



UNIFOR LOCAL 433

ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC



unifor Local433 | Canada

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SUMMERTIME

AND THE

LIVIN' IS

EASY!!

Bring your families and join the fun at the Annual 433 Picnic!!

SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023!

PRIZES FOR MEMBERS & THEIR KIDS!

Directions: Take Highway 99 – Tsawwassen Ferry Exit (Hwy 17), turn left on 56th Avenue and left again on 12th Avenue. (Follow the signs) If you need more information please call the Local Union Office at 604-321-3471.



ALSO INSIDE...

- INFLATION BUSTING page 6
- INDIGENOUS CANADIANS STRUGGLES page 7
- THE GOOD NEWS PAGES pages 14 & 15

Your Unifor Local 433 Executive Board

- President - **Greg Duff** - *Imperial Dade*
- Vice President - **Bryan Lesko** - *Covanta*
- Recording Secretary - **Ken Mason** - *Cascades*
- Business Agent/Financial Secretary - **James Monks** - *Local 433*
 - Treasurer - **Peter Tinnaburri** - *Covanta*
 - 1 year Trustee - **Vic Issigoth** - *Covanta*
 - 2 year Trustee - **Kyle Bedard** - *Cascades*
- 3 year Trustee - **Jennifer Mathers-Piper** - *Residence Inn*
 - Inner Guard - Vacant
 - Outer Guard - **Francis Dawson**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2023 through November 2023

<p>June Executive Meeting <u>June 15, 2021</u> 5pm Executive meeting 8pm General membership meeting</p>	<p>Local Union Picnic, July 8th, Tsawwassen No membership meetings scheduled in July</p>	<p>August Executive Meeting <u>August 24, 2021</u> 5pm Executive meeting 8pm General membership meeting August 18-20 Canada Council, Halifax</p>
<p>September Executive Meeting <u>September 21, 2021</u> 5pm Executive meeting 8pm General membership meeting</p>	<p>October Executive Meeting <u>October 19, 2021</u> 5pm Executive meeting 8pm General membership meeting BC Regional Council October 20-22</p>	<p>November Executive Meeting <u>November 16, 2021</u> 5pm Executive meeting 8pm General membership meeting</p>

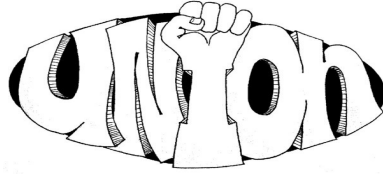
PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greg Duff

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a conference: Work for Disabled People in Canada. The theme of the conference was to help people with disabilities feel there is inclusion and belonging in the Canadian Workplace for them.

It was a very good conference with Inspirational speakers that started good discussions about how to make a worker feel valued and to provide the support and resources that will help them be successful at their job.

One of the goals we were given for after the conference was to start to make changes at our work place towards being more universally accessible and then to make enough improvements to receive the Rick Hansen Accessibility Certification.



The Rick Hansen foundation is a great place for training and education, we are fortunate to have one of their 2 locations in BC. At their facility you can learn about how to change your work place atmosphere and to Improve the culture, diversity, and inclusion of people of all abilities. The Rick Hansen foundation offer a range of accessibility advisory services to support individuals, companies or other organizations reach their goals. They can also provide trained architects that can evaluate your work place. They can also help with construction plans or evaluating

new or future locations. The Rick Hansen Foundation can help your work place become Accessibility Certified and open up more opportunities.

I am on the Unifor Workers with Disabilities Committee, I am also a person with disabilities, I wasn't born with them, I got them from work place accidents. I have physical limitations. I wanted to work, I just had to change how I did it. I know from personal experience that when you have been away from work for a while it can be hard to come back to work with limited abilities. Even with accommodation language in my contract my company resisted an accommodation that would cost them nothing, just a small change in my hours of work and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS AGENT REPORT

James Monks

The new year may have brought us the official end of the pandemic, but it certainly hasn't brought about the end of Covid. Many of our facilities saw significant outbreaks after the Christmas holiday. Thank goodness for the BC sick-days. While a number of our facilities already had sick-days in their collective agreements, more than half of our members did not. The employers are unsurprisingly not big fans of the sick-days, and most places are struggling to adjust to having them as the members are using them. The employers are looking at their attendance management policies and scrutinizing wherever they can. We have advanced a grievance to arbitration over the way that one of our employ-



ers is interpreting the BC Employment Standards Act regarding the sick days. We feel that our position is solid, and we expect a positive result.

The Local has been trying to invest in the education of our workplace representatives and have sent a significant number to courses in the past 8 months. We had another 8 signed up for courses that were cancelled by the education department.

