

April 2010

## ON THE LINE

**DAY OF MOURNING**  
*April 28<sup>th</sup> 2010*



*"forget-them-not"*

### **Agriculture**

*During the extreme weather, a worker was killed when a barn roof collapsed, pinning him between the rafters and a vehicle.*



### **Fishing**

*A fishing vessel was found near the beach with its engine running and no one on board. A deceased worker was found about 1.5 nautical miles away.*

### **Forestry**

- A manual faller was preparing to fall a red cedar tree. A green tree was limb-tied to the cedar. The faller was trying to push over the green tree with another tree when a large slab fell backwards, fatally injuring him.*
- A worker went missing while travelling by boat to a remote logging camp. The drowned worker was eventually located about 32km from the worksite.*

# Mining

## Fatality at Esterhazy

- A 28-year-old man died at Mosaic's Esterhazy mine when a storage bin broke and buried him in potash ore. The bin was holding about 500 tonnes of potash ore when it fell on the married man -- the father of two children -- and a second miner, who was rushed to the Regina General Hospital.

## Fatality at Suncor

*One person is dead and another injured following a workplace accident at Suncor. Occupational Health and Safety has taken over the investigation and has shut down part of the site. The incident occurred at 11:30 this morning. Suncor officials say they do have a critical stress debriefing team on site, helping any other workers who have been affected by the death.*

## Crash at Syncrude Claims a life

**A driver was killed after two heavy haulers collided at Syncrude Canada's Mildred Lake north mine site. The second driver was treated at Northern Lights Regional Health Centre for non-life threatening injuries. Next of kin of the 40-year-old woman have been notified of her death. This is the second fatality at Syncrude now under investigation by the provincial safety watchdog. On Dec. 31, 2008, Thomas Miller, 48, of Calgary, was found hanging unconscious from a ladder at Syncrude Canada's Mildred Lake site.**

*It wasn't certain at the time why the process operator had been on a catwalk before the fall, it was possible he may have been working alone clearing ice buildup off the equipment. It was uncertain how long it was before the unconscious worker was found at 10:39 a.m. However, once he was discovered, Syncrude's emergency response personnel immediately responded to the scene and provided medical attention, according to a company statement. The worker was then transported by ambulance to Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, where he was pronounced dead. Meanwhile, on Sept. 22, a 55-year-old worker was critically injured after being hit by flying debris when a heavy hauler tire exploded at Syncrude Canada's north mine site.*

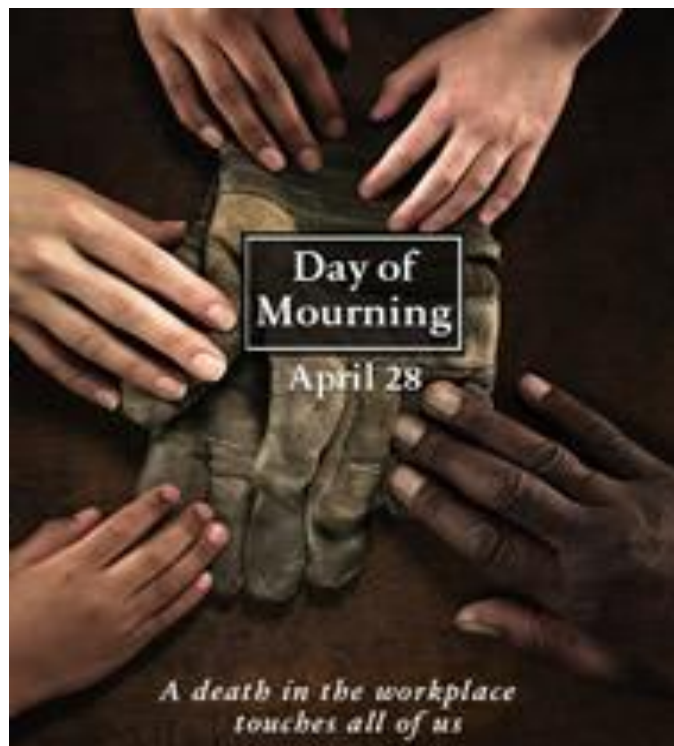
**These were just a few of the 100's of traumatic workplace fatalities that occurred in 2009**

