.

“Going on strike is always the last resort,” said Jean Van Vliet, Unifor Local 3000 president. “I’m thrilled that our members stayed strong and we had a great committee that bargained a deal that improves working conditions.” The new contract includes reduced workloads for room attendants, a \$0.40 per hour increase to maintain current benefit levels, and wage increases of up to eight per cent during the term of the agreement. **U**

Stay connected and informed – attend your next Union Meeting

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Starting at 10 am in Edmonton at the Mayfield Inn. Check your union website for further details:
www.unifor780g.org

Trump Tariffs already hurting BC families

(continued from front page)

And the damage goes well beyond Local 780G.

Communities across Canada are also being negatively impacted; in British Columbia the communities of Port Alberni, Crofton and Powell River are grappling with pending mill closures due to these trumped up duties. And the same problems are being felt in the towns of Trois Rivières, Quebec and Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

“The duties being placed on newsprint are in violation of current agreements Canada has with the United States and will be overturned when they are determined to be illegal,” says Local 780G President Alex Charles.

“But, as we know too well, the grievance process can take a lot of time. While that is going on these greedy robbers from the south are causing serious harm to our Sisters and Brothers. The duties are, in fact, hurting workers on both sides of the border,” he continues, “a fact the US president doesn’t seem to concern himself with. We are asking both our federal and the provincial governments to step in and help us out. This situation is very much the same as when the US applied softwood lumber duties. Our governments helped those industries – and we’re seeking and strongly feel we deserve that same level of support.”

For our members who will be laid off at Transcontinental the damage is real and painful. “Our Local and our members working at Transcontinental had been looking forward to the expansion of the department,” says Union Representative Brother Antonio Lopes. “More equipment and more work was supposed to be coming and there were expectations new employees would be hired – these layoffs were completely unexpected.”

Brother Lopes has been working with members in the Bindery department to try to minimize the disruption caused by the layoffs. Members will have the option to exercise their contractual rights and bump into other positions at the facility, retain recall rights or accept severance pay. Those that elect to maintain the right of recall will be the first called for any available work and will be able to work part-time hours. The Local has also negotiated enhanced severance and extended recall and health and welfare coverage for that period above the terms contained in the collective agreement. **U**

BARGAINING UPDATES

Printcraft Solutions: Members at Printcraft Solutions of BC in Burnaby were happy to see negotiations wrap up and get a new agreement ratified. The new agreement runs until May 2020. Wages increased 1.5% this year and will go up by 2% next year.

We have recently welcomed two new members into our Local through Printcraft; Sister Leanna MacDuff (prepress) and Brother Harvey Ha (press). Thank you to Sister Anick Emond for her work on these negotiations.

Westkey Graphics: Westkey Graphics negotiations have been moving very slowly. Management at Westkey have engaged a negotiator from outside the corporation for this round as they continue to push an agenda full of concessions. At the same time Westkey has purchased a new digital press and laser cutter to support the wide array of printed products produced by our members there. New sales people have been added and postings are being filled that are expanding the bargaining unit. Mixed messages?

On The Line: A History of BC's Labour Movement



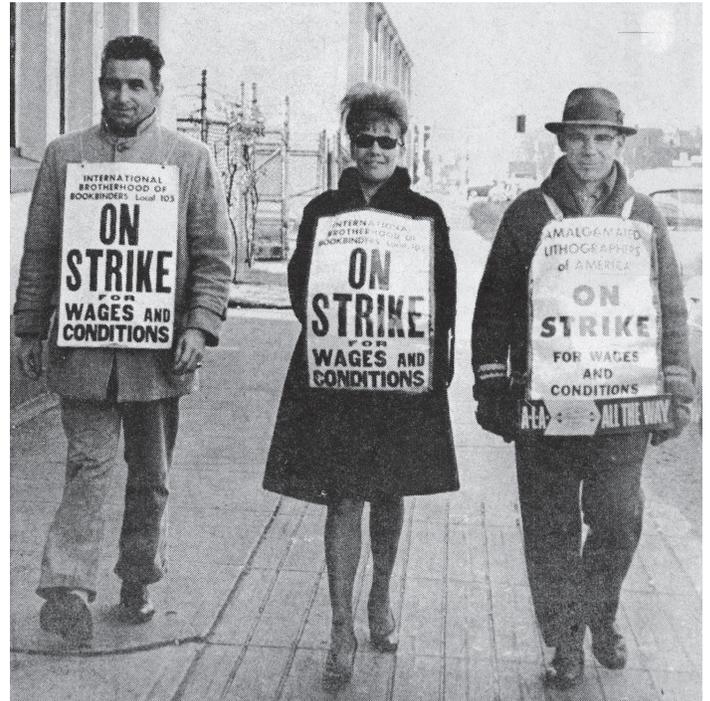
From left are: BCLHC Chair Ken Novakowski, BC Federation of Labour President Irene Lanzinger, SFU Professor Emeritus Marjorie Griffin Cohen, Community Savings Credit Union (CSCU) Chair Phillip Legg, CSCU Union Liaison Officer Marie Decaire, CSCU President and CEO Paul McAfee.

