



The Comp-Ten REPORT

SUMMER 2013

Story ideas and comments for the Comp-Ten Report can be submitted to: comp10report@bcgeu.ca

Provincial politics

By Mike Nuyens,
Chairperson of Operational
Services, Component 10



NUYENS

BC provincial politics are never dull, but the last election was one of the most interesting and surprising

in many years.

As many of you know, the BC New Democrats were heading into the election with a huge lead. Throughout the campaign the gap tightened, but the polls were still showing the outcome would be an NDP majority government. However, that was not the outcome. The Liberals won and will form government for another four years.

What will this mean to our members in Component Ten?

Our brothers and sisters who work in AirCare, more than 100 of them BCGEU members, are facing the elimination of their jobs under the Liberal government.

The Liberals announced AirCare would be eliminated in 2014. This creates a very uncertain future for them and their families.

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Save AirCare

By Dave Cumming
Local 1003- Chair

In June, Mike Nuyens, Rory Smith and I met with staff to plan the next phase of the campaign to save AirCare. As it stands now, the provincial government plans to cancel the AirCare program at the end of 2014.

We recognize that it will be an uphill battle given the results of the provincial election. With flooding in Alberta, record heat and fires in Arizona, and talk of Canada being unable to feed itself due to global warming, it amazes me the powers that be would want to get rid of emissions testing in Vancouver. Instead, we should be strengthening

it as vehicles are the number one source of pollution.

Over the next weeks and months we will be lobbying the relevant ministers and opposition critics at the provincial level. We will be sending the "Renewing our Commitment to Clean Air in BC" document to our allies and partners to gain endorsements.

We also plan to have one-on-one meetings with mayors and municipal councillors and will have members educate people at the UBCM conference. We will also set up meetings with the environment committee in both Metro Vancouver and the Fraser valley.



Make sure you're able to receive regular email bargaining updates. To update or add your email address visit www.bcgeu.ca/email

And remember to check www.bcgeu.ca often for Component 10 news!

Summer temperatures and heat stress



West Kelowna hires new road maintenance provider

On December 7, 2012, AEL, a division of HMC Services Inc. (AEL/HMC) assumed the provision of road services, under contract with the District of West Kelowna, for a total of five years. The contract is valued at a base of \$1,731,469 per year.

Argo Road Maintenance previously provided road maintenance services to West Kelowna with BCGEU members.

It's summertime!!

But be careful out there brothers and sisters. With the recent heat wave, the equipment we operate can be almost oven-like.

There are rules and regulations that outline conditions of exposure to heat.

The employer is required by WCB regulation to implement measures to control heat exposures, including hot weather, that could cause heat stress.

They must conduct a heat stress assessment, develop an exposure control plan and implement control measures such as ensuring that vehicle cabs are equipped with air conditioning, rescheduling strenuous work to cooler times of the day, training workers to recognize signs and symptoms of heat stress, and implementing work-rest cycles.

Employers must also provide cool drinking water close to the work area and ensure workers are wearing proper protective clothing.

If a worker shows symptoms of heat stress the worker must be removed from the hot environment and treated by a first aid attendant or by a physician.

If you have concerns regarding working in hot weather report them to your supervisor and to your OH&S committee members.



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Yes, we will fight and do everything possible to save this important agency that improves air quality in the lower mainland, but it is a huge uphill battle against this government.

The eroded Labour Code impacts on all our members and each and every worker in the province.

Changes to Workers Compensation have also eroded workers' rights. A lot of workers aren't aware of these changes until they need them.

Let us not forget that many of our members were forced to open up our collective agreements and make concessions. That is not likely to change in the next four years.

Politics are always interesting. It is worth remembering that it is not just at election time that we have to take political action. Political actions are important in those four years between elections as well. Protecting hard-fought gains require that we work together day in day out.

In solidarity, Mike Nuyens



PROTECT YOURSELF:

Diesel engine exhaust a carcinogen

Diesel engine exhaust has long been considered a significant threat to worker and public health. However, it's now officially considered a human carcinogen.

Similar to asbestos and silica, diesel engine exhaust is now recognized as a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

Kurt Straif, of IARC says, "The main studies that led to this conclusion were in highly exposed workers. However, we have learned from other carcinogens, such as radon, that initial studies showing a risk in heavily exposed occupational groups were followed by positive findings for the general population. Therefore actions to reduce exposures should encompass workers and the general population."

Millions of Canadians are exposed to diesel engine exhaust when they breathe.

According to CAREX Canada, more than 800,000 Canadians are occupationally exposed to diesel engine exhaust.

Workers exposed include truckers, bus drivers, heavy equipment and farm tractor operators, miners, landscaping labourers and maintenance workers.

Employers are required by law to take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker.

The Workers Health & Safety Centre (www.whsc.on.ca) has produced a diesel exhaust fact sheet that highlights examples of precautions designed to help protect workers and the public.

The University of British Columbia is conducting a study of workers and diesel exhaust and is looking for volunteers. Workers exposed to diesel exhaust should also make sure they register with the WCB's Exposure Registry program. For more information contact: Sheila.Moir@bcgeu.ca



BCGEU members with questions should call BCGEU Direct at 1-888-991-6062 (toll free). Lower Mainland members can call 604-291-6062.

CLC Winter School Report

The leadership course I was enrolled in was a wealth of information about labour leadership.

