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Insulators Union Local 118

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Spring 2011

Negotiations Update

The battle continues. Every time the Bargaining Council of the building trades unions moves something from the bargaining table in an attempt to meet with our employers, the employers representative (CLRA) finds a new reason to keep our employers away from our table. We are hopeful that the latest move will see us sitting across the bargaining table from the insulation employers by the middle of April.

The LRB, in a disgraceful decision last year, allowed our employers through their association (the CLRA) to limit the number of main table issues and declare the proposals on the table to be of poor quality. The LRB also rejected our claim that they were bargaining in bad faith.

This continues to be a frustrating process because it is riddled with bargaining in bad faith activity and unfair labour practices. The system is broken and needs to be tossed. Local 118 has already told the Bargaining Council affiliates, that when this round of negotiations is concluded there must be an inquiry and restructuring of how the construction industry bargains in BC.

As we prepare this newsletter I have just been advised that CLRA, some 14 months into the process, has called our employers to submit their proposals. Maybe there is a light at the end of the tunnel after all. We will keep you informed.

Vancouver School Board (VSB)

VSB negotiations are underway. Brother Earl Bleiker and Brother Lee Loftus have been meeting with the Building Trades and the VSB to discuss main collective agreement matters. Those negotiations are going slowly because the VSB is a public sector body and the provincial government mandates a zero increase. Trade levels discussion should be concluded in the next few months and we will keep you informed.

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Booklet produced by Local 118 to explain the insulation trade.



Work Outlook

The work outlook for the year looks very optimistic for the industrial side. Our employers continue to tell us that we should expect to be out of people within the next couple of months.

Prince George, Kamloops, Castlegar, Trail, Taylor, Fort Nelson and Chetwynd all have significant work scheduled.

Coming into this year, we were told to prepare to start this work in February. Then we were told to prepare for March. We are still waiting for phone calls to send our members to work. Keep checking in.

The LNG Project in Nanaimo is winding down. It was a successful and beneficial project for our membership and a great opportunity to do this low temperature kind of work. Horton CBI was the general contractor and continues to have discussions with the Building Trades and the provincial government to build an LNG plant in Kitimat. It would be significantly larger than this storage facility in Nanaimo. We will keep you informed.

The commercial/institutional work around the province remains limited for our members, with the exception of the work we have secured in the Okanagan region. Adler Insulation, Altech Insulation and BMC Insulation have work from Trail to Salmon Arm. This work is employing approximately 10% of our membership.

proud of the work we do

City of North Vancouver

Fair Wage Procurement Policy

Brother Lee Loftus and Brother Tom Sigurdson, of the Building Trades Council, made a presentation at the North Vancouver City Council meeting on March 7, 2011. The presentation focused on ethical procurement policies and, specifically, the need for fair tendering practices. The counsellors and mayor listened attentively and, upon completion of our presentation, moved a motion to adopt a fair wage policy in principle and have their staff bring back a report for implementation.

It has been decades since the municipality has addressed this matter. North Vancouver and Burnaby are the only two locations in BC that have this policy. We are now scheduling a presentation in Vancouver.

We are asking our members to speak to the politicians in their communities to see if presentations can be made in other municipalities as well. Your political involvement will pay significant dividends in the long term.

Important Pension Notice

We recognize that you get a separate newsletter from the Pension Trustees but it is important that everyone understands that the money lost in 2008 has been returned to our fund. This is great news for existing pensioners, those thinking of retirement and those dreaming about it.

Your pension statements for 2010 will be issued in early May. Everything is well in Local 118's pension plan.

Union Office

Mortgage Burning

It is with great pleasure that we announce that our Union Office, located on 11th Avenue in Vancouver, will make its final mortgage payment in the month of April, thus retiring the mortgage and leaving us with a clear title.

Local 118 is arranging mortgage burning activities to be held at the June meeting where we will celebrate the retirement of this debt.

