

9346 News

March, 2011

Vol. 11, Issue 1

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President's Report

Sisters and Brothers,
As we go into the 5th week of the strike, I would like to thank this membership for their continued support.

Everyone understands that we are going through some tough times. This membership has taken a stand against Teck and aren't going to back down until we get a fair agreement. The last time your Bargaining Committee met with the Company was on February 17. As posted on our website, your bargaining committee made some significant changes to our proposals but the Company wasn't willing to move on anything.

Your Bargaining Committee is ready and willing to sit down with the Company anytime to negotiate a fair bargained agreement for this membership.

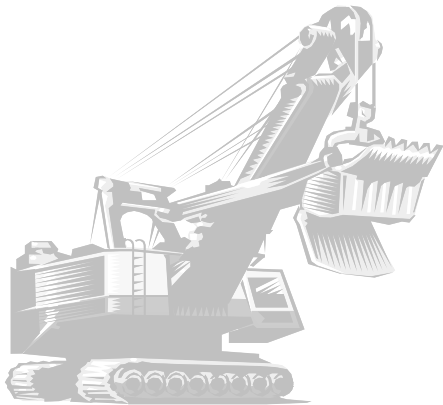
More than 500 of our members have been walking the picket lines 24/7 in freezing temperatures and will continue to do so until such time as their demands are met. Remember we are fighting for our retirement security and our children's future. We would like to see our members retire with dignity.

Enclosed in this newsletter is information regarding food banks and other assistance available during the strike.

Please keep in mind that the Union Hall is open 24/7. If you have any questions, comments, or just want to stop in for a coffee please feel free to do so anytime. Also to people on the picket lines...food supplies are being kept here at the hall. Send a driver to get what you need for your picket shift. Take what you need use what you take.

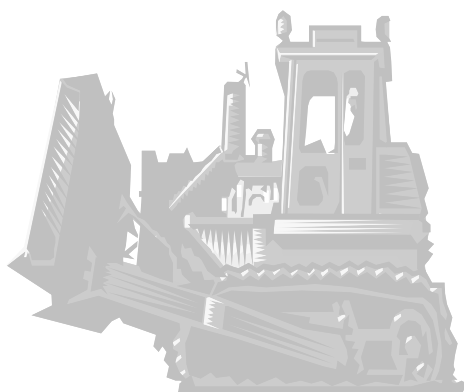
In Solidarity,
Christopher Nand - President

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NOTICES BY EMAIL.

Anyone who would like to get newsletters, meeting dates, and notices emailed to you, please forward your e-mail address to:
admin@usw9346.ca



EFAP PROGRAM

The Employee and Family Assistance Program is still available for Elkview employees and their families to use.

This EFAP Program provides confidential counseling and information for you and your family if you need it. They deal with things such as childcare, workplace stress, health information, financial information, individual counseling, eldercare, substance abuse, legal information, family counseling, and couple counseling.

When you first call, you'll speak with a qualified EAP Support Specialist who will assess your situation, risk, needs and preferences and guide you to the assistance best suited to resolving your issue. The specialist will ask you a series of questions, including the name of your employer to ensure you're covered.

Though the specialist collects information including your name, employer, address, reason for calling, etc. this information remains completely confidential and is never released to your employer. Information gathered provides *general* statistical data - **without ever singling out individuals or identifiable groups** - to help Shepell-fgi understand EAP user's needs and provide the best, most relevant service possible. EFAP is there to direct you to the right assistance in the format you're most comfortable with, whether it's connecting you to a specialized program, linking you to a counseling appointment or sending you a self-directed resource package.

For crisis situations the EAP Support Specialist ensures you receive immediate help, while urgent counseling matters are given an appointment within 24-48 hours.

