



## USW LOCAL 9346 Your monthly news & updates

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Visit our Website

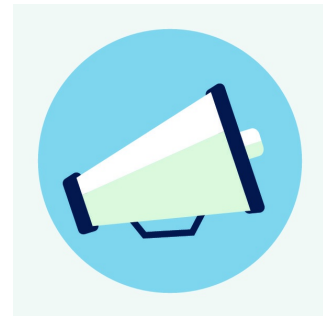
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**SUNLIFE COVID-19 FORMS** are on the homepage of our website for you to download if needed.

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### Upcoming Events

**General Membership Meeting** - Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 5:30pm at the Union Hall and via Zoom. If you are interested in participating please email [admin@usw9346.ca](mailto:admin@usw9346.ca) with your name, email, and badge number by Thursday, September 10 to receive an invite for this meeting.



### Support Castle

As most of you probably now know, the Castle expansion has been slated for Federal Review instead of Provincial. Fording River is dependent on Castle getting permitted in order for them to continue to produce. Below are a couple links to letters from the BC Ministry of Mines and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate change appealing to the Federal Government to keep the permitting process within the province. We include these letters today as informational as we need to support our brothers and sisters at FRO. If you would like to discuss any of this further please feel free to call or stop by the Hall.



[Minister of Environment and Climate Change letter](#)

[Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources letter](#)

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## WOS Backpacks Campaign

Our Women of Steel Committee supplied 90 kids in the Elk Valley and the Crowsnest Pass with backpacks full of their needed school supplies again this year. As we were not able to do our Bus Stop BBQ's or our Women's Day of Golf this year due to COVID, we applied and were approved for a grant out of our head office in Vancouver. USW 7884 in Elkford and USW 9705 in Trail also provided us a donation. We thank them all and are very pleased that we were able to continue this program for these kids again this year.



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## Messages from Your Local Union Executive

### President's Message

I would like to personally thank Alex Hanson for his years of service at USW 9346 and the countless hours of personal time he has put in at the hall fighting for our rights as well as Health and Safety issues. I wish Alex all the best in his future endeavor's .

I would also like to thank Julia McKay for stepping up to be the new H&S Chair/JOHESC Co-Chair .

I wish to crush the rumors of more shutdowns in October and November. As of today there are no new shutdowns scheduled.

Your 2020 Bargaining Committee has gone thru all of the returned Bargaining surveys and has now prioritized the list into 2 specific groups Monetary and Non Monetary . We are currently coming up with a rough draft of proposals. Our bargaining school course is scheduled for the 22,23,24 of September.

I would also like to congratulate Terry Barlow JR. on winning the yeti cooler.

With the Covid-19 numbers getting larger by the day and more and more cases in the Valley popping up it's time to step back and look at the safety protocols put in place to help keep us safe. Yes wearing a mask is a huge pain in the ass especially if you wear glasses like I do, but you are not being asked to wear a mask 24/7. You are being asked to wear your mask during certain periods of the day when you are going to be around larger groups of people and by you wearing that mask you are helping prevent the spread of Covid to others.

So a big thank you to all of our members doing their part to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Scott Liddle  
President  
USW Local 9346

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### Vice President's Message

Well it has been a few months now that I have been back on the tools and an active member of the EVO Plant Maintenance department. As the shift Millwright on A-Crew I was quickly shown the difference between how EVO operates in comparison to CMO. Obviously we pump out a lot more coal in a shift and take significantly less down time in an effort to try and reach the 9 million ton production target the mine has set. This has been a serious struggle for the plant since the big tie in this winter. The new equipment has changed the way we are able to process coal and has now presented many new

challenges which will need to be addressed over the coming months. Initially this led to a lot of random down time as operations and maintenance chased plugging and mechanical issues all over the plant. Slowly the group was able to work through the issues and get the plant running in a satisfactory way. We learned quickly that the ability to feed the plant was going to be a challenge and that our disc filters were going to need some much needed updates and repairs. All in all things seem to be moving in the right direction and we will slowly reach our targets. Of course dealing with COVID-19 while trying to get all this work done has added to the challenge. I honestly think the mine has done a pretty good job of dealing with concerns and doing what can be done to ensure our safety at the work place. Unfortunately it is our own members that have been struggling to follow the rules around social distancing and face coverings. Don't get me wrong, I'm over it too. However with these rules and regulations seeming to be sticking around for the foreseeable future we must keep doing what we can to keep each other safe. Many of us have children back in school now and we all know that this will undoubtedly present its own challenges. Now more than ever we have to make sure we don't come to work if we are showing any signs or symptoms of COVID. I know the hit to the pay is less than ideal for most, but the alternative of a site wide breakout would hit each and every one of us much harder. Please don't hesitate to call the Union Hall, speak with your supervisor or call my cell with any questions. Everyone is more than happy to help out where we can.

With the prime focus these days seeming to be COVID compliance and making as much production as possible it is important that we still put our eyes to even small safety concerns. Bring them up and tell your supervisor. If you are not satisfied with your supervisors efforts to remedy the concern you should contact one of your safety reps on the crew. If all else fails don't hesitate to contact the Union hall and let us know your concern and what you feel should be done to remedy the issue. If we all take the approach that bringing up a concern falls on deaf ears then nothing will get addressed and we will slide down the slippery slope towards someone getting seriously injured or even worse killed on the job.

As always let's keep each other safe out there and do our best to ensure we come to work healthy everyday.

Nick Howard  
Vice President  
USW Local 9346

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## Safety Message

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. My name is Julia McKay and I have formally taken over the JOHSC co-chair and OHSC position from Alex Hanson. Alex worked tirelessly when it came to safety on site. He helped usher our membership into this technological age making it easier to stay in touch and keep everyone as up to speed as possible on safety concerns and incidents. His dedication to the membership and the local is admirable and will be greatly missed.

I started with Elkview in 2011, moving my family from Edgewater, BC, to settle in the Elk Valley. I moved from Haul Truck into a Dozer/Grader position and am now a Blaster. I realized early on that safety was taken quite seriously at Elkview. I also noticed that it took the commitment of both our membership and the staff to achieve success. I decided that I wanted to take a more active roll in our safety onsite and I signed up to become a Safety Rep. Since then I have also moved into the Recording Secretary position with our Union and was the JOHSC Ops rep.

I look forward to this new opportunity and working with our Safety Reps, membership, and staff to continue to strive for excellence in health and safety at Elkview.

Safety is Ours!

Julia McKay  
H&S Safety Chair  
USW Local 9346

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## Coal Mountain Update

Here at Coal Mountain things have wound down to just a few of us doing Reclamation. Eight hourly people to be exact. There is one crew with four members working a 12 hr 4x4 rotation and the other crew has three members. Then there is one member on Monday-Thursday on Facilities Maintenance. The rest of the twenty one people on site are staff doing environmental jobs and two LPO's.

As for equipment, all that are left are two D11 Dozers, one 966 Loader, one 330 Link Belt Ex and one old 16G Grader that only gets run once in a while in the winter.

Times are tight up here at the little mine that could.

Our contract is set to expire two months after Elkview's, so negotiations for all of us are just around the corner. Don't forget to put aside a penny or two for rainy days because you just never know what the future holds.

I wish that I had more to report but as you can tell, not much happens up here. Best wishes to everyone and bye for now.

Doug Ramsey  
Outside Guard and CMO Unit Chair  
USW Local 9346