Green Jackets Too

Where Insulation Hits the Road

This year has greeted us with a great opportunity to communicate the findings of the white paper to a wider audience. Local 118 is reaching out to those who have influence in the role mechanical insulation plays in British Columbia. As we hit the road with our message we would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one way we are reaching out.

Our first stop was in the capital, Victoria, where we attended the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Sustainable Communities Conference and Trade Show. This was the first time this conference has been held in British Columbia. Local 118 spoke to many representatives of municipal governments. We informed them about what was taking place in relation to the installation of mechanical insulation and gave them solutions. We also showed them that properly installed mechanical insulation, no matter what size of budget, is a great solution to the high costs of energy and provides a very quick rate of return.

We connected with the people who are looking for positive solutions that will help them reach 2020 sustainability targets. It was a great opportunity for Local 118 to create partnerships with local governments.

Next, we headed to Vancouver's new Trade and

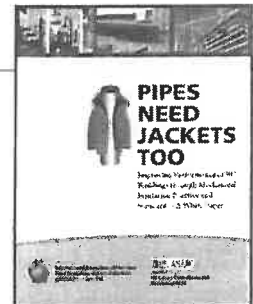
Convention Centre for the Buildex 2011 Trade Show. Buildex 2011 offered another opportunity for Local 118 to promote mechanical insulation. Businesses, potential buyers and decision-makers from across British Columbia attended. This was a huge conference and trade show aimed primarily at everyone connected to the building industry.

Local 118 representatives talked to signatory insulation contractors, British Columbia's Insulation Contractors Association, property developers, architects, engineers and many others. With our clear, simple message, mechanical insulation will play a big part in building British Columbia.

These conferences provided Local 118 with a voice to reach those who purchase our services and we were glad to provide a list of our signatory contractors to those who requested it.

There are several more conferences we will be attending this year and we look forward to bringing you more good news.

Check out Local 118's green website at www.energyconservationspecialists.org



Staffing Report

By now all members must be aware that we have had a staffing issue for the last six months.

Connie Gordon, whose main responsibility was apprenticeship coordination and office duties, has been off sick since October 2010. We understand her medical condition is not of a serious nature but enough to keep her off the job for an indefinite period of time. We know the membership joins with us in wishing her well in her recovery.

Theresa Davidson gave us quite a fright in the middle of December as the ambulance carried her out the door to the hospital where she spent many days recovering from an unknown ailment. Theresa returned to full-time work in March and is feeling much better and thanks all of us for the support while she was off sick.

We would like to welcome our new bookkeeper Geri Watson. She will be working part time to fulfill this need.

Meeting Attendance

By-law changes were made in 2009 that required members residing in the Lower Mainland to attend at least one membership meeting during the year. Compliance has been less than fruitful. The officers certainly do not want to use extreme measures to achieve this attendance. We recently received a letter recommending that every member be assessed 1% from all income as a dues penalty. We have no intention of applying that type of penalty for non-attendance of meetings. However, as a result of the letter your officers will be forced to monitor members' participation in 2011. It is important for members to participate in our regular activities. Just 3 hours of your time in a one-year period is not too much to ask. Please work with us to be part of your union!

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m. at the OE Hall, 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby.

Organizing Report

Adler Insulation—After a trip to investigate why we were having no hours reported for Vernon Hospital, we discovered that Adler Insulation had hired some local workers to try and complete this project. We had the local hires sign cards and fill out union applications. This also, resulted in Local 118 dispatching additional members to this job. We now have 12 people working on site plus the 5 new organized members. Adler also has a project in Penticton at the Okanagan Centre for Excellence and we have 5 members working there. As the Vernon Hospital wraps up we are expecting a number of people transferred over to the Penticton project.

BMC Insulation—We have finally resolved the collective agreement matters with BMC by going through the Labour Relations Board. BMC currently has 6 employees that are not members. BMC has significant work in the Okanagan, Cariboo and the Kootenay regions and we look forward to dispatching our members from around the province to fulfill those requirements.