We will be rescheduling those members as soon as possible. If you are a steward in need of training, talk to your unit chair about training opportunities. We welcome Ken Mason to the head table on the Local Executive Board, who has been acclaimed to the position of Recording Secretary. Ken joins Local

BUSINESS AGENT REPORT

continued

President Greg Duff from Imperial Dade and Vice President Bryan Lesko from Covanta at the head table.

We just wrapped up a week of negotiations and now have a tentative agreement at Paper Excellence – Catalyst SDC that will be presented to the member-

ship on June 6th. We are hopeful the membership will approve the work of the bargaining committee. I hope that each and every one of the Local 433 members have the opportunity for some fun in the sun this summer with family and friends. Stay safe out there!

In Solidarity, James Monks

PAPER EXCELLENCE - CATALYST S.D.C.

Denis Gingras

Hello everyone!

With a big flood in our warehouse (Surrey distribution Centre) at the end of 2022 on Christmas Eve, this wasn't the way we wanted to end a year. There was a lot of damage to our inventory. It looked a little bleak going into the New Year.

With a lot of hard work from our group, we cleaned up the water and separated the damaged rolls. We kept our warehouse productive by receiving/shipping our product.

For the first 3 months of the year, we kept busy, but April was a slow month. Port Alberni was down for a couple of weeks and we only had Crofton barges.

We were receiving Pulp primarily from Skookumchuck, Crofton and some from Meadow Lake and Howe Sound to keep us busy.

Going into May, we were hoping it was going to be busy. With Crofton curtailed for a couple of weeks and pulp prices down it's looking like May is going to be a little slower than April. There's no layoffs at this point, but there has been opportunities for voluntary days off.

As of March 31st of this year, our collective agreement had expired with Catalyst Paper (Paper Excellence). So we're starting our negotiations Monday, May 8, 2023. We are hoping for a smooth negotiations that benefits both the company and the work force.

We do have a couple of grievances/arbitrations, hopefully we can resolve before negotiations start.

With Spring in the air, longer days, warmer weather fast approaching and Covid finally behind us, we are hopeful for a brighter 2023.

Health and happiness to all Unifor members Local 433 Cheers!

Denis Gingras
Surrey Distribution Centre



CROWN PACKAGING

Jermaine Arabe

Crown packaging has been going steady. Overtime has started ramping up again on weekends and we continue to hire new employees. Thankfully covid is no longer an issue but we will continue to be cautious and implement procedures to prevent the spread of germs. Crown packaging's new owners have promised many upgrades and we are excited to see these changes. We would also like to wish everyone a safe and fun summer this year.

SULZER PUMPS

Jim Leung

Work is steady with an engineering intern hired for the summer and additional personnel added to QA.

With the end of the pandemic, everyone is safe and healthy at Sulzer.

In Solidarity, Jim

PRESIDENTS REPORT CONTINUED

Greg Duff

my company resisted. I have worked for the same company for 38 years and it took weeks of getting multiple letters from my family doctor and my surgeon for them to finally agree to the accommodation. Companies need to change the way they do things and everyone needs to view people with disabilities differently, there is a lot they can do. People with disabilities aren't liabilities, they are assets. Give people with disabilities a chance and they can amaze you. My disabilities are physical and I really only thought of the physical problems a person would have to overcome to be able to work. This conference really opened my eyes to what true accessibility and inclusion is. It's more than a ramp by a staircase or signs in braille, its many things. but what has to change first is wanting people with disabilities to be there in the first place. Letting people know they are valued.

The sad personal stories of individuals and their disabilities, the obstacles that prevented them from finding

meaningful work. Minor accommodations and acceptance would have made it possible for them to have found work. There are many more people with restricted ability in BC wanting meaningful work. Sometimes it just takes a small change to make a big difference. A small accommodation could open up a great resource of new workers in a time when companies are struggling to find workers. There are people waiting for a chance to show what they can do. The Covid epidemic has shown that many of our jobs can be done differently, it could be working at home or by modifying work hours, or maybe its providing a shuttle bus for companies that have little or no bus service. Don't be afraid to hire or support people with disabilities.

P.S if you don't have accommodation language in your contract you should talk to you plant committee regarding adding it to your next contract agenda.

Inflation-busting with union contracts —a brief explainer

Your union contract could be the most powerful tool you have against the rising cost of living . By JON MILTON

IF YOU ASK the Bank of Canada, they would tell you that one of the main drivers of inflation is workers' wages. Tiff Macklem, governor of the Bank of Canada, has been frank about it, saying that "we need to rebalance the labour market."

What does that mean? For Macklem, the answer is clear. "The unemployment rate in June [2022] hit a record low—and while that seems like a good thing, it is not sustainable," he said in the same remarks. The "rebalancing" of "supply and demand" in the labour market means triggering unemployment and bringing down wages.