***Every year, hundreds of Canadian workers are killed on the job. Thousands more are permanently disabled. Hundreds of thousands are injured. Thousands of others die from cancer, lung disease, and other ailments caused by exposure to toxic substances at their workplaces.***

***April 28<sup>th</sup> of each year has been chosen by the United Steelworkers as Day of Mourning for these victims of workplace accidents and disease. It is a day to remember the supreme sacrifice they have been forced to make in order to earn a living.***

***Your Local Union hopes that the annual observance of this day will strengthen the resolve to establish safe conditions in the workplace for all. It is as much a day to remember the dead as it is a call to protect the living.***

***Always Work Safe! You Have too Much to Live For***



***Remember those who have been seriously injured and killed on the job by attending a ceremony in your community.***

***There will be a Ceremony on April 28<sup>th</sup> 5pm at the Workers Memorial, Centennial Square in Sparwood BC***

# With no survivors in West Virginia Mine Blast, Focus Shifts to Responsibility

Investigators say 'no stone will be left unturned' in finding the cause of the Upper Big Branch mine explosion. Criminal charges are rare following mine disasters, and causes for explosions can be complex.



A sign is posted on a mailbox near the entrance to the Upper Big Branch coal mine in Montcoal, West Virginia. The last four miners were found dead Saturday morning, bringing the total lost to 29.

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Rescuers working 1,000 feet underground in the Upper Big Branch mine returned to the surface early Saturday morning with bad news: There were no survivors left in the worst [US coal mining accident](#) in 40 years. Twenty-nine died.

"We did not receive the miracle that we prayed for," Gov. Joe Manchin said in a barely-audible voice. "So this journey has ended and now the healing will start."

But healing isn't all families, investigators and even President Obama want: Capping off a draining and sadly familiar scene in Appalachian coal country, Americans now turn inevitably to the next question: Who – or what – is responsible?

The investigation is sure to once again test the [uneasy tension](#) between coal operators and safety regulators as mine experts try to reconstruct what caused the ripping blast – and whether it could have been avoided.

### **Tougher laws sought**

Following disasters at the Sago and Aracoma Alma mines four years ago, federal regulators have sought tougher laws with sharper teeth to shake coal companies out of what many perceive as a troubling complacency about safety in the mines. That effort may have a way to go, judging by last week's explosion.

"No stone will be unturned" in the investigation, the Mine Safety and Health Administration's Kevin Stricklin told the New York Times.

The investigation at the mine, which is owned by Massey Energy Co., also will be joined by President Obama, who is expecting answers in a report due next week.

Miners know they have dangerous jobs, said Obama, but "the government and their employer know that they owe it to these employees' families to do everything possible to ensure their safety."

### **Company repeatedly fined**

Since the explosion, details of safety violations at the mine have emerged. The company has been repeatedly fined for issues with a venting system in the Upper Big Branch. Methane build-up likely caused the explosion, experts say.

Massey CEO Don Blankenship has defended his company's safety record, bluntly stating that he values miners' lives more than the black rock.

To be sure, much is yet to be determined about the cause of the accident. After the 2006 Sago mine explosion, investigators found lightning, not human error, likely caused the explosion.

### **Criminal Charges Rare**

Criminal charges against actual mine operators are rare, but the government has filed – and won – criminal lawsuits against companies. In 2008, a subsidiary of Massey paid out \$4.2 million in civil and criminal fines for a 2006 fire that killed two workers at Aracoma Alma.

(Other countries aren't so sanguine when it comes to mine safety. In 2004, China executed a party official for helping to cover up a 2001 tin mine disaster in Guangxi, which killed at least 81 miners.)

Early Saturday morning, rescuers found the final four bodies, ending days of harrowing searches where crews traversed winding shafts deep under the crust, fighting noxious fumes and blinding smoke.

**“Every disaster doesn’t have to happen,” Christopher Shaw, a policy analyst at the Center for Study of Responsive Law, told the Monitor this week. “They go back and ask, ‘Why did it happen?’ It always turns out people didn’t do what they were supposed to do.”**

# **Union charges Weyerhaeuser in 2004** **Death of Mill Worker**

***Rare case means Crown  
must decide to prosecute  
or not.***

***Steelworkers'  
Stephen Hunt says  
the Union lobbied  
for right to lay  
charge.***



The United Steelworkers Union launched its own private criminal prosecution against forest company Weyerhaeuser, charging the company was criminally negligent in a tragic 2004 accident in which a sawmill worker died doing a job that management knew was unsafe.

Steelworkers regional director Steve Hunt and prominent criminal lawyer Glen Orris launched the charge in New Westminster Provincial Court, saying sawmill worker Lyle Hewer's death was not only preventable but was the result of a criminal act by his employer, Weyerhaeuser.

Hewer, 55, died on Nov. 17, 2004, when he entered the bottom of a hopper -- called a hog -- filled with wood debris. The debris came loose and smothered him.

A subsequent investigation found the company showed willful and reckless violation of safety regulations.

The union is laying charges of criminal negligence against Weyerhaeuser under the so-called "Westray amendment" to the Criminal Code, and in doing so is challenging the province to reopen its own file on the Hewer death.

The B.C. criminal justice branch, in the attorney-general's ministry, has a policy not to allow a private prosecution to proceed. It reviews such cases and then decides whether to take over the prosecution or enter a stay of proceedings. "Prosecutors in British Columbia have looked at this case, we are told, twice, and have refused to advance any charges against Weyerhaeuser, we say bring justice to enforce a law that we think will protect other workers," Hunt told a news conference on the steps of the New Westminster courthouse.

"Our position is this: If the Crown refuses to proceed, the Steelworkers will."

The Westray amendment places a legal duty on companies, their executives and directors, by making negligence in health and safety issues a crime. It was passed in March 2004, in response to the 1992 deaths of 26 coal mine workers at Nova Scotia's infamous Westray mine.

The Steelworkers' action marks the first time a private prosecution has been brought against a company under the Westray amendment. There have been no judicial rulings under the amendment yet, as no case has been fully heard before the courts.

Hunt said Hewer's death was needless. "There has to be some responsibility for neglect or stupidity or ignorance, whichever one of those words applies to the death of Lyle."

Hewer was married and had two children. His widow, Arsenia, told the union that she supports the criminal case but did not want to be involved in any publicity.

At the time, New Westminster city police recommended criminal charges be laid against Weyerhaeuser under the Westray amendment. However, the criminal justice branch said the evidence did not support a substantial likelihood of conviction.

The Steelworkers Union lobbied hard for the Westray amendment and Hunt said that the union was proceeding with charges to keep a promise to the families of the Westray workers, and to set a precedent for future worker deaths.

Toronto occupational health and safety expert Norm Keith of Toronto said there have been no rulings on the Westray amendment because it is complex, and because few Crown prosecutors are familiar with it. He said he wouldn't be surprised to see the Crown step in to this case.

Weyerhaeuser has since closed the mill; the site is now a parking lot. The company has reduced its presence in B.C. to a small head office in Vancouver, and two operations.

Wayne Roznowsky, public affairs manager at Weyerhaeuser's Washington state headquarters, said the company had not been served and had no response, other than to say the case had been thoroughly reviewed by the Crown.

An investigation into Hewer's death by WorkSafe BC found that Weyerhaeuser management had a high level of knowledge about the hazard but did nothing. The violations were committed willfully or with reckless disregard, WorkSafe BC vice-president Roberta Ellis said in 2007 after the safety agency completed a two-year investigation.

Weyerhaeuser was fined the highest amount ever by WorkSafe BC, \$297,000. In a blistering report, WorkSafe BC said senior Weyerhaeuser management had resisted work orders from line managers to make the hog safe, saying it would cost too much money.

Less than an hour before Hewer died, another worker had expressed concerns about the safety of the hog to a supervisor. The supervisor then approached Hewer to do the job. He was not specifically asked to step into the hopper, Orris said, only to "clean it out." But the practice was for workers to clean it out by stepping inside.

# **Dental Fee Guidelines**

***When you go to your dentist and they send the insurance carrier the pre authorization to complete your work, be very careful on reviewing the expense assessment that is returned by the insurance carrier. The insurance carrier will not pay above the 2010 Provincial Dental Fee Guidelines, and some dental offices are charging the patients well above the guidelines that are set by the Provincial Dental Association. (For example).***

***One of our members wives was getting a new upper and lower denture plate, she went to one of the elk valley dental clinics who had completed her examination, and forwarded the insurance carrier the pre-authorization to get the patient her new dentures at a cost of \$3,000.00. While waiting for the pre-authorization to be completed, the patient had some preliminary work done by her dentist. The pre-authorization on the expense assessment was returned and the maximum payment under the Dental Fee Guideline was \$2,100.00 for the upper and lower dentures, the dentist was charging \$900.00 above what the insurance company was willing to pay.***

***I did some checking for the member because either the insurance company was not paying according to the dental fee guidelines, or the dental clinic was over-charging the patient, which is not against the law. I checked with three clinics in Fernie, Cranbrook, and Kimberly and found the cost for a complete upper and lower plate between \$1,700 & \$1,800 dollars, which is well within the guidelines set by the Dental Association.***

***Be sure that you do your homework before you agree to any dental procedure that needs pre-authorization from the insurance carrier. Do not get any work done before you review the expense assessment returned by Sun Life, review what they say is covered and what they expect you to pay, and the reasons why. If you feel the assessment is incorrect and they are not paying according to the plan, call the plan administrator at Fording River- Corrina Anctil at 250-865-5007 and discuss your concerns. If you still have unresolved issues call the Union Hall at 250-865-2223.***



# HST

How it will affect you and your family

*Our members – retired workers and workers nearing retirement understand that it cost money to provide health care, education, environmental protection and other services to British Columbians.*

*As we have done all our lives, we are ready to pay our fair share, even if that means an increase in taxes. The HST however, is not fair. The HST will increase taxes paid by ordinary people by \$1.9 Billion a year. We get nothing in return. Many of the services that we depend on are being slashed, while other essentials of life will cost more.*

*We are being forced to pay \$1.9 Billion more so large corporations can pay \$1.9 billion less. It is a massive tax shift onto the shoulders of people who may live on a fixed income, and are already struggling to make ends meet.*

*Adding to the injury, Gordon Campbell and the B.C. Liberal Party promised in writing that they would not introduce the HST.*

# ***Even "HST exempt" living expenses will cost more***

- ***Rent. Expenses such as maintenance, electricity and other required services will be taxed, putting pressure on landlords to raise rents.***
- ***Strata fees. The increased cost of repairs, restoration and other services may force insurers to increase premiums.***
- ***Residential care for seniors. All residential care facilities which contracted out maintenance and care services- as the government urged them to do – will pay HST on those contracts. The B.C. Care Providers Association estimates the HST will cost a 100 bed facility \$210,000.00 a year. The equivalent of four to five care staff positions.***

## ***The HST Hit List***

Check off everything that affects you and write beside it your weekly / monthly / yearly cost for those items – then multiply by **7% MORE to see your total HST tax hit!**

- Restaurant meals
- Cable TV
- New Homes
- Non-prescription meds
- Telephone
- Internet
- Propane / Natural gas
- Hockey tickets
- Some groceries – Prepared foods
- Hair cuts
- Admission fees
- Membership fees
- Movies
- Theatre
- Bus fares
- Magazines/ newspapers

- Rents /Strata fees
- Taxi fares
- Airline tickets
- Golf fees
- Music lessons
- Skiing
- Spa services
- Massage therapy
- Resort packages
- Parking
- Coffee shops
- Fast food - Beverages
- Dry cleaning
- Car repair & maintenance
- Vitamins
- Dietary supplements
- School supplies
- Photography
- Home maintenance
- Health equipment
- Consulting services
- Storage lockers
- Moorage
- Campgrounds
- RV parks
- Animal feed
- Fishing charters
- Heating fuel
- Naturopathy
- Reflexology
- Veterinarian
- Physiotherapy
- Museums
- Home renovations
- Painting
- Real estate fees
- Bicycles
- Accounting
- Architects
- Legal fees
- Concert Tickets
- Funeral services
- Chinese medicine
- Marketing services
- Safety equipment
- Helmets
- Life jackets
- First aid kits
- Smoke detectors
- Fire extinguishers
- Energy equipment
- Insulation
- Solar power
- Attractions / Events

