



LOCAL 592

PORT ALBERNI, B.C.

**F
FORWARD
LOOK**

AUGUST 2011

**Next General Meeting
September 19th, 2011**

LOCAL 592 CEP 2011 EXECUTIVE

President

Jim VanDusen 724-2772
Relief Pool

Trustee

Randy Teichman 724-6279
Plant Protection — *E Crew*

Vice President

Doug Chisholm
Millwright — *Day shift Mon-Fri*

Trustee

Andy Bos
Shipping—*Day shift Mon-Fri*

Vice President

Travis Goodyear 724-5353
Millwright — *Day shift Mon-Fri*

Safety Officer/Trustee

Dan Rogers
Mill Stores — *Day shift Mon-Fri*

Rec. Sec.

Adam Currey 724-1345
Millwright — *Day shift Mon-Fri*

WAGE DELEGATES

Jim VanDusen
Brent Hamelin
Travis Goodyear
Adam Currey - Alternate

Financial Secretary Treasurer

Roger Haggerty
Millwright — *Day shift Mon-Fri*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
HANSEN HALL
September 19th, 2011
7pm**

Editors Notes:

**PERSONAL ARTICLES PRINTED IN THE FORWARD
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Communications

Jim VanDusen
Vice President

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer so far. I will begin by informing everyone that, for personal reasons, Brent Hamelin has resigned his position of Vice President. He will be staying on as a Wage Delegate for our Local. There has been some discussion regarding this vacancy and we feel rather than have an election now, it would be best to fill the position with an Alternate until our elections in November.

Our proposal will have Adam Currey take on the duties of Vice President as well as his Recording Secretary responsibilities. Until Travis returns Doug will be the Chairman of Standing Committee, Chairman of the Contracting Out Committee, Apprenticeship Committee representative and Vice President of Operations. Adam will be the Vice President of Maintenance. Until November elections I will sit in on Standing Committee as our third representative.

This of course will be your decision to make and we will be bringing this to you in September.

I want to thank Brent for all the time he spent representing this local as Vice president. He spent countless hours looking after the interests of our members; his dedication to our local is greatly appreciated. His opinions and input will be missed around the Executive table, however, it will be a pleasure to continue working with him as a Wage Delegate.

As we discussed at our General Meetings, the wage delegates of

CEP local 592 met with Steve Boniferro, Vern Phillips, Tom Paisley and Krista Tremblay. Tom Burton and Brian Hamelin attended as observers from Local 686. Bob Hughf, Don Boucher and Brian Johnston could not attend due to other commitments. The purpose of this meeting was to have a discussion regarding the expiration of our Collective Agreement on April 30, 2012 and the expiration of the A-4 Agreement April 30, 2013.

I will say that our opinion differs from theirs and as we are still in discussion on one extremely key point I will not go into any detail in this article. Either way, I am hoping to have something to report very soon.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING August 19th

Important Links

Following you will find links to various sites that have information relating to the union movement.

BC Federation of Labour Home Page — www.bcfed.com

BC Fed Current Disputes Page — www.bcfed.com/bcfed_news/current_disputes

BC Fed Media Centre — www.bcfed.com/bcfed_news/media_centre

\$10/hr. Minimum Wage Campaign — www.bcfed.com/issues/minimum_wage

CLC Media Releases — www.canadianlabour.ca/index.php/release2008

CEP National Website — www.cep.ca/index_e.html

CEP Scholarship Program — www.cep.ca/education/files/scholarship_e.pdf

Injured Workers Pension — www.publiccompensation.ca

<p style="text-align: center;">Randy Teichman Trustee</p>

E.R.T. vs. no E.R.T. The company made the decision around the A4 agreement time to disband the mill E.R.T. I'm thinking was there any thought given to this and was this the right thing to do? I say "no" on both counts. Our fire truck was "given" to Crofton supposedly for one dollar. Presently that truck is sitting at that mill not being used. I suggest this. Bring back the fire truck and reinstate the E.R.T.

Presently the mill has a Hazmat team. It would be an easy transition that would ensure the mill would have prompt fire and rescue service. I bet that most people in the mill don't know that if there are workers in a confined space and Port Fire has a structure fire, the tank watch person must pull everyone out of the confined space. They must remain out until Port Fire can provide rescue service, which may take several hours depending on how large a fire they are fighting. This could be a very big problem, especially if there is a shutdown. Imagine during a Power Boiler rebuild having millworkers and contractors stand around for hours. The costs would be enormous.

