

HAPPY LABOUR DAY

Working Together for a Common Purpose

Sept 6, 2021

Greetings Brothers and Sisters:

Labour Day is a day to reflect on the incredible contribution all workers make to our society. Unions celebrate the accomplishments that organized labour has had in striving to create safer jobs, jobs that are more secure and jobs that provide what is needed for today's families.

Yet, with the on-going misinformation campaign carried on by various environmental groups in an attempt to devastate the BC Forest Industry, coupled with the huge financial and health impacts to workers through the pandemic including our own USW Local 1-1937 members, it can be hard to be thankful this Labour Day. But we should...

We still have much to be thankful over the last year even with today's uncertainty:

- Together as a Union we fight to ensure workers' safety is our most important value and concern. Collectively, we can take pride in our Union's principled stance on worker safety and support our Safety Committees with training.
- Together as a Union we have been winning legal battles and will continue the fight against those companies who want to see a race to the bottom, where workers' rights, wages and working conditions are undermined.
- Together as a Union we are working to advance reconciliation by building relationships with First Nations and finding agreement on issues of mutual benefit such as job creation and training. There is much more work ahead of us. We will continue to reach out.
- Together as a Union we have been defending ourselves in our workplaces against employers who violate our collective agreements and our members have had many successful independent negotiations with employers. All of which could not be done without our Members, Committees, Business Agents and Local Union Admin Staff acting together to ensure our success.
- Together as a Union we have been working closely with the USW Wood Council and its 12 Local Unions to share information and ensure we speak with a unified voice on matters affecting our members.

- Together as a Union we have cast differences aside with industry in order to work together to protect our renewable and sustainable Working Forest. Jointly we are defending our sound principles of sustainable forest management and advocating for any new forest policy to be based on science and sound data rather than misinformed emotional rhetoric or political expediency.
- Together as a Union we are united in our approach to the provincial government in that we demand to have our voices heard on Forest Policy as a key party to any decision being made that may affect our members. Just this week we hope to set a meeting with the Premier to address our concerns with the government approach in the old growth review process and reaffirm our demand that successorship rights be recognized in tenure transfers among other issues. We have also advocated for our members in working in Aquaculture and in Casinos which have faced extreme challenges implemented by federal and provincial government decisions.

Together as Union members we are in a constant struggle with people in power that do not always see the world through workers' eyes. This Labour Day we can be thankful that together we are stronger as we continue the work hard each day on the issues that advance workers' rights in a positive way.

In Solidarity,

USW Local 1-1937 Officers, Business Agents, Executive Board and Staff