Northern Addendum and potential employers—We are close to finding solutions that will work for all parties and allow Local 118 members to participate in the work in the northeast corner of the province. Spectra Energy

has a fixed charge out rate that we have to fit within in order to participate in the work in that area.

We are still going through our collective agreement. There is significant work in the Horn River Valley that we want to ensure goes to our signatory contractors and not to the non-union employers.

We are in constant contact with signatory and non-signatory employers. The work situation is picking up and non-union employers regularly advertise on Craig's List and Employment Canada web pages for qualified insulators. However, their ads are only generating calls from plumbers and sheet metal workers. We're in a good position to attract these employers because we have a pool of qualified workers. We are answering these ads regularly to inform them that we can supply qualified workers on a job-by-job basis.

Fire stopping contractors have all but disappeared from our collective agreement. Local 118, in its organizing efforts, will focus on reconnecting the Local Union with those contractors. We ask members to pay attention to who is doing the work and report this information to the office so that we can establish a connection. Your assistance in this matter is crucial for us to be successful.

Western Canada Regional

Apprenticeship Competition

This year's competition is being hosted by Local 118. It will take place on April 9th and 10th at BCIT's Burnaby campus, building number Piping NE7.

We have one apprentice from Alberta Local 110, one from Saskatchewan Local 119, and one from Local 118 competing to represent the Western Conference at the International Apprenticeship MAC competition being held this July in Chicago. Local 118 would like to encourage our members to attend this competition to support our brothers and sisters who are competing.

Apprentice Clothing

The international union is outfitting our apprentices with work pants, shirts and hats. Some of our apprentices have already received these items and are wearing them. If you are an apprentice and have not yet received your set, email insulators@insulators118.org and tell us what size you require.

Health and Welfare

This is a reminder to claim last year's medical receipts no later than June 30, 2011.

Save the Date

Local 118's Golf Tournament is set for Saturday, July 9, 2011. The committee members are Wayne Clutchey, Gerry Moriarty and Carey Bleiker. They will be forwarding more information in the near future.

Ed Russell and Alyce Hodgkins

Scholarship Draw

This year's draw will take place at the regular general membership meeting being held on April 12, 2011. Please see the enclosed information sheet to send in your entry.

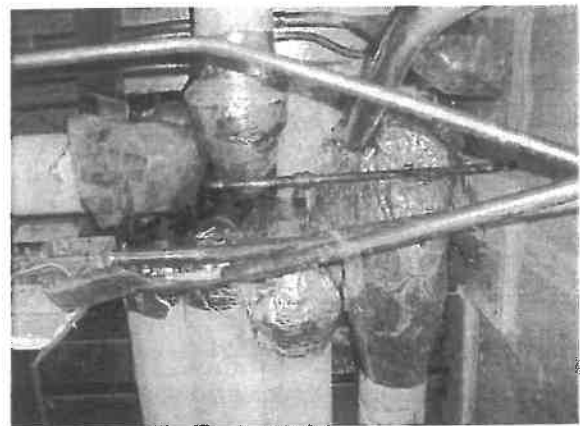
In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the following members who have passed away. Our most sincere condolences to their families.

Peter Partaik	February 22, 2011
Tom Tessman	December 31, 2010
Alfred Thoms	December 2, 2010
William Webb Sr.	February 18, 2011



Corrosion and condensation in new Vancouver condominiums



Sweating pipes in a medical building in Vancouver. Note insufficient space adds to the problem.

Images from Local 118's white paper
"Pipes Need Jackets Too." Visit the website
www.energyconservationsspecialists.org
to download a copy.

Province-Wide Meetings

The province-wide tours will take place in the weeks of May 15, 2011 and November 13, 2011. Notices will be sent out in advance.

Easter Holidays

Office closed:	
Good Friday	April 22, 2011
Easter Monday	April 25, 2011

Next Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7 p.m.
at the Operating Engineers Hall
4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby