



United Steelworkers | Local 7884

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Message to the Membership
Office of the Local 7884 President, Adam Connell

Brothers and sisters, as our executive enters a new term this coming May, I wanted to take a moment of your time to announce that it has been my pleasure serving all the members of USW7884 for the last 5 1/2 years and I intend to continue to advocate for each individual, each shift, every department, one strategic move at a time. My focus has been and will continue to be ensuring the labour movement that was established over 50 years ago remains relevant, influential, and capable of addressing the evolving challenges faced by workers in today's world. By continuing to build and enhance the unity and solidarity amongst members we will continue to accomplish a strong united front that strengthens our bargaining position.

Under my leadership, and backed with a strong executive, we have celebrated the successes of the following campaigns, negotiations, and arbitrations:

- Abolishment of random drug and alcohol testing in 2019.
- Formation of the USW Women's Committee which advocates for women's rights in 2021.
- Lobbying of the provincial government for 5 paid sick days to be available to our unionized membership in 2021-2022. This was coupled with integral changes in the Health and Safety policies and procedures within the Mines Act and the recognition of September 30th as a Statutory holiday in B.C. for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.
- Removal of casual language from the CBA in 2021. This significant change enables new members to move directly into full-time positions receiving their benefits and building on their pensions immediately. To date, 266 members have benefited from this change.
- Introduction of apprenticeship language into the CBA earlier this year. This was coupled with the creation of a volunteer shift schedule for tradespeople outlined by Teck.
- Celebration of our local's 50-year anniversary with the construction of our anniversary book that highlights the rich and vibrant history of advocacy and growth. Chronicling the tireless efforts of our members to improve working conditions, negotiate better contracts and building the relationships that improve our solidarity as one voice.

All these achievements and changes took a tremendous amount of time and effort, sometimes years, but the relationships I have built in Victoria with ministers and the Premier's office certainly enhanced the ability to achieve our goals and will continue to benefit our local for years to come. With your support we will continue to lobby for the betterment and benefit of our members, and I will continue to build on the relationships garnered to date to ensure the success of what our membership sets out to achieve. One of those goals I aim to achieve in the next term is securing the same voluntary shift schedule that we negotiated for the tradespeople. So that each department, each worker is able to choose the shift schedule that suits their personal needs.

I am excited to announce we are embarking on a new and crucial initiative to advocate for fair wages and improved retention for our Tradespeople. Our new tradesperson campaign is centered around two key proposals: a substantial hourly wage increase of \$10 and the implementation of a \$10, 000 annual trades retention bonus. These proposals are not just figures on paper; they represent the fundamental fairness and respect that everyone in our union should enjoy, across all sectors. Our tradespeople will not be left behind and I aim to ensure they are compensated adequately for their skills, expertise, and dedication.

This campaign serves as a testament to our union's ethos: that we stand together, supporting each other in times of need and celebrating each other's victories. Your support is crucial in making this campaign successful. I urge each one of you to stand united with our tradespeople, to support their cause, and to help us achieve these fair wages and increases to retention bonuses. Their cause is your cause, as we stand united and demand that every worker receives the equality, fairness, and respect for all.

Together, we can make a difference not only in the lives of all our members but in the entire industry. Let us show the strength of our union, the power of our unity and the depth of our commitment to fairness.

In Solidarity,

Adam Connell | USW Local 7884, President