That's certainly one vision for how to fight inflation—with misery for working people.

As the CCPA has covered extensively, working people's wages didn't cause inflation—corporate profits are its main driver. Bringing down workers' wages, which have already been lagging behind inflation, is asking for workers to pay the increased cost of living twice.

There is, in fact, a better way to combat the rising cost of living—by paying workers more. While most workers' pay is still lagging behind inflation, some workers have been winning inflation-busting wage increases in their union contracts. If your wages are rising along with the cost of living, it certainly hurts a lot less.

Unifor members at Resolute Pulp & Paper signed a pattern-setting agreement in May 2022, which will be the basic framework for much of the rest of the

forestry sector. Those union members won a 20–24 per cent pay increase, on average.

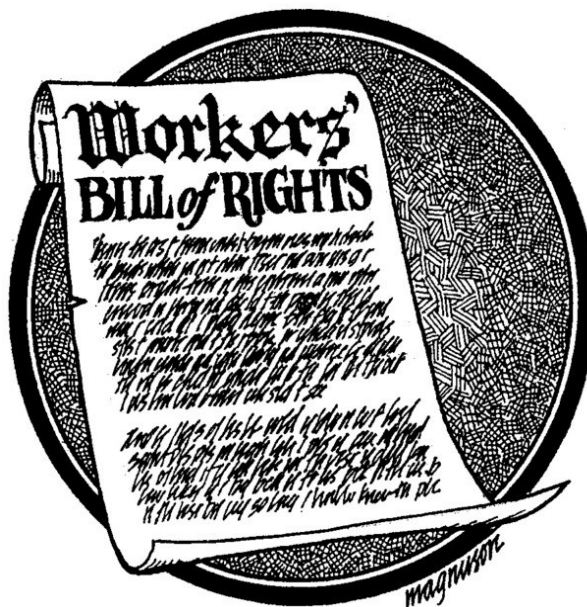
For Unifor members at Westjet, some workers at the bottom of the pay scale will be seeing 40 per cent pay increases over the life of their next contract.

Workers at the Molson brewery—members of the Teamsters—near Montreal won pay increases of between 40 and 50 per cent for the lowest-paid workers following a months-long strike.

Teamster school bus drivers at GD Paquette in Quebec just won a "spectacular" immediate wage increase of 33 per cent, followed by a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for every year of the rest of the contract, making sure that their wage increases are never lower than the rate of inflation.

In simple terms, a COLA increase means that every year at some designated time—let's say January 1—wage increases automatically occur at the most recent rate of year-over-year inflation. If the rate of inflation from January 2022 to January 2023 was 5.9 per cent, and COLA raises occur automatically in January, then everyone gets a 5.9 per cent raise starting on January 1.

The language of COLA increases is fairly straightforward. It should be tied to a specific measure of inflation (most often, the Consumer Price Index), triggered at a specific date, and applied universally within a bargaining unit, as best practice.



(Continued on page 12)



Indigenous Peoples continue to face deep structural inequality in Canada

By NATALIE COPPS AND ANDRÉE FOREST

INEQUALITY IS MEASURED at many angles: income, opportunity, life expectancy, ability to access one's own history or traditional territory. Inequality is built into the very foundation of Canada.

For Indigenous Peoples, this plays out over centuries, at various scales and with cumulative consequences. Decrees forbidding free trade of hides. Cutting off access to ways of life via reserves and residential schools. The swindle of Métis scrip. Barring First Nations people from hiring lawyers.

There is no shortage of examples of structural inequality created at the hands of the powerful on these lands.

Treaties, negotiated between European nations and First Nations, were intended to outline the rights, responsibilities, and relationships necessary to share the land peacefully. The text of treaties omitted notions central to Indigenous Peoples and quickly led to paternalistic laws and policies that created a separation and a sequestration of First Nations people onto reserves.

These concerted efforts led to land theft while systematically cutting off Indigenous Peoples from the lands they depended on for survival—physically, culturally and spiritually.

Indigenous Peoples have an inherent right to land that is based on foundational concepts of relationship, responsibility, and reciprocity.

The mass displacement of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, in different and painful ways, was a foundational blow to the equality promised in treaty making. Indigenous Peoples have lived on, and in relation to, land on Turtle Island since time immemorial, managing territories, water and resources in accordance with their own laws and governance

systems.

Dispossession from our land and related law-making left us subject to colonial laws that perpetuate and promote inequality, historically and at present.

From 1927 to 1951, the Indian Act made it illegal for status Indians to hire lawyers or seek legal advice, fundraise for land claims, or meet in groups. If a First Nation person wanted to become a lawyer, they were forced to renounce their status.

Until 2008, section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act prevented anyone from filing a complaint about anything related to the Indian Act. Since the Indian Act was not subject to the oversight by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal, First Nations people were banned from challenging discriminatory provisions, policies, practices or procedures that governed their everyday lives.

Inequality is embedded in the law and is often the result of avoidance, ignorance or jurisdictional buck-passing.

Until 2016, provincial and federal governments played hot potato with Métis and non-status Indians. For over a century, the federal government refused to recognize that section 91(24) of The Constitution Act, 1867 included Métis and non-status Indians.

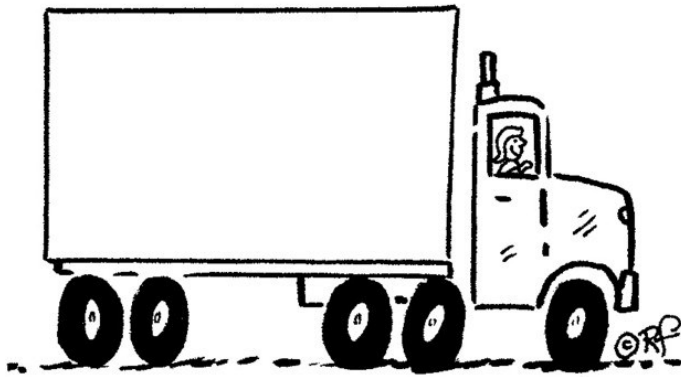
Effectively, Canada's refusal to recognize its constitutional obligations to Métis and non-status Indians meant these Indigenous communities were stuck "in a jurisdictional wasteland with significant and obvious disadvantageous consequences," according to the Supreme Court of Canada's judgment in the Daniels case. This ruling confirmed that Métis and non-status peoples are considered

IMPERIAL DADE

Brian Schiller

Things are looking up at Imperial Dade these days. After what seemed to feel like an eternity, the company decided to part ways with our operations manager and the afternoon supervisor. Many a tear was shed by all but c'est la vie.

The company has hired a new manager, Stuart, who has already taken a much more positive start than his last few predecessors. Stuart has been keen on



learning how the warehouse members keep the operation running on a day-to-day basis. He has also spent time getting to know the membership and is righting the wrongs that the last manager made with our members. A lot of postings have gone up and have been filled, which has been challenging over the past few years.

Stuart has already listened to the membership concerns about what we perceive as possible lost busi-

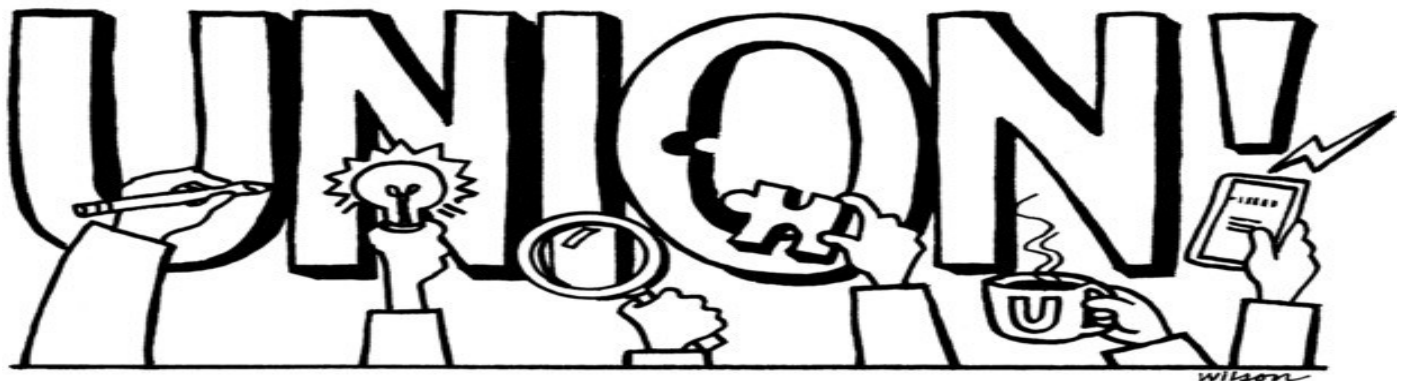
ness due to not being as busy as previous years. He has requested that sales staff give the warehouse staff updates on any new or lost business, something we have been interested in for years.

In other news, we had 4 Administrative/Inventory Staff sign Union Cards to become members of our plant. As I am writing this, we are still awaiting the Labour Relations Boards' decision on the matter but remain positive that they will be come members in the in the near future.

On the whole, morale seems to be improving, and we seem to be moving in the right direction.