Local 780G president Alex Charles was on hand with a crowd of over 350 people who gathered at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby in early May to celebrate the book launch of “On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement”.

Now on the BC best seller list, this landmark history of unions in BC was written by renowned BC journalist and former labour reporter for the Vancouver Sun and Province and senior writer for the Globe and Mail, Rod Mickleburgh, who was engaged by the BC Labour Heritage Centre with support from Community Savings Credit Union, to write the book – a five year project.

Proceeds from the book are being used to ensure that public high schools and libraries receive a free copy for their collections. A copy of “On the Line” has been purchased and placed in our Local 780G library.

A registered non-profit society, the BC Labour Heritage Centre Society preserves, documents and presents the rich history of working people in British Columbia. The Society engages in partnerships and projects that help define and express the role that work and workers have played in the evolution of social policy and its impact on the present and future shaping of the province. **U**



Published in the Vancouver Times newspaper in 1964, the above photo shows strikers on the picket line at Mitchell Press. From left: Brother Paul Nemerskey, Sister Henny Ornebjergue and Brother Lou Hadford.

For more information, including links to purchasing your own copy of “On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement”, visit the BC Labour Heritage Centre website at www.labourheritagecentre.ca.

BARGAINING UPDATES

Northern Sentinel: Bargaining has also been slow but we appear to be closing in on an agreement. Black Press who operates the Northern Sentinel have been difficult throughout the process and seeking concessions from the small bargaining unit that remains in Kitimat. The Black Press model, like all newspapers now, is to contract out as much of the work as

possible. The pressroom left years ago as did most of the prepress work. We retained office and clerical, classified, sales and journalists but that has diminished too due to the changing newspaper models. Black Press has opened a “hub” for preparatory work in Washington State which has resulted in the elimination of the last prepress position at the Sentinel. **U**

**YOUR NEXT UNION MEETING IN CLOVERDALE, BC:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018, AT THE UNIFOR 780G OFFICE.**



Members gathered at the Fort Langley Golf Course on May 12th and teed off for Local 780G’s annual Golf Tournament. Much thanks goes to Tournament organizer Brother Bob Mitchell, a Union member for 57 years, made sure the sun was out and the golfers enjoyed a good day.

“Bob has been organizing our tournament for more than 25 years,” said President Alex Charles, “and he’s done a great job! We are fortunate that there are members like Bob who remain involved with our Local through their retirement years. The tournament continues due to the efforts and work Bob puts in each year to make it happen.”

The annual tournament includes a dinner after golf and prizes for all participants.

Some of the big winners included:

Division A – Ken Cochrane;

Division B – Eric Ballard;

Division C – Mel Trimble

Longest Drives – Laverne Sandwith on the second hole and Rudy Cervantes on the 18th;

Closest to the Pin – John Quong on the 3rd hole, Jack Huck on the 5th, Kris Bjornsson on the 15th and Tom Heeps on the 17th.

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the camaraderie and the day on the links! **U**



Doug Asleson and Kevin Warren.



Kris Bjornsson, Ken Cochrane, Jack Huck, John Quong, Bob Mitchell, Doug Asleson and Laverne Sandwith.



From left: Bob Mitchell, Bill Husband and John Quong.

Unifor Locals show support for striking BCGEU members at the Hard Rock Casino in Coquitlam



Unifor members supporting striking BCGEU workers also delivered hot dogs and refreshments to the various picket locations around the property.

On Friday, June 1st, members from a number of Unifor Locals in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, including Local 780G, came out to show their support and solidarity with 400 striking workers at the Hard Rock Casino in Coquitlam.

Employees at Hard Rock voted to join the BCGEU in May 2016 and have been trying to negotiate a first collective agreement with their employer since January 2017. When they reached impasse earlier this year, 99.5% of Hard Rock workers voted in favour of strike action and walked off the job on May 11th. Since then they have been maintaining 24-hour/day active picket lines at the casino.