As a first aid attendant it's nice to have a trained crew that can assist on ambulance calls. They are trained in basic first aid, CPR among other things. At a trauma scene, the more experienced "hands" the better. As a side note, when the ERT was disbanded, it was said that the machine crews would be trained with basic fire fighting skills. I understand this was not done. By the way, taking a crew around and showing them where the hose stations and extinguishers are does not constitute having been trained to this level.

Well, I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer. The next General meeting will be on September 19 at 7 pm. We have many issues to deal with. See you then.

Safety Report

**Dan Rogers
2011 Safety Officer/
Trustee**

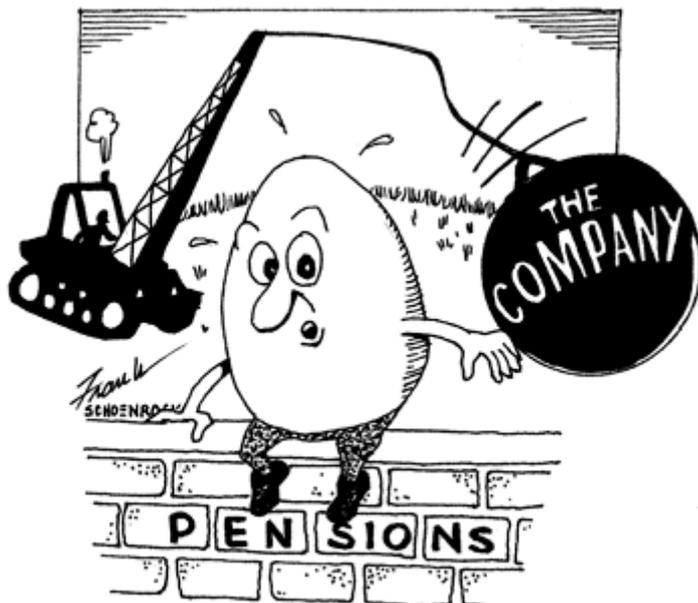
On July 6th 2011 we had an accident investigation involving a front end loader hitting a fire hydrant in the Wood room area. Many contributing factors were identified and as Brian Chipman stated, "I could easily see how this happened." All the recommendations on the accident investigation will be completed to ensure that this accident does not occur again. Our goal as a safety committee is to ensure that all recommendations on all accident investigations are complete.

Our Safety committee has recently adopted a plan to review accidents involving contractors. A contractor's twisted ankle was a topic at our July 27th OHS meeting. Port fire attended a smouldering fire north of mill store "E" warehouse. The fire department said its cause was unknown, but assumed it was self starting under a stack of boiler tubes stored on the old wood chips remaining from the old outside chip pile. This outside area will be monitored by the day shift guard, the pipes will be relocated and the camera on the motor shop roof will be repaired, giving guards a better view of this area.

Randy Teichman and I walked through this area and found a spot where someone had been hiding. We found plastic cutlery and food wrappers. Also found was a stainless steel screen taken from "E" warehouse valued at \$11,000.00

On July 29th Tom Paisley and I walked the conveyors from the CTMP to the chip barn. The walkways were very clean and tidy. However, it seems that the walls have mould issues.

Larry Cross received information on the mould samples taken from the conveyor walls from the bug plant to the steam plant. The mould is commonly found in soils and decaying vegetation. It is called *Aspergillus Fumigatus* Fresen and is a potential pathogen which could affect people with lung conditions such as asthma or other immune problems. If anyone needs to be in these areas a dust mask or half face respirator is recommended.



From the Editor

Adam Currey

First off, I would like to thank Brent Hamelin for his years of service to the union as a member of the executive. Any member of an organization benefits from different personalities with different strengths. Brent found his place as a calm, thoughtful and hardworking member of our team. In my 18 months on the executive, I have learned a lot from Brent and I am sorry to see him go, but I look forward to working with him as a wage delegate for the next few years. In the short term, I will be acting as vice president. We will have an election soon to fill the position permanently. If you have any interest in the position I hope that you will consider putting your name forward.

