



MEDIA RELEASE

April 22, 2021

On April 15, 2021, the United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 had its certification as the bargaining agent for over 350 mineworkers at the Red Chris Mine in northwest BC, reinstated by the BC Court of Appeal.

Newcrest Mining purchased a majority of Red Chris Mine in August 2019 and is now known as Newcrest Red Chris Mining Limited, which operates an open-pit Copper, Gold, and Silver mine 80 km south of Dease Lake BC.

The USW, which is the Miners' choice for Union Representation, is extremely happy to welcome the newest USW Local 1-1937 members. The work is already underway as we prepare for collective bargaining with Newcrest, which is an Australian based mining company.

The operation was first certified to USW Local 1-1937 in July 2019. At that time, the majority owner of the Red Chris Mine was Imperial Metals, who subsequently appealed the certification in court, where they were successful in having the certification set aside in December 2019. The USW appealed this decision on the basis of errors in the original court ruling. The BC Court of Appeal heard the USW's case on October 27, 2020 and rendered a decision in favour of the Union, reinstating the Local Union's certification on April 15, 2021.

"Despite the lengthy legal process, we are grateful that the legal system worked and our members at the Red Chris Mine have succeeded in acquiring the right to collectively bargain with their employer. It is a right that I strongly believe the workers will benefit from greatly, now, and in the future.", stated Brian Butler, President of USW Local 1-1937.

The Local Union looks forward to working with the new members from Red Chris in order to negotiate the best possible collective agreement and addressing their priorities. The United Steelworkers, in working with our members at the mine site intend to achieve an agreement that protects and enhances the members' rights in all aspects of their work on the mine site including those in job security, health and safety, shifting, training, and wages & benefits to name a few.

"We have come a long way in our fight to ensure the workers at Red Chris Mine were not denied the right to belong to our Union. I welcome all of them into USW Local 1-1937 and by working together we will succeed in addressing their concerns and achieve the priorities these hardworking men and women deserve", stated Richard Arnason, 2nd Vice-President of USW Local 1-1937.

The Local Union will also be reaching out to the Tahltan Nation in the days ahead, in order to ensure we have open communication and respectful dialogue regarding their Impact Benefit and Co-Management Agreement with Newcrest.

The United Steelworkers Local 1-1937 is a diverse Local Union that represents over 6000 members in all sectors of the economy across Coastal BC.

For further information or interviews please contact:

Brian Butler, USW Local 1-1937 President

Cell: (250) 715-5678 or by Email at: bbutler@usw1-1937.ca

Duncan BC