EFAP CAN BE REACHED AT 1-800-268-5211

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FOOD BANK INFORMATION

SPARWOOD

LOCATION: BEHIND THE UNION HALL (BESIDE THE OLD GREYHOUND STATION)
HOURS: TUESDAY AND THURSDAYS
NOON- 2:00PM
CONTACT: 250-425-6435 – Carol Walmsley
250-425-6554 – Eddie Holland

***First Wednesday of each month is "CHILDREN'S DAY"** put on by Toys for Tots. There is fresh fruit, veggies and milk available. Please call Eddie Holland at 250-425-6554 at least the Monday before to let her know how many kids you have so that she can buy appropriate amounts.

FERNIE

LOCATION: THE SALVATION ARMY
HOURS: APPOINTMENTS HAVE TO BE MADE!! Hamper pickups are on Tuesday's and Thursday's afternoons. You MUST phone Monday for pick up on Tuesday or phone Wednesday for pick up on Thursday.
CONTACT: 250-423-4661 – MAJOR SHAYLER

ELKFORD

LOCATION: ELKFORD MALL
HOURS: PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE LADIES BELOW FOR PICK UP TIMES
CONTACT: 250-865-2485 – DENISE SORENSON
250-865-4603 – DENISE BERTRAND.

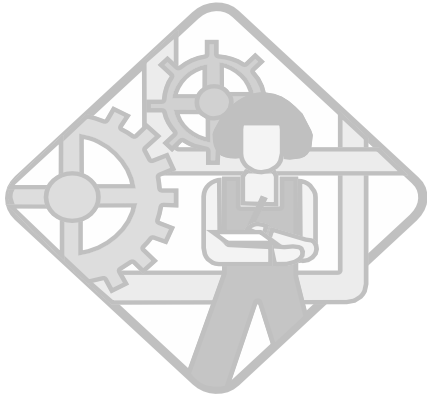
CROWSNEST PASS

LOCATION: NEXT TO CIBC IN BLAIRMORE
HOURS: MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS - 5:00PM-7:00PM
TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS - 11:00AM – 2:00PM
Require proof of residency and picture ID
CONTACT: 403-564-5110 OR 403-583-4708 (CELL)

*Anyone who lives outside of these areas and/or cannot use their own local food banks, can use the Sparwood Food Bank at the above listed hours. Just mention that you are an Elkview Employee on Strike and they will take care of you.

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BANKING INFORMATION



We have sent a letter to the Banks and Credit Unions in the Crowsnest Pass, Sparwood, Elkford and Fernie giving them a heads up regarding the strike and requesting meetings with each Branch Manager to discuss available options to our members.

As everyone's situation is different we **STONGLY** suggest that you get in touch with your financial institution as soon as possible to discuss your situation with them and possible options available to you. Please keep in mind that the banks and credit unions are in a better position to help you out **BEFORE** situations get dire. So don't delay on making that appointment with them.



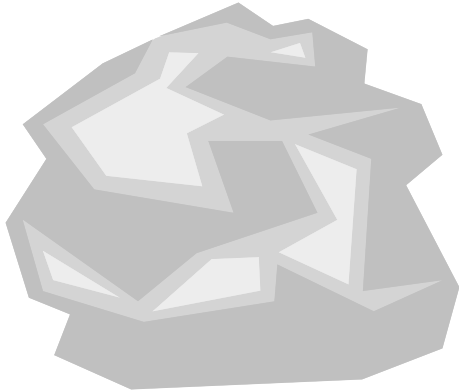
Some financial institutions are requiring written letters from the Union which we would be happy to do for you. Other financial institutions are requiring forms to be signed, etc. which we would also be happy to do for you. Please call or stop by and talk to Chris, Troy or Sarah during our regular office hours which are Monday to Friday from 9-noon and 1-4pm each of those days.