There is not a lot to report on with the exception of our discussions with management on the upcoming negotiations. Last month the wage delegates met with the company to iron out when, how and what we will be negotiating. We have a complicated set of circumstances. Our collective agreement runs out on May 1st, 2012. The A4 agreement, which supercedes some of the clauses in our supplementary items in the collective agreement, runs out on May 1st 2013. We will keep you up to date on any news.

I hope you are having a great summer, despite the weather.

Don't commit suicide pact

Labor Notes/CALM

FOXCONN, THE Chinese company that makes iPhones and iPads for Apple, is forcing workers to pledge that they won't commit suicide.

If workers take their lives regardless, their families can't sue the company for more than the legal minimum in damages.

At least 14 workers have killed themselves in the last 16 months at Foxconn factories, where workers get one day off every two weeks and can't sit down or talk to each other during 12-hour shifts.

Foxconn installed nets between its dormitories last year after a string of suicide leaps.

Harper government blocks move to list asbestos as hazardous

CLC/CALM

THE CANADIAN government recently blocked an international effort to list chrysotile asbestos as a hazardous chemical.

"The science is clear. Experts from around the world have said repeatedly that chrysotile asbestos is a dangerous substance that causes cancer," says Canadian Labour Congress president Ken Georgetti. "Yet our government continues to pretend that in selling asbestos to developing countries it is exporting a safe product. Canada's government is putting people's lives at stake for what can only be described as crass politics."

At an international summit in Switzerland in June, Canada blocked the inclusion of chrysotile asbestos on an international list of hazardous chemicals. Putting chrysotile asbestos on the Annex III list of the Rotterdam Convention would allow countries importing the substance to turn it away if they don't think they can handle it safely. The convention must have consensus to make changes to the list.

"Our government doesn't allow asbestos to be used in Canada, and it is being removed from the parliament buildings and the prime minister's own residence, but we continue to export it to developing countries," says Georgetti. "This is hypocritical and it's an international embarrassment."

The CLC is calling on the federal government to support a ban on all asbestos production and export, to support a just transition of workers from the industry, and to stop providing financial support to the one mine left in production in Canada.

30 Years Ago Today: The Day the Middle Class Died ...a letter from Michael Moore

Friday, August 5th, 2011

Friends,

From time to time, someone under 30 will ask me, "When did this all begin, America's downward slide?" They say they've heard of a time when working people could raise a family and send the kids to college on just one parent's income (and that college in states like California and New York was almost free). That anyone who wanted a decent paying job could get one. That people only worked five days a week, eight hours a day, got the whole weekend off and had a paid vacation every summer. That many jobs were union jobs, from baggers at the grocery store to the guy painting your house, and this meant that no matter how "lowly" your job was you had guarantees of a pension, occasional raises, health insurance and someone to stick up for you if you were unfairly treated.

Young people have heard of this mythical time -- but it was no myth, it was real. And when they ask, "When did this all end?", I say, "It ended on this day: August 5th, 1981."

Beginning on this date, 30 years ago, Big Business and the Right Wing decided to "go for it" -- to see if they could actually destroy the middle class so that they could become richer themselves.

And they've succeeded.

On August 5, 1981, President Ronald Reagan fired every member of the air traffic controllers union (PATCO) who'd defied his order to return to work and declared their union illegal. They had been on strike for just two days.

It was a bold and brash move. No one had ever tried it. What made it even bolder was that PATCO was one of only three unions that had endorsed Reagan for president! It sent a shock wave through workers across the country. If he would do this to the people who were with him, what would he do to *us*?

Reagan had been backed by Wall Street in his run for the White House and they, along with right-wing Christians, wanted to restructure America and turn back the tide that President Franklin D. Roosevelt started -- a tide that was intended to make life better for the average working person. The rich hated paying better wages and providing benefits. They hated paying taxes even more. And they despised unions. The right-wing Christians hated anything that sounded like socialism or holding out a helping hand to minorities or women.

Reagan promised to end all that. So when the air traffic controllers went on strike, he seized the moment. In getting rid of every single last one of them and outlawing their union, he sent a clear and strong message: The days of everyone having a comfortable middle class life were over. America, from now on, would be run this way:

- * The super-rich will make more, much much more, and the rest of you will scramble for the crumbs that are left.
- * Everyone must work! Mom, Dad, the teenagers in the house! Dad, you work a second job! Kids, here's your latch-key! Your parents might be home in time to put you to bed.
- * 50 million of you must go without health insurance! And health insurance companies: you go ahead and decide who you want to help -- or not.
- * Unions are evil! You will not belong to a union! You do not need an advocate! Shut up and get back to work! No, you can't leave now, we're not done. Your kids can make their own dinner.
- * You want to go to college? No problem -- just sign here and be in hock to a bank for the next 20 years!
- * What's "a raise"? Get back to work and shut up!