Yours in solidarity,

Brian Schiller

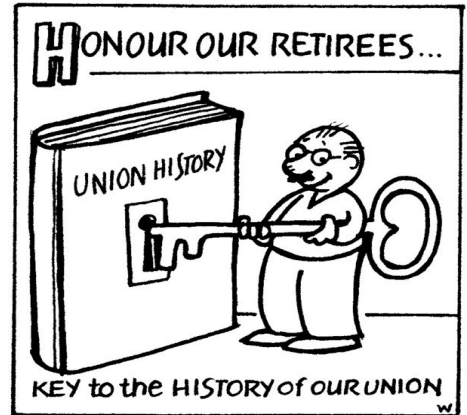


COVANTA

Alex Lafonde

As we come out of winter and deal with many new plant issues we also have new faces in management. As they become orientated with our plant and try to make changes it's important that the CBA be followed and adhered to. Our communication amongst members and the plant committee is also very important when experiencing new changes and new problems.

Our last Contract agreement has given us a raise to match the Cost of Living in Vancouver and also increased our quantity of Paid Sick Days. We also had John Goodman Retire after 32 years of Service and we wish him a happy retirement.



RESIDENCE INN

Jennifer Mathers-Piper

For this period our group has engaged in many different issues. The most pressing matter being the grievance for increased wages. The company presented their final offer to us and it was rejected by the membership because it placed limitations on our ability to bargain next year. Our group values the ability to bargain and to use our leverage to strike in 2024. Since we bargain next summer, we will be holding a membership meeting early next year to choose our 2024 bargaining committee. Many of our members have contract improvements to present to the employer next year. We had a wrongful termination grievance over this period that employer cooperation helped us to settle. We have been in discussions over benefit entitlements and a grievance has been filed. The employer has asked people to sign and agree to pay some of their benefit premiums for extending vacation into unpaid leave. The union's position is that this interpretation of the collective agreement is 100% incorrect. The employer has agreed to reimburse any members who were

**STAMP
OUT
RACISM**

charged. There is also an issue regarding people traveling overseas and whether or not they are covered under benefits. We do not agree with these changes in benefit coverage. Please let a shop steward know if you have been effected by anything regarding benefit coverage. If it doesn't seem right then it probably isn't.

We are due for a quarterly union/management meeting and for a biyearly housekeeping workload meeting that we will be scheduling with the employer promptly.

In health and safety, there has been an employer lead campaign to educate all workers about

their rights to refuse unsafe work and the requirement of all workers to report all injuries.

Thank you for the hard work all members have offered in reaching our collective goals this period.

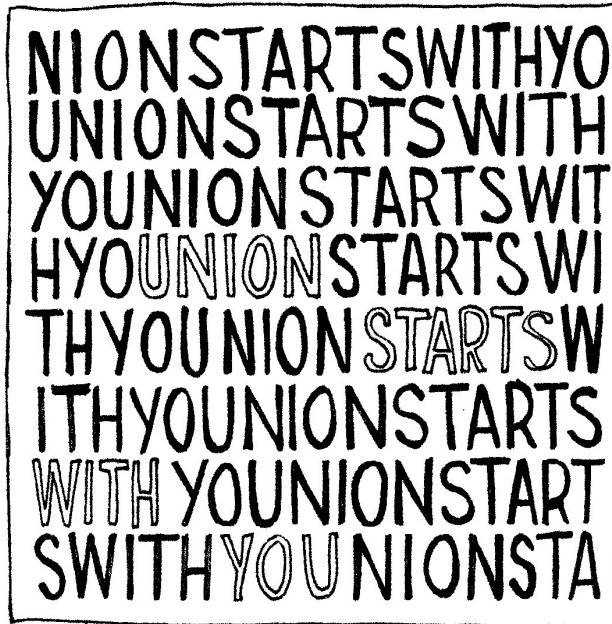
Jennifer Mathers-Piper
Unit Chair & Health and Safety Co-Chair,
Unifor Local 433

CASCADES

Kyle Bedard

Since our last update there have been significant changes with management at Cascades Richmond. Both our General Manager and Production Manager have been given the opportunity to seek employment elsewhere. Our Production manager position still remains vacant while we have a new GM to welcome, Jonathan Larsen. Hopefully this new management team will be more receptive to working together. They already seem to have adopted a more proactive approach to dealing with management-union issues thus far and we can only hope this pattern continues.

We currently have no members on layoff and are starting to pick up business as we come into our busy summer season. One of our Flexos and one of



SCHOENROCK

our Wards is currently on a 6 day running schedule with supporting members following suit.

Management is continuing to struggle with hiring new members and maintenance personnel. Furthermore, we are experiencing many growing pains with the inferior training methods management has chosen for new members. Frequently a recently trained member is training a new member. This often leads

to inadequacies in knowledge and does a disservice to both new hires and experienced staff.

