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Solidarity of members key in SA11



Component vice president Rory Smith meets with members at the Dease Lake highways yard.

Just over a year ago we began work to secure the future of our members who work in Service Area 11 (SA11) in the East Kootenays. We started with meetings with the Ministry of Transportation to discuss successorship which has been part of highways tendering for close to 30 years. A campaign was launched to ensure the public understands that professional, well-trained crews with knowledge of the local area are key to highway safety.

We committed significant resources to support our members in SA11. We met with Minister Todd Stone and senior ministry officials to discuss the importance of successorship for our long term members, many of whom have decades of experience.

It was extremely disappointing

when the request for proposals was issued in late November without successorship or any retention of the existing workers.

So we expanded the campaign. We called it "Local Crews Know Local Roads". We ran radio ads across the province. We launched a petition at www.SafeHighways.ca. At the same time, we developed a bargaining strategy to protect the jobs of members in SA11. A bargaining committee was elected, membership meetings were held and questionnaires circulated. We then entered a difficult round of bargaining to secure a collective agreement. It took dedication, solidarity and focus. But we got it done and an agreement with Mainroad was ratified.

On April 22 we discovered we were successful: Mainroad won

a seven-year contract to maintain SA11 and our members have a fair contract and seven years of job security. We believe this was a crucial piece in Mainroad's successful bid.

The bargaining committee and the solidarity of the members in SA11 were key. We also received the support of BCGEU president Stephanie Smith, treasurer Paul Finch, our union's provincial executive, and union staff. This was a team win!

As we take a breath to enjoy this victory, the next challenge is just around the corner: requests for proposals will be issued for the other 24 service areas. Those contracts will expire in 2018 through to late 2021.

This is your chance to be part of the future by getting involved in your workplace, your local and to let your voice be heard.

*Rory Smith
Operational Services
Component 10 vice president*



Rory Smith meets with the Atlin highways crew in the fall of 2015.



Ferry captain Jan Moore can be seen in the wheelhouse of McLure ferry.



Captain Ted Brown in the office at the Little Fort ferry landing.



Little Fort Ferry

Cable Ferries on the Thompson River

There are very few cable ferries left in the province but two remain on the Thompson River.

The McLure Ferry and the Little Fort Ferry are both cable ferries and are propelled by the current of the water. An overhead cable is suspended from towers anchored on either bank of the river, and a “traveler” is installed on the cable. The ferry is attached to the traveler by a bridal cable. To operate the ferry, rudders are used to ensure that the pontoons are angled into the current, causing the force of the current to move the ferry across the river. Neither ferry has a fixed schedule. Instead they run “on demand” between 7am to 6:30pm. The only exception is if the water is high and hours are restricted during the winter.

Provincial Highways Bargaining Council Report

In January of 2016 the bargaining committee from SA11 (East Kootenays) and BCGEU negotiators met with Mainroad and Interior Roads Ltd to negotiate a collective agreement. Any agreement would only go into effect if one of these roadbuilders were successful in their bid for the contract in SA11.

After some tough negotiations the members in the East Kootenays ratified the agreement. When Mainroad won the contract for SA11 our members also gained seven years of job security.

The next round of tenders will begin with contracts ending in August 2018. They are Service Areas 2, 3 and 24 followed by the other 21 service areas. The contract in SA1 ends in September 2019. SA20 is the last to expire, on August 31, 2021.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) process from now until the first RFP is released. Many decisions concerning the standards, reporting and successorship will be made prior to the release of the first RFP.

Until the process is complete, I strongly urge all BCGEU members in Component 10 to get involved. It is only with your participation that we can make a difference to the future of this industry. In some areas there are still vacancies on your local and bargaining committees. Ask your steward, local chair, bargaining chairperson or your staff representative how you can help.

Your participation is needed now if we are to make a difference for the future of our jobs and for future highways workers who are looking for a good career in the highways maintenance industry, providing safe highways for families and the travelling public.

If you haven't already, go to SafeHighways.ca and sign the campaign petition. Let Premier Clark know you want her to protect good jobs and keep our highways safe! Get your friends and family members to sign the petition too!

*In Solidarity,
Dave Maki
BCGEU Component 10
Bargaining Council chairperson*



The Merritt VSA crew got together for an anniversary cake at 7am for Mike Shafer.

Mike (Shifty) Shafer, had his 49-year anniversary with highways on March 7, 2016.

He started on March 7, 1967 at the age of 19 in Merritt.

At the time highways maintenance was run out of the Merritt courthouse. That is where he had to go to fill out his application.

