



August 22, 2022

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

The Local Union feels obligated to inform members that it is very concerning that one of the candidates for the upcoming NDP Leadership Race, is an environmentalist that would, if elected, move to stop all logging of mature (old growth) forests.

Anjali Appadurai is an extremist when it comes to industry, whether that be forestry, mining or oil and gas. She is connected to the Sierra Club. Her campaign manager is a former Green Party candidate. She claims to be a Union supporter but seems to only support Unions that agree with her anti industry views.

As our Union is affiliated with the NDP due to its progressive labour laws we feel it is necessary to make our voices heard in the election of the next leader of the NDP who will also be the next Premier of BC.

While there are numerous NDP policy issues our Union has not agreed with and we remain frustrated with the lack of overall consultation with our organization, the government has made progressive moves that supports labour, including instituting five paid sick days, amending the labour code to allow workers to organize more freely with card check automatic certification and lowering the cost of ICBC. The government is also close to finalizing new legislation that will benefit our members job security by recognizing our members and our collective agreements have successorship rights in tenure transfers. We expect new legislation this fall.

The Local Union has significant concern that with Premier Horgan stepping down, the NDP Leadership Race could produce a replacement Premier that would advocate for irreparable harm to our members in forest policy changes.

We all remember the decades of BC Liberal Forest policy and anti-union labour laws that saw **100,000** jobs lost in the forest industry including over **100** manufacturing facilities. We know the conservative within the BC Liberals are no friends of Unions and we cannot go back to the decades of decline we suffered under the BC Liberals.

While the current government is far from perfect and have done damage to our members in forest policy changes, they at least allow labour a seat at the table when they are making policy. This does not mean they always listen to labour. Because we have serious concerns with the current government and know we cannot go back to the conservative BC Liberals we must stay engaged with the current NDP and advocate for change.

The Green Party and environmental groups are right now organizing hard signing members up to the NDP to vote so they can take full control of the party. We must not sit on our hands and feel defeated. We must advocate for members of our Local Union to put their grudges aside and work to sign up as many NDP members as possible so we can have an impact in the coming NDP Leadership Vote.

As Steelworkers we need to take the lead and elect the next Premier of the province by putting ourselves in position to **elect David Eby as the next leader of the NDP and Premier of BC.**

That will require members to sign up to the NDP by filling out an online application and paying \$10 to become a member. The \$10 is to ensure that the sign up is legitimate.

**The deadline to become an NDP member so you can vote in the party's leadership vote is September 4<sup>th</sup> a short 19 days from now. After September 4<sup>th</sup>, you can no longer vote for the leader of the NDP. Even if Appandurai is unsuccessful in her leadership bid, a strong showing in the race will influence the party.**

The sole purpose of the sign up is to ensure we have enough Steelworkers to vote in the Leadership Vote which starts on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

**We are not asking USW members to become NDP members because we agree with everything the NDP stands for or legislation they enact. We do not support everything they do. In fact, we are forceful in our condemnation when they implement policies and legislation that harm workers.**

**THIS IS A STRATEGIC SIGN UP A VOTE TO PROTECT OUR WORKING FOREST**

**We are asking members to join for the sole purpose of gaining votes for a candidate that will not make policy that Steelworker members cannot live with. We need to elect David Eby. The USW Wood Council has an upcoming meeting with David Eby, and we hope to report to the membership on his answers to our questions, at that time. We do know that David Eby will not advocate for the end to industrial logging. The same cannot be said by Anjali Appandurai.**

Your Local Union, like many of you, is extremely disappointed with how the NDP has governed on specific issues to date including the Old Growth file. They can and must do better. But we cannot allow environmentalists to seize full control of the party by electing a Premier who would do permanent damage to the forest industry.

**Even for our members who do not work within an industrial workplace; you too should be concerned about electing Anjali Appadurai. It would weaken your Union and its ability to provide service. It would also weaken our economy overall, including in our rural communities, negatively impacting a broader range of businesses, including those that are not directly connected to the forest industry that rely on industry payrolls, such as car dealerships, rec centres, casinos, etc.**

If a USW activist contacts you and asks if you will help do your part to ensure we have leadership in government that supports industrial workers, we hope you will support the challenge we all face and sign up to vote. Make your voice count when the Leadership Votes starts on November 13. Please spread this message and ask your co-workers to do their part as well.

For \$10 and five minutes of your time, thousands of Steelworkers can make their voices heard. Please message the Local Union if you sign up so we can know the impact we make together.

The NDP membership sign up link is here <https://secure.bcndp.org/join/>

In Solidarity,

Your Local Union Officers and Business Agents