All things considered we feel we are moving in the right direction.

In solidarity
Kyle Bedard

CUSTOM PAPER

Brian McDonald

Custom Paper is steady and picking up towards busy. We have one member who is leaving after many years at Custom, and we wish him all the best at his new job moving forward. Hopefully we don't have to wait too long for a new hire or two to replace him. Our contract runs out at the end of august so I'm hoping James and I can get it done here in the next couple of months and lock it down before summer.

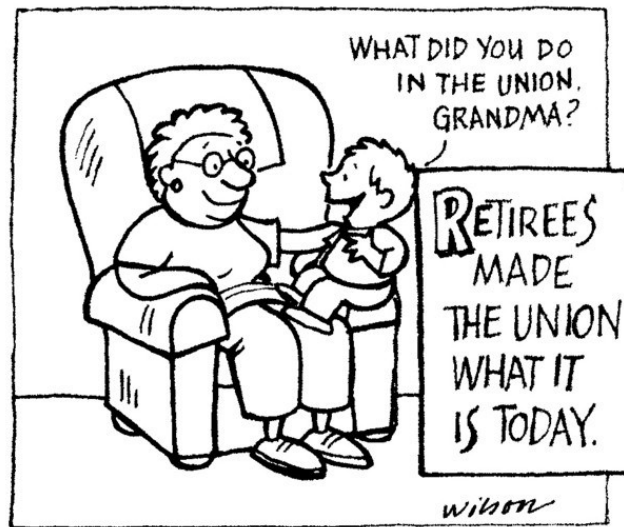
Brian



IRON MOUNTAIN

Francis Dawson

2023 has been an interesting year. We have seen the rise of AI, high inflation, world conflicts, and covid-19 no longer being considered a global emergency. The climate this year has been strange, no spring and straight to summer. With all the different challenges facing the world it can be overwhelming, but I think these kinds of events should all help broker solidarity, whether that be as the human race or as fellow union members. Only through working together can we make the world a better place or our Union that much stronger. On the topic of work, we have been very fortunate, demand for our services continues to be strong, so strong that sometimes it feels like there is more work than employees. In a time when nothing is certain it is good to see that our workplace remains strong in the market.



I would like to take a moment to mention that Kirk Koellmel of the transportation department has retired from Iron Mountain after a whopping 32 years of outstanding service. Kirk, or as I liked to call him: Captain Kirk, took his job very seriously and did everything in his power to make our clients happy. He was a great team player, and it was an honor to work with him. Not only did Kirk do a great job driving for Iron Mountain, he also made an awesome Union plant committee member. He worked diligently with the rest of the committee on the daily and through contract negotiations. He will be greatly missed, and I wish him the best on his way. In closing let's all keep up the great work and keep building that solidarity.

Francis Dawson

OVERWORKED
Underpaid..

Inflation Busting

Continued from page 6

Of course, while the contract language is straightforward, actually winning that language is not. Employers often fight tooth and nail to prevent workers from winning any type of wage increase— never mind one that is more unpredictable because it is tied to an external measure. The fight for inflation-busting wages isn't just a policy argument, it's an organizing one.

Continued on page 12 nearly 12 per cent due to automatic COLA increases, guaranteed by the law. Those workers didn't get that raise because of some immutable charitability in Belgian culture, but because they fought for it.



Shovel to dig out from under windfall profits.

A lot of mainstream economists talk about the cost of living as if it were the weather—some naturally occurring phenomenon that we don't really have much control over and simply need to be subjected to. But workers do

In Belgium—home of one of the world's strongest labour movements—over a million workers across many different industries saw their wages jump by

have the power to offset the most harmful effects of increased inflation. Like so many other things, the most powerful way for workers to make change is



Local 433 Executive member, Jennifer and her children join striking PSAC members on the picket line.



Structural Inequality in Canada

Continued from page 7

Indians under section 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867, meaning the federal government, rather than provincial governments, bears responsibility. The result of this jurisdictional hole was decades of lost funding, support, and government partnerships.

Another galling example of legal neglect of Indigenous Peoples involves the care for First Nations. Inequality is embedded in the law and is often the result of avoidance, ignorance or jurisdictional buck-passing. 15 children with disabilities. Because of overlapping jurisdictions for health care services on reserve, federal and provincial governments would refuse to provide services to children with disabilities until 'appropriate' funding was determined. This meant First Nations children missed out on life saving care, facing lifelong disabilities for lack of early intervention.