In a news release from the BCGEU, president Stephanie Smith said, “Many of the employees at Hard Rock haven’t had a wage increase in over 10 years. Wages have not kept up with the rising cost of living and now a large number of workers are working two or three jobs and still struggling to get by.”

Smith continued, “It’s totally unacceptable for a successful company in the highly profitable casino industry not to pay a decent, living wage to the workers who ensure their success.”

Hard Rock Casino Vancouver is owned by Great Canadian Gaming Corporation. Great Canadian announced in May a 62% increase in revenue this quarter over the same period last year.

Aside from improved wages, Hard Rock workers are also looking for improved health benefits, a more stable pension plan and fairness in scheduling and hours of work. Smith said, “We’re looking for language that prevents Hard Rock management from forcing workers to go home early. How can a person budget when they can’t count on working a full shift?”

BCGEU represents over 400 staff at Hard Rock working in table games, as slot attendants, cashiers, in the count room, kitchen, security, theatre and guest services.

The striking workers are very appreciative of the solidarity shown by the Labour movement and the realization that working together is a source of energy and resolve to fight the greed of corporate entities with growing profits who show no regard for the workers who contribute to that success. **U**

Canada has some of the **most expensive** prescription drug costs in the world.



unifor.org/pharmacare

Why We Need to Fix the Canadian Labour Congress

UNDERSTANDING ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS YOUR UNION HAS EVER MADE

From *Uniforum*, Spring 2018 issue, quarterly newsletter for Unifor members. Edited for space - to read full article visit the unifor.org website.

Shauna Wilcox was reconciling her local union's bank statement when her phone beeped. Unifor's National Executive Board (NEB) was calling an emergency meeting to discuss the union's relationship with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC).

The acute care worker and secretary-treasurer of Local 4600 in Sydney had been elected to represent health care workers and she attended her second NEB meeting, not knowing her union was about to make headlines across Canada.

For more than a year, Unifor had raised concerns over how the CLC constitution was applied to workers who wanted to change unions, and these concerns had been discussed at length during previous NEB meetings.

"When we reviewed the recent history of disappointments at the CLC, it became obvious that we needed to take action. It wasn't an easy decision, but we were left without much of a choice if things were going to change," said Wilcox.

Unifor's NEB, which is the union's top decision making body between conventions, voted unanimously to disaffiliate from the CLC. The direction was taken as a result of persistent inaction from the CLC to deal with a problem infecting our movement – it's about upholding democracy, union autonomy and protecting rights.

"Our union expressed frustration to the CLC and its affiliates about the broken-system in the CLC constitution, more times than I care to count." said Jerry Dias, National President. "We knew there would be fallout and we knew it would upset friendships, but we had to take a stand."

The CLC President ordered all Unifor activists to be removed, deciding to enforce the part of its constitution that requires unions to be nationally affiliated with the CLC before participating in provincial federations and community labour councils. It's worth noting that the CLC is happy to ignore a similar constitutional requirement for nationally-affiliated unions to be members of provincial federations and labour councils.

The lack of application and consistency in implementing the CLC constitution is why the CLC needs to be fixed. The fact is, the CLC has rules in place in under Article 4 to ensure workers have democratic rights, and that Canadian members of U.S. unions have clear autonomy, but those rules are unevenly enforced. Article 4

of the CLC constitution is supposed to allow workers to choose who represents them, including changing unions. The problem is application and the constitution does not address the aggressive and undemocratic tactics of unions forcing locals into trusteeship for expressing dissent.

Such is the case with UNITE HERE Local 75 in Toronto, where the American parent union removed Canadian elected officers and took over the local, the office and assets in January.

"When a Canadian local of an American union wants to change unions, the response cannot be to seize assets, fire staff and force trusteeship against the will of the members," said Dias.

It was time to take a stand.

Those who attended Unifor's founding convention remember it was created to build a better labour movement.

With the full and unequivocal support of Unifor's top officers, including rank and file members on the NEB, it was time to not just talk the talk. It was time to walk the walk. The position of the NEB is that Unifor will stand up to any union that threatens, harasses, or intimidates workers for wanting strong progressive representation.

Unifor made a decision that until the CLC and its affiliates demonstrate an adherence to the rules and the spirit of Article 4, the union will remain outside of their structure.

