



Calgary Chinook Centre Starbucks workers file application to join the Steelworkers

USW has filed an application with the Alberta Labour Relations Board (ALRB) on behalf of Starbucks workers at the Chinook Centre in Calgary.

“Starbucks workers are steaming over the treatment they are receiving, and they deserve better,” said Pablo Guerra, an organizer with the USW in Western Canada and the Territories.

Starbucks workers concerned over health and safety issues and increased pressures on the job are turning to the USW, the leading union for health and safety in North America.

“This is about more than money – it’s about dignity and respect from both their employer and customers. Throughout the last few years, the job

of the barista has changed. In addition to brewing your standard coffee order, baristas now have to enforce mask mandates and deal with complex custom-order drinks while enduring the added pressures of mobile ordering. Often baristas are faced with angry and verbally abusive customers with some subjected to coffee thrown in their face,” said Guerra.

There are 17 workers at the Chinook Centre food court location.

The ALRB will hear objections from Starbucks in early February, and is expected to authorize a vote of the workers shortly after.

Read more: usw.to/3L2.

Saskatchewan workers win big as union certification goes electronic

In a historic decision, the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board (LRB) has ruled workers in the province can now join a union by signing an electronic union membership card. The decision comes following an application for reconsideration of LRB File No. 092-21 from the USW.

“The decision to allow electronic support evidence for union certification is

historic and precedent-setting in our province and we are excited to proceed with welcoming the workers from JSN Motors to our union,” said Darrin Kruger, USW Staff Representative. “The electronic cards will now make it easier and safer for workers to join a union and brings them one step closer to deserving better at work.”

Read more at: usw.to/3L5.



Remembering Brother Steve Pearson

It is with great sadness to report a fatal workplace injury that has taken Brother Steve Pearson's life. Steve was a member of USW Local 2009 and worked at the Interfor Acorn Division in Delta, B.C.

Three generations of the Pearson family work or had worked at the Interfor sawmill, and Steve had over 40 years of service at Interfor.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Steve's family, friends and co-workers.

Mark Your Calendar

- FEB Black History Month
- FEB 1 Lunar New Year
- FEB 14 Valentine's Day
- FEB 16 Solidarity Looks Like This! Online Conference
- FEB 21 Family Day (B.C., Alta., Sask.)
- FEB 21 Louis Riel Day (Man.)
- FEB 23 Pink Shirt Day
- FEB 23-24 Building Inclusive Locals: Black History Month
- FEB 25 Yukon Heritage Day

Member Spotlight



Taylor Troubridge
USW Local 480

Taylor works at Teck Trail Operations as a coverall attendant in the Garment Centre, and she's been with the company for three years.

Taylor is part of the team responsible for distributing and maintaining coveralls for the employees working at the smelter. She's also responsible for deliveries and various janitorial work.

"Working at the smelter has been a great opportunity, and I can tell how much the union has done over the years to make sure women feel very supported in an industrial workplace," said Troubridge. "It has motivated me to take the next step to get involved with the union as it's a great place to find support and bring solutions to the challenges we face in the workplace."

Taylor recently stepped up to become the new Women of Steel Chair for Local 480.

"It's an honour to represent my sisters as the Women of Steel Chair and to step up to represent women in an industrial workplace. There are a lot of challenges with certain products we make that impact women differently than men. I'm excited to take on this role and help the union hold the company accountable for their actions and to make sure women are treated fairly and inclusively."

ADT Calgary call centre workers join USW

ADT Security by TELUS call centre workers in Calgary have voted to join the USW.

After a majority of workers signed union cards to join the USW, an application to certify the union was filed with the Alberta Labour Relations Board in the early summer. In the fall, the labour board ordered a vote by employees, and a large majority of workers voted in favour of joining the union. The labour board counted the vote on Jan. 4, 2022.

"We are proud to welcome these workers to the USW," said Stephen Hunt, USW District 3 Director. "Our union is proud to represent over 8,000 TELUS workers across the country, and we are ready to support the ADT workers as they negotiate a collective agreement that recognizes their vital

contributions to the success of ADT and TELUS."

The next steps for the workers will include electing a bargaining committee and negotiating their first collective agreement with the employer.