And so it went. But Reagan could not have pulled this off by himself in 1981. He had some big help:

The AFL-CIO.

The biggest organization of unions in America told its members to cross

the picket lines of the air traffic controllers and go to work. And that's just what these union members did. Union pilots, flight attendants, delivery truck drivers, baggage handlers -- they all crossed the line and helped to break the strike. And union members of all stripes crossed the picket lines and continued to fly.

Reagan and Wall Street could not believe their eyes! Hundreds of thousands of working people and union members endorsing the firing of fellow union members. It was Christmas in August for Corporate America.

And that was the beginning of the end. Reagan and the Republicans knew they could get away with anything -- and they did. They slashed taxes on the rich. They made it harder for you to start a union at your workplace. They eliminated safety regulations on the job. They ignored the monopoly laws and allowed thousands of companies to merge or be bought out and closed down. Corporations froze wages and threatened to move overseas if the workers didn't accept lower pay and less benefits. And when the workers agreed to work for less, they moved the jobs overseas anyway.

And at every step along the way, the majority of Americans went along with this. There was little opposition or fight-back. The "masses" did not rise up and protect their jobs, their homes, their schools (which used to be the best in the world). They just accepted their fate and took the beating.

I have often wondered what would have happened had we all just stopped flying, period, back in 1981. What if all the unions had said to Reagan, "Give those controllers their jobs back or we're shutting the country down!?" You know what would have happened. The corporate elite and their boy Reagan would have buckled.

But we didn't do it. And so, bit by bit, piece by piece, in the ensuing 30 years, those in power have destroyed the middle class of our country and, in turn, have wrecked the future for our young people. Wages have remained stagnant for 30 years. Take a look at the statistics and you can see that every decline we're now suffering with had its beginning in 1981 ([here's](#) a little scene to illustrate that from my last movie).

It all began on this day, 30 years ago. One of the darkest days in

American history. And we let it happen to us. Yes, they had the money, and the media and the cops. But we had 200 million of us. Ever wonder what it would look like if 200 million got truly upset and wanted their country, their life, their job, their weekend, their time with their kids back?

Have we all just given up? What are we waiting for? Forget about the 20% who support the Tea Party -- we are the other 80%! This decline will only end when we demand it. And not through an online petition or a tweet. We are going to have to turn the TV and the computer and the video games off and get out in the streets (like they've done in Wisconsin). Some of you need to run for local office next year. We need to demand that the Democrats either get a spine and stop taking corporate money -- or step aside.

When is enough, enough? The middle class dream will not just magically reappear. Wall Street's plan is clear: America is to be a nation of Haves and Have Nothings. Is that OK for you?

Why not use today to pause and think about the little steps you can take to turn this around in your neighborhood, at your workplace, in your school? Is there any better day to start than today?

Yours,

Michael Moore

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Support grows for Robin Hood tax

NUPGE/CALM

SPECULATIVE TRANSACTIONS, including financial derivatives, made the banks \$605 trillion in 2010 according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development or around 10 times the world's gross domestic product. The banks' profits from speculative transactions are largely untaxed.

"It was this speculative money that was one of the major drivers in the financial collapse in 2008, but as an industry it continues to grow, without delivering anything back to the real economies of national governments," says Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation.

"A simple tax on financial transactions would generate billions of dollars that could be used to create decent jobs, tackle global poverty and fund action on climate change. It's time the banks stopped getting a free ride on the backs of working people and start to pay for repairing the damage they have caused to the economy," says Burrow.

The unions argue that the initiative, which would involve a tax of a fraction of a per cent on transactions, would also dampen financial speculation. It would not apply to the overwhelming majority of citizens.

There was a unanimous vote for the tax in Brazil and a call by European Commission president Manuel Barroso for the EU Summit to put the issue on its agenda.

Demand for the Robin Hood Tax will be at the top of trade union demands for the this year's G20 summit in November.



"Toxic to workers and the public?... Your health and safety report is toxic to the company stock price!"