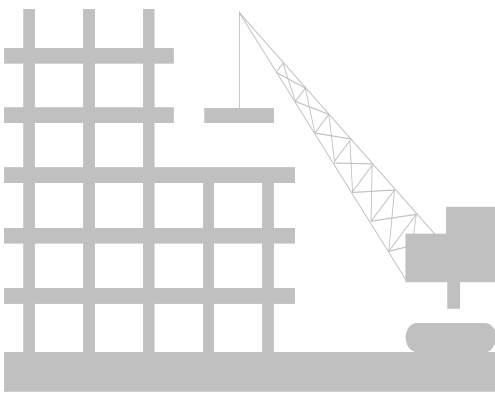
If you live outside of the above mentioned area and would like us to talk to your financial institution or have any questions please call us at 250-425-0131 or stop by the Hall. Also any forms that the banks need filled out can be faxed here to 250-425-0086 but please give us a call first so we know who it is for, etc.

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OSW STRIKE HUMANITY FUND



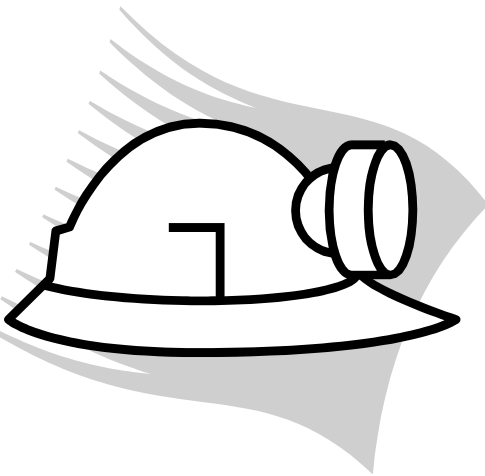
We have set up a Humanity Fund for emergency or extraordinary situations. An example of this would be an abscessed tooth that is causing a lot of pain for you or your immediate family member that absolutely cannot wait to be fixed. Another example would be, if you broke your eye glasses beyond repair and you need them to see/drive and cannot wait to have them replaced, etc.



In order to access this fund you will need to call or stop by the Union Hall to fill out a form and attach all applicable receipts. These will then be submitted to our Strike Humanity Fund Committee for review.

Our number here is 250-425-0131.

SUNLIFE PRESCRIPTION CARDS



Some people have called in stating that their Sunlife Direct Pay Prescription Cards are not working or have been declined. All of these cards should be working as normal. If you run into this problem please call Sunlife directly at 1-800-361-6212. Their Customer Care Centre is open Monday - Friday from 6am - 6pm our time. You will need your contract no: 150038 and your work badge number to access this service. If you have any problems please call us at the Union Hall at 250-425-0131 and talk to Chris, Troy or Sarah.

Thank you.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

DAVID ELLIS SCHOLARSHIP

Every year in Canada, 60 Young Workers are killed on the job. David Ellis was killed on his second day at work. He was 18.

In his memory - and in honour of all the other young workers killed or injured on the job - United Steelworkers is making sure young workers know the risks and know their rights on the job.

That is why we've established the **David Ellis Scholarship** for Sons, Daughters and Grandchildren of Steelworkers.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to five graduating high school students to help them to continue on to college or university.

Students must submit an essay or video on one of two topics.

1. **Spreading the word:** how to make high school students aware of their risks and their rights in the workplace
2. **How to be a workplace survivor:** my personal experience with health and safety on the job.

Please contact the Hall for details.

Submission is Due June 30, 2011

SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

The Education Fund of the United Steelworkers is offering five \$1000 scholarships for sons or daughters of Steelworkers.

People who have already completed some post-secondary studies are **NOT** eligible for this award.

The application form (which can be attained at the Union Hall) must be accompanied by a 1000 word essay and submitted by 5:00pm on June 30, 2011. There are three essay topics to choose from:

1. **Is there a role for Unions today?**
2. **Organizing locally and globally?**
3. **Your vote is your say.**

Essays must be typed and double-spaced on 8 1/2 x 11" paper.

Also, proof of acceptance at an institution of higher education will be requested before the award is made.

The awarding of the scholarship will be based on the following principles:

1. the academic record and all-round achievement of the student, attested to by the school principal
2. the 1,000 word essay
3. Proof of acceptance in a institution of higher education.