**[www.fighthst.com](http://www.fighthst.com)**



**REMEMBER THE GST? Fool us once, shame on you .  
.. fool us twice, SHAME ON BC!**

**HST Extinguishment Act**

**Preamble:**

Whereas a harmonized Sales Tax (HST) combining the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) with the Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST) as contemplated by the Governments of British Columbia and Canada contravenes Section 92, Article 2, of the Constitution Act 1867, which states:

**92.** In each Province the Legislature may exclusively make Laws in relation to Matters coming within the Classes of Subjects next hereinafter enumerated; that is to say,

2. Direct Taxation within the Province in order to the raising of a Revenue for Provincial Purposes.

And whereas the people of British Columbia, as expressed in the Citizen Initiative Petition against the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) in British Columbia, wishes to extinguish the tax, thereafter;

**Part 1**

(1) The Agreement titled “The Comprehensive Integrated Tax Coordination Agreement” between The Government of British Columbia and The Government of Canada establishing an HST in British Columbia is hereby extinguished and of no force or effect whatsoever.

## Part 11

- (1) A Provincial Sales tax (PST) of 7% with the same applications and exemptions as at June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 shall be reinstated as the only sales tax in British Columbia for the raising of a Revenue for Provincial Purposes.

## Part 111

- (1) This Act shall be effective retroactively as of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010.
  - (2) Any HST revenues owing to or received by the Provincial Government between the retroactive effective date of this Act and the actual date of Royal Assent, which are over and above the original PST amount as it would previously have been applied, shall be reimbursed to all British Columbians on a per capita basis.
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As British Columbians we must all get out and sign the petition to repeal this legislation. It will take time to defeat, but once we have at least 10% of all 85 ridings the Petition will have legs and will not go away. We must get the 10% in all ridings, if we get 10% or more in 84 ridings and 9% in one (1) riding the petition will fail. It has been estimated that if the Government is successful in instituting the HST it will cost the average family (\$2,000.00) per year.

The following locations will be set up in the Elk Valley for signing the HST Petition:

- Elkford Steelworkers Hall: May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – 9am – 9pm both days.
- Sparwood Steelworkers Hall: May 13<sup>th</sup> & 16 – 9am – 9pm both days.

There will also be other locations set up in your community, please make an effort to find them. You must be a registered voter with Elections BC to sign.

***For More Information go to: [fighthst.com](http://fighthst.com)***

New Wage Table as per Letter of Understanding signed with USW 7884 on August 15, 2008.

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Job Class	1/5/2008	1/7/2008	1/5/2009	1/5/2010
1	\$22.28	\$23.39	\$24.09	\$24.81
2	\$22.80	\$23.94	\$24.66	\$25.40
3	\$23.28	\$24.44	\$25.17	\$25.93
4	\$23.77	\$24.96	\$25.71	\$26.48
5	\$24.31	\$25.53	\$26.30	\$27.09
6	\$24.77	\$26.01	\$26.79	\$27.59
7	\$25.25	\$26.51	\$27.31	\$28.13
8	\$25.78	\$27.07	\$27.88	\$28.72
9	\$26.27	\$27.58	\$28.41	\$29.26
10	\$26.75	\$28.09	\$28.93	\$29.80
11	\$27.25	\$28.61	\$29.47	\$30.35
12	\$27.77	\$29.16	\$30.03	\$30.93
13	\$28.27	\$29.68	\$30.57	\$31.49
14	\$28.78	\$30.22	\$31.13	\$32.06
15	\$29.27	\$30.73	\$31.65	\$32.60
16	\$29.74	\$31.23	\$32.17	\$33.14
17	\$30.25	\$31.76	\$32.71	\$33.69
18	\$30.77	\$32.31	\$33.28	\$34.28
19	\$31.24	\$32.80	\$33.78	\$34.79
20	\$31.76	\$33.35	\$34.35	\$35.38
21	\$32.23	\$33.84	\$34.86	\$35.91
22	\$32.74	\$34.38	\$35.41	\$36.47