Landmark human rights cases led by Cindy Blackstock and the Child and Family Caring Society resulted in major changes to how governments approach funding and support for Indigenous children with disabilities. Now, Jordan's Principle requires governments to provide services before worrying about funding. However, this principle does not apply to Indigenous Peoples with disabilities over the age of 18; they are left to fight for services in that jurisdictional wasteland.

Finally, even when jurisdiction is not an issue and Indigenous Peoples are represented by counsel, seeing success in courts is never guaranteed. While there continues to be big legal wins for Indigenous Peoples in Canadian courts, major legal hurdles still exist. They are perpetuated by unequal application

of the law.

One particularly striking example involves the Canadian courts' application of injunctions. A study from the Yellowhead Institute in 2019 revealed that only 18.5% of injunctions brought by First Nations people to protect their constitutional rights succeeded.

The institute determined that not only do courts heavily favour protecting private, business interests above constitutionally protected Indigenous rights, this extremely low success rate "calls into question fairness and equity in the use of this remedy within the Canadian legal system."

For courts and other legal institutions to continue to function with integrity, the public must see that justice is being dispensed fairly and in the public interest. The court's tools must be reconsidered when they infringe on the inherent rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Colonial law was never designed to protect us, our lands, or our ways of being. It remains a sharp axe to hack away at our inherent rights, while favouring private development over the constitutionally protected right to our lands.

Colonial law is also used as a shield to avoid scrutiny, accountability and constitutional obligations, often leaving Indigenous Peoples without the same supports and access to health, education, clean water as well as livelihoods that other Canadians take for granted.

This is in addition to reclaiming and relearning the spiritual and cultural elements that were for-



THE GOOD NEWS PAGE

Selections from the CCPA Monitor

First Amazon warehouse unionizes on Staten Island Following a year-long organizing effort, workers at Amazon's JFK8 warehouse on Staten Island voted in favour of forming the Amazon Labour Union, the first Amazon union in the United States. The news came while warehouse workers in Bessemer, Ala. waited for results in a too-close-to-call redo election, held after the National Labour Relations Board ruled that Amazon had unlawfully interfered in the first election. When speaking to Democracy Now, ALU's interim president Christian Smalls had this message for workers: "Do not quit your jobs anymore—organize them. [If you quit], you're jumping from one fire into the next, and I think we need to stop doing that, because nothing gets changed... We just unionized Amazon. And if we can do that, you can unionize anywhere." Find the ALU on Twitter at @amazonlabor and on Facebook at @AmazonLaborUnion. / *Democracy Now*

California redwood forest returned to native tribes Earlier this year, Save the Redwoods League announced that it is transferring more than 500 acres of redwood forest land to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council. The Council comprises 10 tribes that have inhabited the area for thousands of years will be responsible

for protecting the land, known as Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ, or "Fish Run Place," in the Sinkyone language. / *Associated Press*

A new movement on farmland, known as agrivoltaics, involves mounting thousands of solar panels on posts eight feet high and spacing them far enough apart so a tractor can drive between them. One farmer using this system, Byron Kominek, has integrated the shade gained from the panels into his growing plans, planting crops beneath the panels which benefit from the extra coverage. The panels also reduce the evaporation of irrigation water and, in turn, keep the sun-baked solar panels cooler, making them more efficient. / *National Public Radio (NPR)*

Thirteen stolen Ethiopian artefacts that spent the last century and a half hidden in private collections, have finally returned home. "Our country's ancient civilization's history, artefacts, fingerprints of Indigenous knowledge, culture...have been looted in war and smuggled out illegally," said Ethiopia's tourism minister, Nasise Challa. These pieces were originally stolen following the 1868 battle of Maqdala between the British and Ethiopian empires. / *Reuters*

More than 900 artifacts intercepted in an illegal shipment were returned to the government of

Mali by U.S. officials in November. The items, some of which date to the Neolithic period, were intercepted at the Port of Houston in 2009. Working with anthropologists, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency authenticated the pieces and began the process of returning the artifacts to Mali in 2011, a process that was delayed when the country fell into a period of civil unrest. The pieces will be sent to Mali's museums including the National Museum of Mali in the capital, Bamako. / *New York Times*

Benin President Patrice Talon and Culture Minister Jean-Michel Abimbola travelled to Paris to bring home 26 artifacts that were stolen from Benin during the colonial period by French forces 130 years ago. Many African nations are calling on former colonial powers including Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to return stolen artefacts. / *Al Jazeera*

A small clay tablet dating back 3,500 years that was looted from an Iraqi museum during the 1991 Gulf War has been formally returned to Iraq. The cuneiform tablet, known as the Gilgamesh Dream Tablet, is one of the oldest religious texts. It was found in 1853 as part of a 12-tablet collection in the rubble of the library of Assyrian King Assur Banipal. Officials believed the tablet was illegally imported into the United States

