



USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

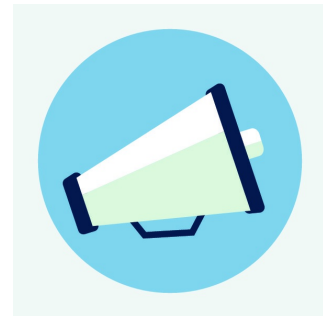
Welcome to our NEW newsletter format. If you are not receiving these by email please send your name, badge number and email address to admin@usw9346.ca to get on the list. If you wish to unsubscribe, please do so using the unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. Please note that if you unsubscribe, 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, December 15, 2020 at 5:30pm at the Union Hall and via Zoom. If you are interested in participating via Zoom please email admin@usw9346.ca with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, December 10 to receive an invite for this meeting.



Safety Rep Meetings - Tuesday, November 24 at 4:30pm and Thursday, November 26 at 4:30pm

Message from the Women Of Steel - Thanks to all who registered their Children for the Children's Christmas this year. The registration for this is now closed. The cards will be mailed out in the next week or two.

Retiree's

Congratulations to our September and October Retiree's

Shamsher Gill - retired September 15, 2020
Tim Deroche - Retired September 24, 2020
Graham Dunlop - retired October 30, 2020
Lisa Foley - retired October 30, 2020 after spending 30 years with Teck - her Career with Teck started at Quintette.

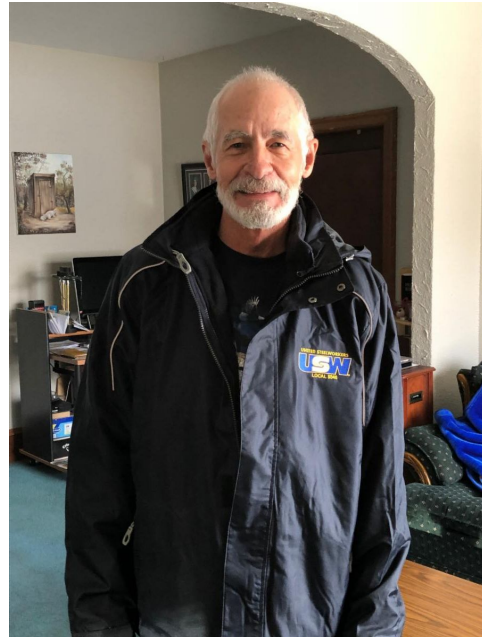


Patrick Kelly - retired October 30, 2020 after spending 35 years with Teck - his Career with Teck also started at Quintette.

All the best to you. We have jackets for you at the Union Hall. Please stop by during office hours to try one on, or call Sarah at 250-425-0131.



Cyril Colin Kearley pictured receiving his retiree jacket. Cyril retired August 4, 2020.



Les Fekete pictured receiving his retiree jacket. Les also retired on August 4, 2020

Messages from Your Local Union Executive

President's Message

With the exchange of Non-Monetary proposals done we settled in for three full days of bargaining this week - Nov 17,18,19 - to look at items from both sides of the table. We are in the very early stages dealing with housekeeping items and both sides asking questions about the others proposals. We have also been hearing presentations from the Company department heads. I have been getting a lot of questions on why we don't release more information. As we have seen in the past, if too much information is released too early, then the practice of "bargaining in the pits" becomes an issue and hinders the process. If you start to hear rumours of what is going on at the bargaining table, please reach out to me or one of our bargaining committee members to find out the facts. Bargaining is a process and it does take time. We are back at the table in early December.

We have heard Teck say that there will be no layoffs due to automation and that the employee numbers will get smaller thru attrition and the opportunity of apprenticeships will increase. Since Teck first announced the RACE 21 program none of this has really started to happen yet.

With the company now starting on the second autonomous pit - and lets face it, this is the future of mining - now more than ever is a great time to start looking into the apprenticeship program. There is tutoring at the College in Fernie that Teck will pay for to help you brush up on your math or science or anything else you may need to help you pass the pre apprenticeship exam.

I encourage people to seriously look into the apprenticeship program and start thinking of their futures here at Teck... but I also want people to think of what might happen to their communities as less and less people get hired into the mines as entry level jobs disappear

to robots and the massive loss of revenue it might cause to the local economy. Is there any danger of some of our smaller towns having to shut down businesses because Teck has chosen to hire robots over people ??

Scott Liddle
President
USW Local 9346

Safety Message

Ergonomics

Musculoskeletal injuries...ergonomics...fancy big words for the most common injuries in our workplace and how we mitigate those injuries. Musculoskeletal injuries (or MSI's to make it easier) are injuries or disorders of the muscles, tendons, ligaments, joints, nerves, blood vessels or related soft tissue including a sprain, strain and inflammation, that may be caused or aggravated by work. These injuries make up around 59% of workplace injuries. Ergonomics can reduce the risk of these injuries.

MSI's are not just related to repetition; physical demands, duration, force, posture, contact stress and other factors can all contribute to MSI injuries. When we are able to mitigate these factors, we create a much safer and more productive work environment. Eliminating certain tasks where possible, substituting tools, or creating more ergonomic friendly workspaces are all ways to help reduce our risks. Risk identification (remember your hazard ID training?!) is a great way to assess the job at hand and mitigate MSI risks before they can cause damage.

We are all built differently and have varying capabilities, so remember that just because someone is able to perform a certain task without discomfort, doesn't mean the next person won't have any issues. Assess your task for YOU, coordinate with your supervisor to mitigate MSI risks, and, if you think you have an idea on how to make a job or task better, please bring it forward; you may be saving someone a lot of pain and discomfort. At the end of the set we all deserve a little R&R. Take advantage of what your extended medical plan offers by way of helping with costs; enjoy a nice massage or other medical service to help soothe those tired muscles and keep your body as healthy as possible.

Keep yourself safe and healthy!

Julia McKay
OH&SC Chair
USW Local 9346
