



A CUT ABOVE

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
LOCAL 1907



#105-1628 Fosters Way Delta, BC V3M 6S6

Phone: (604) 524-6900

Fax: (604) 524-6919

Website: <http://www.castbc.ca>

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Issue #001

Dear Members,

Meetings will be held on the **first Thursday of each month** starting at 7 pm while the Executive meeting starts at 6:30 pm. The location of both meetings is #104-1628 Fosters Way, Delta (Annacis Island), B.C.

British Columbia Regional Council of Carpenters.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will see correspondence from the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Council. The council had its inaugural meeting on April 26th and delegates from all five locals were present and started the wheels rolling. Please bear in mind that the Council is new and there are many tasks ahead of us. Should you have any questions they will be answered as best as we can from our offices, and if we do not have the answers we will request them from the Council.

Project Updates

Since our last newsletter in the fall of 2007, we are now in the spring of 2008. We have completed the installation of the concrete segments for the Canada line, we are still waiting for the Christian Labourers to hand over the cut and cover portion so we can start laying the steel rails for the trains. We continue to install the power rail cable trays and steel rails on the south side of the river. The IBEW is doing what they need to do to get power to the system. It looks like we will be finished our side (south side) by the time the Christian Laborers complete. We do not want to lose our members, so we are giving those working on other portions of the Canada line an opportunity to work the rails or the power rail rather than taking a layoff, this is going over well with most members; approximately 95% of the members are taking the job rather than the layoff.

There are other jobs coming up with other companies in the future and as long as you pay your monthly dues you will be in good standing to work when we phone you. If you do not keep your Union dues up, the constitution states that we must charge all back dues inside of 2 years before you are eligible for further employment. It is much easier to pay your dues monthly than it is to come up with the money all at once.

If you get laid off, you are to phone Mike Rhattigan in dispatch at 604-524-6900 and let him know you are available. There are other opportunities with UBC as well, you can become an Apprentice Carpenter, Steel Stud/ Dry Waller, Pile Driver/ Bridge Builder, Millwright and you can also get an Apprenticeship in the Floor laying industry.

Committees

We have formed a Sticker, Barbeque and Volunteer Organizing Committee. The sticker is already out there (Local 1907) and we have an upcoming BBQ on June 14, 2008, please see enclosed flyer for further details. We have a volunteer Organizing Committee for Local 1907 that any members can become a part of to help your Local Union grow by helping others better their quality of life and conditions on the job-site. Once you learn how easy it is to make a non-union contractor union, you will get great pleasure out of helping others improve working conditions. If everyone were to help one friend unionize a company, we would have hundreds of companies and with that comes strength in numbers. With strength in numbers you have Market Share, which means you have the power at the negotiating table. This is the only way we can get you more money, better benefits and better working conditions and this is why a Union is made up of more than one member, the more members the stronger the Union.

OUR MEMBERS ARE THE UNION; GET INVOLVED

Training Center

(CAST) British Columbia Regional Council of Carpenters has been growing and changing since it was formed in 2006. Contractor base is growing, membership is growing and more and more training courses are being put on. Numerous delegates, members and contractors have gone to the Las Vegas Training Center to learn new skills and more are slated to go. The Las Vegas Training Center is having its third addition done this year and there will be other additions after this one, as our General President, Douglas McCarron focuses on Training and Organizing.

From the Training Center on Annacis Island we are putting on courses throughout the year, like First Aid. If you are interested in taking courses, contact the Training Center at 604-524-6900 and speak with an Organizer. The Training Center needs to pay in advance for members to take a course, so if you commit to taking one, you need to show up. If you do not show up, without a valid reason, it will jeopardize your ability to take courses with the Training Center in the future.

Remember,

The more you know; The more employable you are.

Future Projects

Our staff is constantly out there trying to secure more work for our members; We are actively trying, through many different methods to secure the Port Mann Bridge project, this is the type of project that we need to keep all our Local 1907 members working. I understand the project will be fast tracked a little bit from the earlier start times of 2009 to possibly the winter 2008. Once again our staff is doing everything they can to secure this work for our members.

Coast Meridian Overpass Project

The City of Port Coquitlam has awarded the Design- Build contract for the Coast Meridian Overpass Project to SNC-Lavalin Constructors (Pacific) Inc. The \$94.5 Million fixed price contract includes all detailed design and construction of a 580 meter long cable stayed bridge.

