



USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

Welcome to our NEW newsletter format. If you are not receiving these by email please send your name, badge number and email address to admin@usw9346.ca to get on the list. If you wish to unsubscribe, please do so using the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. Please note that if you unsubscribe, you will not receive any emails from USW Local 9346 in the future, unless you ask us to re-subscribe.

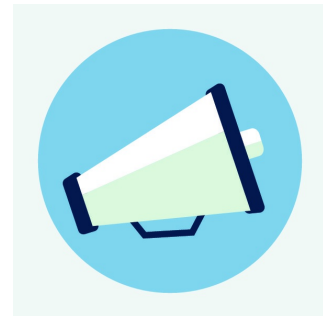
Visit our Website

SUNLIFE COVID-19 FORMS are on the homepage of our website for you to download if needed.

Upcoming Events

General Membership Meeting - Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom. If you are interested in participating please email admin@usw9346.ca with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, January 14 to receive an invite for this meeting.

Safety Rep Meetings - Tuesday, January 26 at 4:30pm and Monday, February 1 at 4:30pm



Change in Office Hours

Please be advised that our office has changed back to 'By Appointment Only' hours. We are still always available by phone and email, but if you need to see us in person please make an appointment by contacting:

Scott Liddle - scottl@usw9346.ca or 250-425-4147
Troy Cook - troyc@usw9346.ca or 250-423-8742
Sarah Thompson - admin@usw9346.ca or 403-563-7369

Sarah will be in the office January 7, 14, 21 and 28 if you need faxing of forms and to send up Retiree's Post Retirement Benefit forms. No appointments are needed these days unless you need to see Scott or Troy.



Health and Safety Message From our District Office

Please click the link below to read a Health and Safety message from our USW District 3 Health, Safety and Environment Coordinator, Ed Kent.

[Health and Safety Message from Ed Kent](#)



Messages from Your Local Union Executive

President's Message

Brothers and Sisters,

This year your USW Humanity Fund donated:

\$ 2500 to the Sparwood Food Bank

\$ 750 to the Fernie Salvation Army

\$ 750 to the Crowsnest Pass Foodbank

Thanks to everyone who contributes to this charity.

I wish to thank everyone for your patience during these extremely strange times. It has been a trying year for all of us, but if we look around, we can still see a lot of positive things going on in our lives.

I'm very proud to be your President and as we head into the holiday season, I want to wish everyone and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year. Please reach out to family, friends, and loved ones over the Holiday Season to ensure that no one feels alone during this pandemic. Do your part to help keep your family safe over the holidays. I know these are very extreme times but they won't last forever. Let us hope 2021 is way less as screwed up as 2020 has been.

Remember we have free, confidential, 24/7/365 access to the Employee and Family Assistance Program. They can be reached by calling 1-800-387-4765.

Scott Liddle
President
USW Local 9346

Safety Chair's Message

4.14 – These numbers might not mean much to some of you; but, if you have read the CBA health and safety language, you might recognize them. This article outlines how employees can exercise their right to refuse. It lays out a very collaborative method for an employee and supervisor to help remedy a situation where an undue hazard may exist. As with any safety concern, it starts by reporting it to your supervisor; this gives them the opportunity to try to rectify the situation if possible. It is followed by an in depth investigation that can involve a Safety Rep or JOHSC member. Take some time to get to know this language.

Have you met your crew Safety Reps? We have some amazing people on each crew who dedicate their time to help us navigate through safety issues and concerns. They will also be your representation should you have a safety related incident on site. Safety Reps are a great resource for any general safety questions or if you need clarification on a safety issue. If they don't have the answer, they will do their best to find it for you. However, I encourage you to bring serious safety concerns directly to your supervisor first. They may be able to address the concern immediately before it leads to a worse outcome for you or a fellow employee. You can also let your Safety Rep know of the concerns you have

brought up so they can do some follow up.

As workers, we have some fundamental health and safety rights.

- **The right to know** about health and safety matters.
- **The right** to participate in decisions that could affect our health and safety.
- **The right** to refuse work that could affect our health and safety and that of others.

Keep yourself safe and healthy this holiday season!

Julia McKay
OH&SC Chair
USW Local 9346

Grievance/WCB Chair's Message

Our Road Closure arbitration continues predictably, with the usual turns and wall head hitting moments. Despite some attempts to resolve the matter with preliminary discussions and document exchanges we are now in the hearing planning mode. We aim to establish the rights of workers on public roads and the rights of workers to assess and refuse unsafe travel. If you experience undriveable conditions despite roads being deemed “open” contact the union until we can resolve the dispute. My number is (250)423-8742 and the Union Hall is (250)425-0131. You have a right to safety and you should not be disciplined for questioning it or refusing to travel when conditions are unsafe.

Our volume of WCB cases has increased, as it tends to during the winter months, and we continue to achieve good results. There have been a few cases of late where union members haven't come to us after being injured at work. WCB cases can be complex and the system is not designed for ease. We have a great team at the Union hall with to aid all our members through the paper trail nightmare.

After sustaining injury at work be sure to report it to your supervisor and to the Loss Prevention Officer (LPO). Injuries reported late after occurrence become more difficult to establish at the WCB level. When you are at your physician be sure to let them know you had a workplace injury so they can send the appropriate documentation to WCB. Contact the union at the above noted number(s).

2020 has been a tough year to put it mildly. A big thanks to all shop stewards and safety reps for their continued work to protect workers rights and safety. A thanks to our staff representative Dean Lott for his guidance and firm hand at the bargaining table. My biggest thanks to our office administrator Sarah Thompson for all her assistance and amazing work.

Great holiday season to all!

Troy Cook
Grievance/WCB Chair
USW Local 9346

Coal Mountain Update

I know that it's been a while since the last Coal Mountain update but there is not a whole bunch going on over there.

Teck just rolled out their respirator policy at CMO (a year behind the other mines) which is sort of ridiculous. It makes us question if they really care about our health and safety or is it because we here at CMO are in the twilight of our careers that maybe they figure it's too late for us? It seems it is just another way of reminding us that they are the boss.

Our contract runs out at the end of the month so negotiations should be starting soon.

We pulled our de-watering pumps out last week so that should be that until spring and the two D11's are continuing re-sloping the old spoils.

Other than that...it's pretty day to day.

I wish everybody and their families all the very best through this trying Christmas Season and into the New Year.

Stay Healthy!

Doug Ramsey
Outside Guard and CMO Unit Chair
USW Local 9346