THE MORE GOOD NEWS PAGE

More Selections from the CCPA Monitor

in 2003, then sold to the owners of craft store chain Hobby Lobby for \$1.67m who put it on display in the Museum of the Bible. / *Al Jazeera*

Also heeding the call to return looted artefacts is a Scottish university. In October, the University of Aberdeen returned a Benin Bronze to a Nigerian delegation, the third European institution in two days to return cultural artifacts to their African homelands. The bronze was among thousands looted by British troops in 1897. Following a recent review of its provenance, which confirmed its origin, the university contacted the Nigerian authorities to offer its return. / *Reuters*

A new Yale School of the Environment study finds that solar canopies on parking lots where the land has already been cleared, could provide a third of Connecticut's power, help meet the governor's target of a zero-carbon electric sector and contribute to environmental justice by reducing the urban heat island effect and avoid harming ecosystems. / *Yale Environment 360*

Fort Severn First Nation, located 850 km north of Thunder Bay, recently powered up its 300-kW solar system which, according to Chief Paul Burke, will help the community of about 550 people transition off diesel fuel and generate between \$250,000 to

\$350,000, depending on the amount of sun. Project manager Michael Wrinch predicts that, thanks to this one project, up to 400,000 litres of fuel could be saved. / *CBC News*

The world's first electric self-propelled container ship, Norway's 80-meter Yara Birkeland, departed on its 43-mile maiden voyage across a fjord from Horton to Oslo, transporting 3,200 tons of fertilizer. The trip, which would require 40,000 trips by diesel truck per year, will save around 1,000 tons of CO2 annually. / *Good News Network*

New study maps the cultural flight of the bee While conversations about saving bees and the importance of pollinators may be new, a new study has recorded the importance of bees and their representation throughout different epochs, cultures and media. The researchers report depictions of bees "in the earliest records of human representations in cave art over 8,000 years old through to ancient Egyptian carvings of bees and hieroglyphics." They suggest that due to the bees' functional role in crop growth and honey production, humans developed an aesthetic appreciation for representing bees that has carried through history. / *The Conversation, Brill*

Bee bricks are now a requirement for new builds in Brighton to

protect and encourage solitary bee species to nest, the U.K. city of Brighton is establishing mandates to incorporate "bee bricks" in construction of all buildings over 5 metres in height. Most solitary nesting bee species typically nest in small cavities found in old brick buildings. Bee bricks are bricks with circular holes through them that allow species like mason bees to make homes in areas where the conditions would be otherwise inhospitable. / *Good News Network*

MIT team develops plant-based composite A research team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has engineered a composite consisting primarily of cellulose nanocrystals (CNCs). Cellulose is the main building block of plant life and CNCs are a derivative of cellulose. As one MIT researcher explains, "We basically deconstructed wood, and reconstructed it. We took the best components of wood, which are cellulose nanocrystals, and reconstructed them to achieve a new composite material." The new CNC composite is reported to be stronger and tougher than bone and harder than typical aluminum alloys. Scientists hope to replace some petroleum-based plastic with naturally-derived cellulose, which would be better for the planet. / *Composites World, Cellulose*



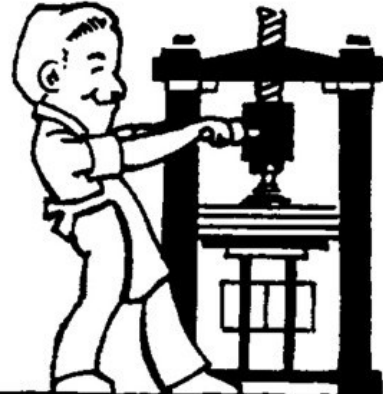
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United We Bargain, Divided We Beg.



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Indigenous Peoples Continued from page 13

bidden under the Indian Act in a world that is still racist and oppressive today.

Governments can, and should, address these entrenched forms of inequality. Instead, they often try to shield themselves under the guise of jurisdiction, eschewing responsibility for righting basic wrongs.

By relying on jurisdiction, governments try their best to avoid their constitutional and treaty obligations to First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples. Indigenous Peoples are forced to take their cases to human rights tribunals or courts simply to have their basic needs met.

The cumulative impact of these structural inequalities reach every sphere and the very basis of a good life: access to land, housing, education, culture, health care and a fair justice system. It should be a communal project to address the ways in which our institutions and landscapes are made unequal, especially for those who've stewarded this land for time immemorial.



Indigenous ways of being are balanced by design and the reclamation and resurgence of Indigenous Peoples will push society in that direction. It's time for governments and institutions to meaningfully remove barriers and address inequalities to ease the way.

This work isn't metaphorical, it's structural.