Lynda Morrice was a phenomenal instructor and she challenged us in our abilities and ways of thinking.

In looking back at the Labour movement, it was not cheap: it cost lives. Many of the students did not know this.

I thought some of the components of the course were meant to be self-examining.

We found out about our leadership style, is it autocratic or democratic?

It challenged students to think about the different dimensions of leadership and how they interact with people.

It gave us useful tools to take back home and become more effective activists.

The highlight of the week for me was listening to and meeting with BC Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair. His vision for the province inspired and encouraged all of us.

If you have an opportunity to go the Harrison Winter School I would recommend it. It was a valuable learning experience and left students with a sense of empowerment.



In Solidarity,
Earl Haward
CLC Winter School Report



BEAUTIFUL BC OR BUDGET CUTS?

You be the judge.

WORDSEARCH

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AIRCARE
 AIRPORT
 BRITISH COLUMBIA
 CANADA LINE
 CATALYST
 GROUND LEVEL
 GUIDEWAY
 INSPECTIONS
 LRT
 MOTORISTS
 RUNNING RAIL
 STANDARDS
 SWITCH
 TECHNICIAN
 TRAIN
 CATALYTIC CONVERTER
 CLEARANCE

CONDITIONAL PASS
 CONTAMINANTS
 CONTROL ROOM OPERATOR
 DEFECTS
 EMISSIONS
 ENGINE
 ENVIROTEST
 FOULING POINT
 MUFFLER
 OMC
 OPACITY
 OZONE
 PORTAL
 PROBE
 PROTRANS
 RAV LINE
 REDUCE



RICHMOND
 TRAIN BELL
 TRAIN CONSULT PANEL
 TUNNEL
 UNLEADED FUEL
 VOBC
 WORK ZONE
 YARD
 YVR



BCGEU Pension Plan Trustees include (left to right): Brad Bondy (Aon Hewitt Consulting), Karen Hall (Aon Hewitt Consulting), Kelly McDonald (Local 1006), Peter Mehling (BCGEU staff), Mike Nuyens (Chair Component 10), Stephanie Smith (BCGEU Treasurer), Rory Smith (local 1004), Jim Manson (Component 10 Treasurer), Barbara Whitear (Aon Hewitt Consulting), Brian Schramm (BCGEU staff).

Your Pension, Your Future

When it comes to pensions it can seem like a foreign language. To provide some clarity to those in the BCGEU Pension Plan, here are some of the basics.

Your plan is a 'Defined Contribution' plan commonly referred to as a 'DC' plan. It is similar to an RSP in that your contributions plus growth are yours to do with as you please, within the legal parameters governing pensions in Canada at retirement. You contribute to the plan based on a percentage of your earnings over your work life, plus contributions by your employer, as well as any voluntary contributions you make.

The key to any pension is starting early. Over time your contributions grow with investment returns. The more time, the more potential for growth.

Most people start to think about retirement when they get to be about 50 years old but you should really start earlier. Begin to consider what your needs will be. Think about when you may want to retire and determine if you will have adequate financial resources. Often this will involve the use of a financial planner. If you don't have one, you may want to consider consulting with one at least to get some idea where you are at in terms of your retirement plans.

When you are five years or fewer from retirement, you have to get a lot more specific. Learn about your options. Having a DC plan, when you retire you will have a lump sum of money and will have to decide what to do with that. There are several options, including continuing your plan (within the BCGEU

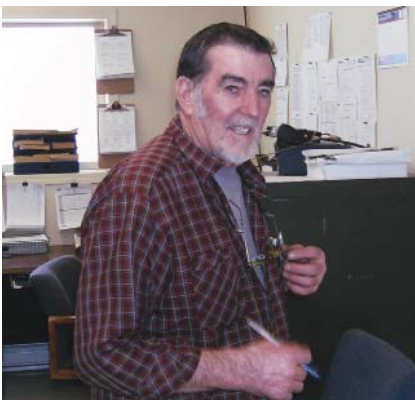
plan), or transferring your assets to another RSP. You must move your assets to a Registered Retirement Income Fund (RRIF), a Life Income Fund (LIF) and/or purchase an annuity before you turn 71 by law.

If you start educating yourself well before retirement, making that choice when you retire will be a lot easier. Often members are overwhelmed at retirement because they do all their education in the last year. Similar to saving for retirement, start your education early. Work towards a stress free retirement. Saving and education will do that for you.

If you would like to know more about RRIF's, LIF's, annuities and your plan in general, log on to the BCGEU website at http://www.bcg-eu.ca/C10_pension_news, click on the Retirement Planning link and/or Your Guide to Retirement.

If you are close to retirement and have specific questions you can contact the plan administrator at 604-844-7932 or toll free at 1-888-993-8993 and ask for Barbara Whitear.

RETIREMENT



Armand Russell on his last day at the Houston yard. He retired on March 15.

Armand started back in 1990, so he has 23 years of service.

Over the years he was hard working and conscientious. He was a good BCGEU member and always supported the union.

Enjoy your retirement, you will be missed at the yard.

OBITUARY



Isaac B. Handinero

May 26, 1939 to April 30, 2013

Isaac was a retired inspector with Envirotest Canada. He was born in the Phillipines and moved to Canada at the age of 50. His warm, engaging smile and friendly personality made him very popular with his co-workers. Isaac passed away after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Carmencita.