Mike Shafer – 49 years

Mike started as a sign man's helper and graduated quickly to sign man of which he was the only member after the sign men in Merritt and Boston Bar quit within a short time of each other. He stayed in a bunkhouse in Boston Bar through the week most of the time, but home was Merritt.

A bed was supplied but he had to bring a cook top with him. His food allowance was \$6 a day.

He graduated to grader operator. And since then he has operated basically everything that is used in highways maintenance including excavator which he does to this day.

There is no one you would like to work with more than Mike. After 40 some odd years I have never seen him in a bad mood. Standing 6'4", he is one of those quiet giants. With

an attitude of live and let live, he gets along with everyone!

Mike is threatening to retire this year but he's said that before.

I expect to still be working with him until I retire!

I will always look fondly on our time working together!

*Fred Street
Local Chairperson
1005*



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

Esquimalt Dry Docks

On March 31, 2016 component vice president Rory Smith visited the Esquimalt Dry Docks with the local chair Scott Bumphrey, staff representative Chad McQuarrie and supervisor Robin Lehman. They toured the Queen of Cumberland from the engine rooms to the bridge.

The retrofit of the ferry was from engine and Z drive replacement, major electrical updates including computer and generator backup systems, safety updates including the latest personal deployment and raft systems, control updates and other routine maintenance of windows, flooring, seating and painting.



Pictured from left to right: BCGEU staff representative Chad McQuarrie, local chair Scott Bumphrey, Component 10 vice president Rory Smith and supervisor Robin Lehman.

Our members were working hard to perform the updates and retrofit the ferry, working alongside other tradespeople hired by BC Ferries. The ferry will be safer and more comfortable for its pas-

sengers once completed.

When its back in service, it is nice to know that our members worked hard to maintain and upgrade a ferry so many people rely on.

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



WORDSEARCH – COMPONENT10CERTS

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COMPONENT
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 MINISTRY
 UNION



“State-of-the-art” snow removal equipment to be rolled out winter of 2016.



VSA members at the Logan Lake yard. From left to right are Geoff Michalewicz (Component 10 Young Worker), Dave Dueck and Sandra Dey. VSA members at the Logan Lake yard. From left to right are Geoff Michalewicz (Component 10 Young Worker), Dave Dueck and Sandra Dey.

OBITUARIES

ANDREW PAUL NOWAK

Paul worked for Mainroad South Island Contracting and was the shop foreman. He was making plans to retire in the fall but unfortunately passed away. He will be missed by his co-workers and all that knew him.

DENNIS CAMPBELL

Dennis Campbell of Merritt passed away on October 22, 2015, at 68 years of age.

Dennis worked on building all three extensions of the Coquihalla Highway, and in 1986 joined the road maintenance crew. He was forced to retire last February because of cancer. He will be missed by friends and family.



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!



RETIREMENTS



RON BENSON

A longtime member and activist Ron Benson has retired.

Most recently he was the TSS mechanic supervisor with Interior Roads. He was a steward, and served on the OHS, bargaining and labor management committees over the years. He served the membership with distinction and loyalty.

AIDAN CARROLL

Aidan Carroll is retiring after a long time as a BCGEU activist. Aidan was a shop steward, occupational health and safety committee member, and bargaining chairperson. Thanks for all your hard work and enjoy your retirement.



Long-time Highways Maintenance Member Retires

Kim Davidson spent over his 25 years working with different maintenance contractors. About half of that time he worked out of the Allison Pass yard on Highway 3. The other half of his career was at the Boston Bar yard on Highway 1 where he has built a new home and plans to make it his base while he moves into the next phase of his life. Many thanks for your many years of commitment to the job.

BCGEU Pension Plan Changes

Our current *defined contribution* pension plan is in the final stages of conversion to the new *target benefit* plan. The final conversion date is July 1, 2016.

By now all plan members should have received information on the process and had an opportunity to participate in the telephone town hall meeting on April 27, 2016. You can listen to a recording of the meeting by calling 1-855-223-9310. The information package that members received by mail will also help make an informed decision for you and your family.

If you have any further questions on the process, or any other pension related questions, please contact BCGEU staff representative Laura O'Neil at 1-888-267-6774.



Earl Haward at the Houston highways yard with the BCGEU RV and some of the LDM crew in October 2015.

LOCAL CREWS
KNOW LOCAL ROADS
PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCED WORKERS

**KEEP OUR
HIGHWAYS
SAFE**



safehighways.ca

Sign the Petition. Let Premier Clark know you want her to protect good jobs and keep our highways safe.