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***The Above noted chart will indicated  
your Union negotiated wage increase  
that will take effect on  
May 1, 2010***

# **Vale Inco strike nearing 10th month**

**SUDBURY — What does not kill you makes you strong. And, so far, members of United Steelworkers Local 6500 are hanging tough, says their President, John Fera. That is despite marking a milestone next Tuesday that no one wanted to see — beating the record for longest strike at the former Inco, now Vale Inco Ltd. "It's not a happy one," said Fera of the record. "It's a real shame to be on strike for nine months." From here on, no one will forget the USW strike of 2009-2010 — "just like we never forgot the strike of 1978-79." About 3,000 members of USW Local 6500 in Sudbury and 130 with Local 6200 in Port Colborne have been on strike since July 13 over pensions, the nickel bonus, seniority transfer rights and contracting out. Those issues have not changed much since bargaining committees for Vale Inco and USW exchanged proposals exactly one year ago — April 7, 2009. Still, all it would take is a phone call from Vale Inco to be back at the bargaining table tomorrow, said Fera.**

**The union has said it is ready to resume negotiating, but Vale Inco has repeatedly said it will not bargain without certain pre-conditions. A round of mediated talks last month between the two sides ended when mediator Kevin Burkett called a halt to the proceedings. Fera insisted no talks have been going on this week, despite widespread rumors to the contrary. "People are looking for a ray of hope," said Fera. "That's natural." Another 200 Steelworkers are on strike against Vale Inco Newfoundland & Labrador in Voisey's Bay.**

## **Productivity- Otto Kliment**

***There seems to be a renewed interest in getting the job done at all costs. Whether it's to get that extra load in production or get the PM done in the shop, people are being told that they have a limited time to do the job at hand. In this type of atmosphere people will start to take short cuts and do not have the time to go over the task at hand. The end result is that safety becomes secondary. We need to realize what is happening and respond appropriately. Do not take the timeline given as an absolute. Take the time you need to do the job in a safe efficient manner.***

***If we lose sight of safety we will all end up where we were in the past. Lots of incidences, some of which will be lost time accidents. People will not be going home at the end of the day. Now is the time where we have to make a decision: Do we continue to progress in safety or do we go back to the old ways? We would like to encourage everybody to continue going forward with safety and not risk all so a computer entry can be made a given time. After all it's just a computer entry.***

## **WCB – Is The Board Compensating You Properly for Medical Care?**

*When a worker has an injury as the result of a workplace incident, most workers will have to travel to various locations for treatment. The Board will provide travel assistance monies to cover cost for such travel. The Board over the last few years has only reimbursed workers what it would cost by bus. This is even so when it is impossible to use the bussing system to make appointments.*

*Recently we appealed a worker's claim arguing that it was not in keeping with the WCB Act by using "A one glove fits all approach" when only paying workers the cost of a bus ticket. It was our position that the Board should pay a mileage rate which in many cases is considerably more than a bus rate.*

*The Appeals Tribunal stated in part, "I agree with the worker through his representative that under subsection 21(6) of the Act, in which the Board must provide direction, supervision and control of the worker's transportation, there is a discretion to allow the worker's argument that poor scheduling makes it difficult and unreasonable for the worker to use public transportation to attend Dr. B in location B."*

*If you presently have a compensable injury and /or have one in the future and need to travel to out of town locations for medical care, please contact the Union Hall for information on travel reimbursement.*

*It is also of note and not surprising that the Employer agreed with the original Board's decision to only pay bus rate. Oh, well.*



## **Fording River Working Christmas**

*What's up with Fording River forcing their employees to work Christmas? how much money is enough money? Where is that fine line drawn between profit, and respect and gratitude for all the hard work the employees have displayed throughout the year?*