Submission is Due June 30, 2011

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NOTICES

- **'A' Crew Comes through.** A HUGE thank you to the A Crew Social Club who donated \$1000 towards the strike. They are making a challenge to the other Crew Social Clubs in making a donation.
- **Weekends are tough to get pickets.** Please show some courtesy and show up on time for your cross shift. You people deserve a huge pat on the back for the effort and tolerance for the weather. Stay in your vehicles and stay warm.
- **Our Financial people would like everyone to make an effort to pick up their pay cheques each week especially locals.** If you can't make it in we will attach it to next weeks cheque.

SHOW YOUR UNION CARD

If you have or know of any Local businesses who wish to participate in this program please have them contact Sarah at the Union Hall at 250-425-0131.

Here are the participating businesses.

1. Sparwood Husky (Sparwood ONLY)

- 1.5 cents off fuel
- 5% off in store (not on Tobacco or Lottery)

2. Sparwood Hose & Fitting

- 5% off

3. Intermountain Services

- \$100 off purchase of a seacan
- 10% off rental

4. NAPA

- 10% (applies to all mine employees)

5. Cummins Western Canada

- 5% off

6. BOARDSTIFF - in Fernie, BC

- 10% off

7. The Cottonwood Tree Health Food store in Fernie ,BC

- 10% off

8. Ski Base - in Fernie, BC

- 10% off

9. Fernie Sports - Fernie, BC

- 10% off

10. Elk River Guiding Company - Fernie, BC

- 15% off

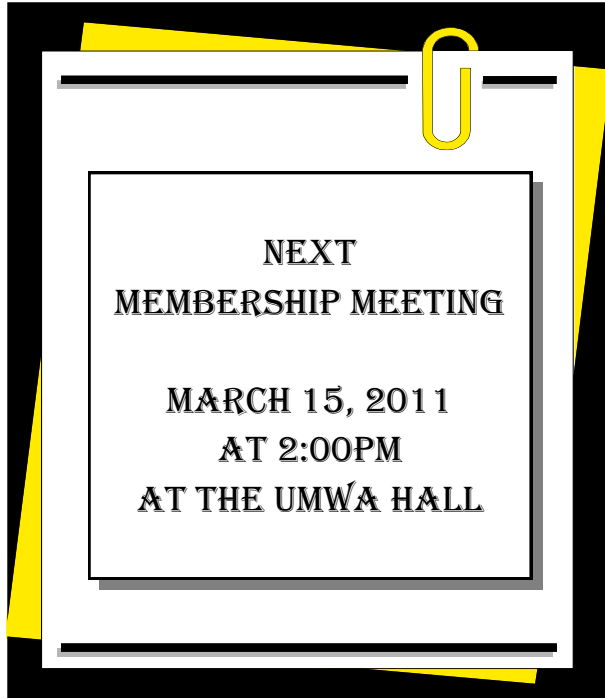
11. W.E. Insurance (Home and Auto)

- Call 1-800-663-4200 in BC
- Call 1-877-787-7021 in all other Provinces.

12. W.E Tax Services

- Call 1-800-845-1181

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OFFICE HOURS
9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday

Union Hall Contact Information

Ph: (250) 425-0131
Fax: (250) 425-0086
E-mail: admin@usw9346.ca
Website: www.usw9346.ca

ADDRESS:
111 Centennial Sq.
Box 40
Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0

Local Union Executive Committee Members

Christopher Nand - President
Dave Sheets - Vice President
Horst Gandner - Recording Secretary
Samuel Samy - Financial Secretary
Russell Primrose - Treasurer
Peter Zazzara - Trustee
Heather Kelloway - Trustee

Peter Rosner - Trustee
Ewan Gordon - Inside Guard
Russell Ullman - Outside Guard
Peter Chechotko - Guide
Mark Milley - OHE&S Committee Co-Chair
Troy Cook - Grievance Committee Chairperson/
WCB Committee Chair