Affiliation with the CLC does not however define Unifor's status in the labour movement.

"We are disaffiliating – not disengaging. There is so much we agree on, such as the \$15 and decent work campaigns, good pensions, pharmacare, paid domestic violence leave and much more," said Dias.

Unifor leaders are also engaged in conversations aimed at solving the dispute, in hopes that disaffiliation will trigger action.

Change never happens without someone challenging the status quo.

Dysfunction and disagreement at the CLC level has not interrupted the very important collective work to build worker power and solidarity.

The solution is not rocket science. It is simple.

The CLC must create a fair process that protects the democratic rights of workers. **U**

In Memoriam

Paying our respects to members of Unifor Local 780G
who have passed away in 2017 – 2018

BRUGGE, Ingeborg H.

Retired from Dept. of Supply and Service; passed June 14, 2017, at the age of 91 years.

BRUNN, Ralf J.

Retired from Queen's Printer; passed away Dec. 27, 2017, at the age of 80 years.

BURNS, Robert J.

Retired from Thunderbird Press; passed away Dec. 18, 2017, at the age of 69 years.

CATON, Bernard D.

Retired from Zenith Graphics/Cleland Kent; passed away May 27, 2017, at the age of 81 years.

COPP, Edith Olive

Retired from Agency Press; passed away April 28, 2017, at the age of 98 years.

CRAWFORD, George Alan

Retired from Ronalds; passed away April 10, 2017, at the age of 86 years.

CREAMORE, James G.

Retired from Williams & Mackie; passed away Feb. 5, 2017, at the age of 91 years.

DAVIS, Daniel M.

Retired from Pola Graphics/Bowne; passed away Feb. 11, 2018, at the age of 75 years.

DHALIWAL, Gurpartap

Employed at Transcontinental Vancouver; passed away Feb. 6, 2018, at the age of 53 years.

DOBSON, Kristi

Employed at Alberni Valley Times; passed away July 8, 2017, at the age of 43 years.

FERGUSON, Allan Kenneth

Retired from Vancouver Business Forms; passed away Jan. 11, 2018 at the age of 92 years.

FRASER, Donald Laing

Retired from Pacific Press/Quebecor; passed away Oct. 10, 2017, at the age of 78 years.

GURSOY, Anna K.

Retired from Vancouver Bookbinding; passed away May 7, 2017, at the age of 83 years.

HARPER, Myrtle

Retired from Quebecor Edmonton; passed away Mar. 20, 2018, at the age of 73 years.

JAKUBEC, Dennis Victor

Retired from Quebecor Edmonton; passed away Nov. 6, 2017, at the age of 73 years.

LEE, Ronald A.

Retired from Lawsons; passed away Apr. 23, 2018, at the age of 80 years.

MARSLAND, Earl L.

Retired from Pacific Press; passed away Oct. 31, 2017, at the age of 88 years.

MARTIN, Donn R.

Retired from Evergreen Press; passed away Dec. 17, 2017, at the age of 88 years.

MITCHELL, Ruth M.

Retired from Bindon's Printing; passed away Mar. 6, 2017 at the age of 88 years.

MULLNER, John A.

Retired from Westkey/Keystone; passed away Mar. 2, 2018, at the age of 78 years.

POCHURKO, Zanith

Retired; passed away Mar. 21, 2018, at the age of 82 years.

POETZSCHKE, Kurt H.

Retired from Cleland Kent; passed away Apr. 10, 2018, at the age of 78 years.

PORTER, Alexander F.

Retired from Bridgeport Graphics; passed away Dec. 2, 2017, at the age of 81 years.

REEVE, William L.

Retired from Evergreen Press; passed away Nov. 25, 2017, at the age of 93 years.

ROWLANDS, Peter R.

Retired from Hazeldine Press; passed away March 23, 2018, at the age of 75 years.

RYSKIE, Albert

Retired from Ronalds; passed away May 17, 2017, at the age of 85 years.

SCOTT, Catherine

Retired from Keystone Business Forms; passed away Nov. 11, 2017, at the age of 81 years.

THIBERT-GAUTHIER, Diane

Retired from Quebecor; passed away August 10, 2017, at the age of 70 years.

WATKINS, Richard H.

Retired from Belkins Packaging; passed away November 1, 2017, at the age of 93 years. 

 Unifor Local 780G
NEWSletter

*A union publication for members of Unifor Local 780G
who work in British Columbia & Alberta*

Representing working people for more than 100 years

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