



USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

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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, October 20, 2020 at 5:30pm at the Union Hall and via Zoom. If you are interested in participating please email admin@usw9346.ca with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, October 15 to receive an invite for this meeting.

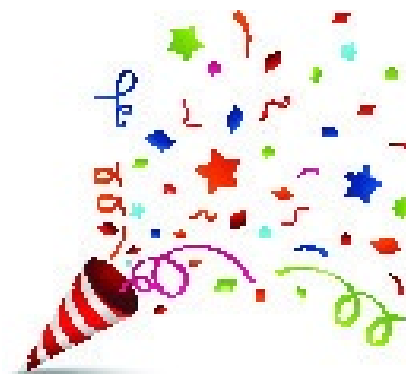


Retiree's

Congratulations to our August Retiree's

Les Fekete - Retired August 4, 2020
Cyril Kearley - Retired August 4, 2020
Barry Hulburd - Retired August 5, 2002
Rick Link - Retired August 27, 2020

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.



Messages from Your Local Union Executive

President's Message

We had our full Bargaining team together Sept 22, 23, 24 to go through the Bargaining course and learn where our language came from. We talked about what bargaining will look like during Covid-19 and what is happening across other locals in the Teck Chain. We talked at length about the abuse the Company has put us under over the last couple of years, and how quickly they have forgotten who owns the language in the CBA. We talked about the strike in 2010 and how we got to that point.

We need to send a very strong message to the management team at Elkview as we head into bargaining. We are a very strong local. We have a history of fighting to the bitter end and ensuring that we keep what we have in the CBA and improving on that language. We will NOT bend, buckle or sway. This Company is not broke and they have cut us deep to ensure their profits remain high.

Remember, we are the ones that produce the coal for the company. Without us, they do not make a penny. The Company tends to forget that without us, no wheels turn, no belts run, no shovel swings, and no coal is produced.

Coming off the heels of the Line Creek Deal, 2% a year over the next 5 years, isn't great but it is a starting point. With the Castle Mountain expansion at Fording now being tied up at the federal level possibly for years, it puts Elkview in a unique position. If the Company is going to call us the new mothership of coal because of the autonomous program and the 9 million project completion at the plant, they had better put their money where their mouth is.

For years now all that has been done is the Company has been driving a wedge between Elkview and Fording River. There is a lot of Fact and Fiction in what has happened between the two Unions over the years but the fact that Fording has a pension plan, special vacation, as well as other items that we do not have, is proof enough that the Company's ways have been working.

Well the time has come to end the Company wedge program. As the new Mothership we now bargain for A FAIR DEAL FOR OUR FUTURES! One that helps put money in our pockets, one that guarantee's job security for our future generation, and one that guarantee's our Health and Safety.

Scott Liddle
President
USW Local 9346

Safety Message

October is upon us; complete with crisp mornings, gorgeous colours, and plenty of pumpkin spice EVERYTHING!! It is also the official Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Stickers on lockers and hardhats are a reminder throughout the year of battles fought not only by so many brave women, but by men as well. We take this month to think about those who have fought so hard; victories won, battles lost, and the people who continue the fight.

It is estimated that in 2020:

- 27,400 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. This represents 25% of all new cancer cases in women in 2020.
- 5,100 women will die from breast cancer. This represents 13% of all cancer deaths in women in 2020.
- On average, 75 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer every day.
- On average, 14 Canadian women will die from breast cancer every day.
- 240 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer and 55 will die from breast cancer.

Estimated Canadian breast cancer statistics (2020)
New Cases - Males 240 - Females 27,400

Deaths - Males 55 - Females 5,100

5-year net survival (estimates for 2012 to 2014) - Males 80% - Females 88%

Take the time to remember those we have lost; support and encourage those who are continuing their battle. Make a donation or start a campaign of your own to help those that need it most. Screening and prevention resources are available on the Canadian Cancer Society website as well as easy ways to donate and volunteer.

Another topic I wanted to talk about is the current opioid and drug use crisis. Our country, our provinces, and our communities have seen a sharp increase in drug overdose and relapse rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The BC CDC sites the information below:

- All health authorities in BC have seen an increase in overdose cases since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is due to the increased drug toxicity and more people using alone
- BC recorded 914 overdose deaths between January and July 2020
- Males are more affected than females, but both groups have been severely affected
- Take Home Naloxone (THN) orders reached a peak in July 2020 with over 29,000 kits shipped that month

During an already tense and uncertain time, we need to make sure our family, friends, and neighbours, don't fall through the cracks. If you know someone who may need help, please encourage them to reach out to local addiction services or mental health services. If you or someone you work with needs help or just needs someone to talk to, our EAP program is always available at 1-800-387-4765.

Stay safe and healthy!!

Julia McKay
OH&SC Chair
USW Local 9346