"The USW has been great to work with, assisting us with our goal of organizing our call centre," said a worker from ADT. "I know the union believes in us, and they will be there to support us in our negotiations with TELUS. We look forward to becoming members of the Steelworkers and participating within our new union."

Over 200 workers from the ADT Security Calgary call centre will join the USW.

Read more at: usw.to/3zL.

10th anniversary of Babine sawmill explosion

Ten years ago, on January 20, 2012, two workers went to work at the Babine Forest Products sawmill near Burns Lake, B.C., and didn't return home to their families. Twenty other workers were seriously injured.

"Ten years later, we continue to remember the tragic events at the Babine sawmill explosion that killed two workers and injured many more, and our thoughts are with the families, friends and colleagues on this difficult anniversary," said Stephen Hunt, USW District 3 Director. "There are still many people asking how this tragedy happened and how it could have been prevented. Today we are renewing our call for the provincial government to protect workers."

In 2019, the B.C. Ministry of Labour contracted Vancouver lawyer Lisa Helps to review the actions by WorkSafeBC and the provincial government in relation to worker safety. Helps released her report later that year, making 11 recommendations to strengthen worker safety, ensure a criminal lens is applied to workplace fatalities and put workers back at the centre of WorkSafeBC.

While the government has made some progress implementing the recommendations from Helps, more needs to be done.

"What happened at the Babine sawmill should never have happened, and while we can't change the past, we can work to make sure tragedies like these don't happen again, and if they do, employers are held criminally accountable," said Hunt. "It's been over two years since Helps made her recommendations, and the implementation by the provincial government is overdue – it's time to get going and it's time for WorkSafeBC to get on with the combustible dust regulation review."

The USW is renewing its call for the provincial government to implement the recommendations from the Lisa Helps report and to create ongoing training for police officers and Crown counsel for workplace criminal investigations.

Since the start of 2022, three Steelworkers in Canada have been killed in workplace fatalities, including one in B.C. at the Interfor Acorn Division.

Read more at: usw.to/3L4.

Steelworkers ratify new contract at Teck's Highland Valley Copper

Members of USW Local 7619 at Teck's Highland Valley Copper (HVC) Operations ratified a five-year collective agreement after an 81.2% vote in favour of the new contract. The union had filed strike notice on January 10.

Ratification of the agreement comes following 42 days of discussions at the table, along with mediated talks. On January 16, the parties had bargained to an impasse, and mediators Vince Ready and Corinn Bell made non-binding recommendations to take to the membership for a vote.

"We gained a significant amount of new language to improve the lives of our members, and while we were apart on wages, the membership accepted the recommendations from the mediators," said Kyle Wolff, USW



Remembering former NDP leader Alexa McDonough

USW is paying tribute to the memory and solidarity of Alexa McDonough, who, as leader of the federal New Democratic Party from 1995-2003, was instrumental in the unanimous passing of the Westray Bill, aimed at holding corporate leaders criminally accountable for workplace death and injury.

McDonough engineered the eventual unanimous vote in favour of the Westray Bill, which made significant changes to the Criminal Code.

2022 will mark the 30th anniversary of the tragic and deadly Westray coal mine explosion in Plymouth, Nova Scotia, that killed 26 miners on May 9, 1992.

USW District 3 extends condolences to Alexa's family, friends and to her political family.



Local 7619 President. "I want to thank the bargaining committee for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during this round of bargaining, and I extend a big thank you to the members for standing by the committee every step of the way," said Wolff.

The new contract has secured an Employment Insurance top-up for 17 weeks for birth mothers on parental leave, multiple Indigenous rights, improved safety and time-off language, along with increases in wages and benefits.

Read more at: usw.to/3L6.

Members at Aquapak ratify new contract

Members from USW Local 2009 at Aquapak in Surrey have ratified their new collective agreement following a vote of 95% in support. Significant gains in boot allowance, vision care, paid sick days, power engineer premiums, and a 7.5% wage increase were achieved.

**Solidarity
in Hard Times**

Solidarity Looks Like This! February 16, 2022

"Solidarity Looks Like This!" is the third one-day online conference in the series. Join us for engaging panel discussions, presentations, workshops, and discussion groups.