The Canadian Association of Skilled Trades (CAST) has just concluded negotiations with SNC Lavalin Builder Inc. on a two year Agreement from May 1, 2008 to May 31, 2010 and construction is anticipated to start this spring and continue through 2009 while the terms of the Design-Build contract provide for substantial completion of the project by January 2010. We have not yet established exactly how many carpenters and other onsite trade workers the company will require. However, we do know that the project is substantial and should employ a reasonable amount of CAST members. This project also includes significant roadwork and traffic components including early completion of the new Lougheed Meridian Connector. With these upcoming opportunities, it's important to ensure your tickets are current. If you require re-certification, please contact your Union Representative to help make the required arrangements.

In their recent press release the City of Port Coquitlam recognized SNC-Lavalin as being known for delivering quality projects on time and on budget. This important recognition is something we can all be proud of. The hard work, dedication and commitment of our members and the membership of other UBC affiliates involved in recent SNC-Lavalin projects have helped build the reputation that this contractor enjoys in BC.

New Contractors Extend the UBC into the North

The Canadian Association of Skilled Trades (CAST) recently signed Omineca Oil Services Inc. and Northwest Scaffold to our 'All Employee Agreement.'

These two companies originate out of the Dawson Creek- Chetwyn area of the Province. Specializing in Scaffold erection, they provide expert services to the oil and gas industry throughout the North. Becoming signatory contractors with CAST, these companies and their employees now have direct access to the UBC's Training programs. Extensive and complete scaffold training for crew members and the Superintendent and Foreman Training available at the International Training Center were major reasons behind the company decisions to sign with CAST.

With a competitive Collective Agreement, employee training and access to workers, Omineca Oil Services and Northwest Scaffold are bound to be competitive in the marketplace and plan to expand their operations into other regions of the province.

On behalf of the membership, I would like to welcome the new members. Also, I encourage each of you to contact the Union Hall if you have any questions or require information regarding the Collective Agreement, benefits or programs available.

Young Worker Safety

According to Worksafe BC, there are more than 300,000 young workers in BC between the ages of 15 and 24. In 2006 Worksafe received almost 11,000 claims from young workers with more than half of these workplace accidents occurring during their first six months on the job.

Apprentices and those new to the construction industry bring with them a desire to succeed and are sometimes eager to prove themselves or impress their supervisors. Taking on new tasks that they are unable to perform safely, failure to recognize hazards and a reluctance to ask questions are all traits that puts this group of workers at risk.

All new workers, especially young ones, are at greater risk of injury on the job. Effective safety training and orientation are a must to prevent accidents and injury.

It is every member's responsibility to help ensure that new and young workers make it through the early months at their new job, developing safe work habits and practices that they will carry with them throughout their working careers. Whether you are a supervisor, journeyperson with 25 years experience or seasoned apprentice, we all have knowledge that only experience can provide and I encourage each of you to take the time to share it with our young members.

As an organization, the Canadian Association of Skilled Trades is committed to developing and delivering worker orientation for new and younger members to properly prepare them before starting work on any of our jobsites. An integral part of this mandate is certification through taking the C.S.T.S. (Construction Safety Training System) course. We are currently sourcing the course material and determining the best method of delivering the course. Local 1370 and 1907 are hopeful that we will be starting our certification process with new members and younger members within the next few months. Our goal is to see all of our members C.S.T.S. certified. BC Safety Training System is not yet mandatory; however C.S.T.S. training has been mandatory in Alberta with more than 70,000 construction workers trained since 1997.

Results have shown a 69% drop in Lost Time Claims in 1998 and an average drop of 75% for the CSTS trained group versus the industry as a whole.

REMEMBER,

EDUCATE, AGITATE AND ORGANIZE.

It is the best way to insure you and your family will get the wages and benefits that you deserve.

IN SOLIDARITY,

Brent Mayne,
President Local 1907 UBCJA

2008 HOLIDAYS

Victoria Day (May 19)
Canada Day (July 1)
BC Day (Aug 4)
Labour Day (Sept 1)

Thanksgiving Day (Oct 13)
Remembrance Day (Nov 11)
Christmas Day (Dec 25)
Boxing Day (Dec 26)