*Mommy where is Daddy?*

## **Here's What is happening at the Elkview Operations**

*We do anticipate taking a Christmas Vacation Shutdown for mine operations and mine maintenance/warehouse. On December 24<sup>th</sup> we will be operating the mine dayshift and nightshift; however the company is prepared to allow employees the option of working or not working the nightshift of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Employees who choose to take the 24<sup>th</sup> nightshift off will need to cover their time off according to the collective agreement. The company will also be recognizing the statutory holidays on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for mine op/mine maintenance/warehouse employees but will require coverage to maintain plant feed. From December 27<sup>th</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup> inclusive the Company will initiate a vacation shutdown for all mine operations, mine maintenance/warehouse employees. All of the employees not required to work will be required to cover off their time with vacation in accordance with the collective agreement.*

## **Overtime Distribution**

- *Overtime distribution runs on a equalization period from Jan 1<sup>st</sup>- Dec 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.*
- *Hours worked will be combined with hours refused for total hours.*
- *Overtime distribution is to be within work groups for example: If the company needs truck drivers they are to offer the work to those employees within the truck group. If the company does not get enough employees they can offer the work to employees outside the workgroup.*
- *The company will post an overtime listing for all work groups on a regular basis. This gives all employees the opportunity to review when overtime has been offered and that it is being equally distributed.*
- *New hires or those people that have been away from work on extended leave ie: S&A – WCB shall be given the average hours of the workgroup.*
- *If you notice at any time that the overtime opportunities are not being equally administered, contact your foreman for an explanation. If you are not satisfied contact a shop steward or the Union Hall.*

## **Statutory Holiday Distribution**

- *The company can force employees to work on a statutory holiday if the holiday is on your normal work schedule*
- *If the company offers work on statutory holidays it is done on a equalization system that runs from the start of the collective agreement thru to the end of the collective agreement.*
- *The work is offered within the various work groups. If the company requires more employees they can go outside of the workgroup.*
- *New employees and those that have been away on extended leave ie: S&A-WCB shall receive the average of the workgroup.*
- *Statutory holiday lists will be posted regularly. If you notice a problem contact your foreman, if you are not satisfied contact a shop steward or the Union hall.*

## **Production – At What Cost!** - Carman Draper

*Lately we have had a rise in incidents with support equipment going into clean up for shovels, with no communication or permission. This practice must stop immediately. It is laid out quite clearly in the SP&P's on the proper protocol.*

*If your radio is not functioning properly or you cannot get on the radio do not go in for clean-up until you have permission. Stop and wait. Don't fear discipline. If asked why you are waiting explain to your supervisor your waiting for permission.*

*The new shovels swing so fast that a slight error in judgment could cost you your life. Those buckets filled with 100 tons of rock would make short work of a RT or dozer. Who wants to explain to your family why you won't be coming home today. Remember, safety first, production second.*

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***Visit Your Local Union Website at***

***USW7884.com***

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## ***Membership Meetings***

***Every third Wednesday of the month at 5pm***

***#12 Water Street Elkford BC***

# ***WHY YOU SHOULD REPORT ALL WORKPLACE INJURIES***

*To often workers run into problems with WCB when injuries/incidents and accidents are not reported. For example, a haul truck driver is getting loaded at a shovel and gets hit by the shovel bucket. The truck driver immediately feels a pull or strain in his back and neck and thinks nothing of it and continues on his haul in pain.*

*The next day at work the pain and discomfort increases, and the worker reports the incident and pain to his foreman and first-aid. The worker then leaves work and goes to the doctor and after testing it is determined that the worker sustained an impact injury that requires surgery. The WCB Board denies the workers claim because he did not report the incident injury promptly, or in other words it may have happened somewhere outside of the workplace. Now the worker has to wait for surgery which could be several months. The worker receives no assistance from WCB, and the worker will have to appeal the WCB decision denying the claim, which will also take several months.*

*The employer as it has in many occasions will support the WCB decision denying the claim. The employer will argue either in writing or at an oral hearing that the claim should not be accepted because it was not reported in a timely way. The worker has surgery and misses months of work, again no WCB coverage. The worker ends up with lifetime problems. The worker loses their WCB appeal. The worker loses thousands of dollars and possibly their job. Why? Because the worker did not immediately report his injury to first-aid.*

***Immediately Report All Incident/Accidents and Injuries***