There is no cost to locals and you can register as many members as you would like.

Register at usw.to/3y6.

You have the right to refuse unsafe work

These are unprecedented times, and workers are justifiably concerned about their health and safety as well as the health and safety of their families and communities.

All workers have a right to a working environment that protects their health and safety. In general, occupational health and safety statutes allow a worker to refuse to perform their work when they have reason to believe that their health, or that of other individuals, is in jeopardy. In such cases, they may exercise their right to refuse unsafe work.

Recently, several teachers at Armstrong Elementary in B.C. expressed concern over a high number of students not wearing masks amid a surge of COVID-19 cases, resulting in what they said created an unsafe work environment. A WorkSafeBC investigation was launched into the issue.

Many teachers across the province are concerned that public health orders to wear masks in schools aren't being strictly enforced.

It is important to note that the right to refuse unsafe work is an individual right of workers and not a collective one. That means that if more than one person refuses work on the basis of a health and safety concern, it may be deemed to be an illegal strike, and the union may be liable for damages to the employer for a work stoppage.

USW District 3 has created a guide to your right to refuse unsafe work. Review it at: usw.to/3dy.

WELCOME!

WORKERS AT
**GILL'S ROADWAYS
DUMP TRUCK SERVICE**
(USW Local 2009)

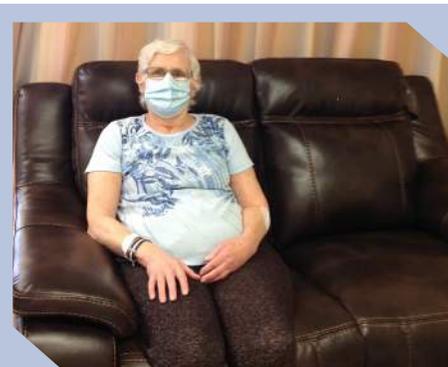
Members at Strathcona Garden are standing strong together

USW Local 1-1937 members working at Strathcona Gardens have been on strike against the Strathcona Regional District (SRD) since November 22.

Nothing stops these Strathcona Gardens members, who have endured extreme weather including heavy rains, snow and below-average freezing temperatures but remain strong together fighting for fair wages.

The members are grateful for all the support and donations that they have received during their strike.

On Jan 31, the parties agreed to mediation/arbitration with Vince Ready to find a voluntary settlement.



Providing comfort

The South Saskatchewan Area council donated a sofa to the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina. The adult rehab program services patients from Southern Saskatchewan with a variety of conditions that affect their physical and functional abilities.

USW demands federal action to stop new U.S. softwood lumber tariffs

The USW is calling on the federal government to move from empty talk to tangible action to support the workers whose jobs and ability to support their families are at risk.

“The thousands of Canadians who work in the industry across this country deserve real action from the federal government,” said Jeff Bromley, Chair of the USW Wood Council. “More empty

words won't put food on the table or keep a roof over their heads.”

“The federal government just keeps talking. And the U.S. keeps hiking tariffs. Tens of thousands of families in more than 600 communities across Canada depend on our forestry sector. The federal government needs to finally fix this conflict for good,” said Bromley.

Read more at: usw.to/3yr.

#USWCares

Over the holidays, the Steelworkers Humanity Fund and various USW Locals across District 3 made donations to local food banks and community organizations to show that Steelworkers cares.



Covenant House Vancouver

Tisdale Salvation Army



Surrey Christmas Bureau

Regina Food Bank



Edmonton Food Bank

Sparwood Food Bank



Elkford Food Bank

Wayburn Food Bank

Presented by NCBWF, NWDLC & VDLC
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022
 FACING FACTS AND FINDING FEELINGS

2 SESSIONS – 4 EDUCATIONS

Date: Feb 9th & Feb 16th

Through our presentations and resources, we hope to encourage you to look for the truths, find the facts and face the feelings. We have the opportunity to recognize the history and work towards a more diverse and inclusive society.

Parker Johnson



Candace Knoll



Alicia Fahrner



(USW Local 1944)

Steelworkers can register at: usw.to/3Le.

Do you have news to share from your local union?

Send in news, events, bargaining updates and photos to bbarden@usw.ca