

**Fall '14 report to the Union of National Defence Employees (UNDE) National Executive (NE)**

*From: T. Mark Miller Vice-President for BC (VP/BC)*



The British Columbia (BC) region has had reason to put its leadership depth to work, right away, in this mandate. This first NE meeting as originally scheduled and then re-scheduled is in the middle of the BC Federation of Labour convention and the Grey Cup. Accordingly the BC Alternate Deputy Vice- President (AADVP)- Sister Colleen Girard is accompanying me here in Quebec, while our Alternate Deputy Vice-President – Brother Kevin Hunt is running herd at the BC Fed convention. During our just about completed Annual General meeting (AGM) circuit our Deputy Vice-President – Brother Lance Jesson, had to step in and do 2 scheduled AGMs while I was called to Ottawa to be present in what was supposed to be a cancelled Infrastructure and Environment (IE) Real Property (RP) meeting. My thanks go to those three Members who have answered the bell and, of course, the Locals of BC for their cooperation during these juggling times.

Following convention, the BC region, as is our way, held elections for the positions of the Human Rights Advisor, the Youth Representative and for the committee members to respond to Resolution 101 as per the National Office direction. I am pleased to inform everyone that Brother Ken Waldron has been returned as our regional advisor thus ensuring that the portfolio will be properly actioned. Unfortunately, there has been no interest to date in having a Youth Rep following the resignation of our

previous Rep. In regards to the 101 committee, Brothers Ken Waldron and Marcelo Lazaro volunteered for this duty, and no report has been filed by the deadline.

With our AGM cycle all but complete, we have had some changes in the regions Local leadership. We thank those who have served the Membership before and we welcome the new leaders.

Local 1007 – Comox, Brother Randy Stevens (President)

Local 1008 – Esquimalt (Esq), Sister Colleen Girard (President, AADVP)

Local 1009 – Esq, Brother Ron Laroy (President)

Local 1010 – Esq, Brother Ken Turpin (President)

Local 1011 – Canadian Forces Ammunition Depot Rocky Point (CFAD RP), outstanding

Local 1013 – Esq, Brother Derek Viggers (President)

Local 1016 – Esq, Brother Marcelo Lazaro (President)

Local 1017 – Canadian Forces Maritime Experimental Test Range (CFMETR), Brother Denis Dore (President)

Local 1018 – Comox, Brother Rick Levigne (President)

DVP – Brother Lance Jesson

ADVP – Brother Kevin Hunt

The region is actively pursuing some training for the New Year. Requests have been submitted for UNDE Modules 6 and 8. The plan is to have the training held centrally in Nanaimo. We have interest from 15 first timers. Ideally, we would have Sister Dignan and Brother Bisson to facilitate the course(s).

We are also developing the business case to have our first Regional Conference in the mid to late May timeframe. The Crowne Isle Resort has been approached and is agreeable to having us. The agenda to date is twofold, to update all the Locals post Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) convention, and to educate the southern Locals who are from the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) on what it is to be part of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), both public and private sector.

Of the 9 BC Locals, 8 are now, or about to be, affiliated to the 3 PSAC Area Councils (AC). Local 1007 has joined the North Island (NI) AC and Local 1017 is about to do the same.

This mandate we have had two successful “19 minutes on the 19<sup>th</sup>” events so far. The first one was organized by Sister Girard for Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Esq, (who also sits on the PSAC Regional Council) and was well attended by our UNDE Members despite it being held on the weekend. The second event was organized by Brother Stevens for Nov 19<sup>th</sup> in Comox. Although still in its infancy, it is hoped to grow.

Support to the United Way (UW) campaign continues to have difficulties. Despite the value of the program and the needed help for those who really require it, the way the campaign is being handled has resulted in unfortunate pushback from some of our Members. We have had cause to reach out to the Base Commander (BCom) to air our concerns and the promised meeting has yet to happen. We continue to address the concerns in a hit and miss fashion, but the damage to the donations continues. Although these concerns are shared by the other Bargaining Agents (BA), UNDE is the only one that is making any visible efforts to highlight our concerns. UNDE in BC will not speak against the campaign, but neither will we be visible in its advertising of it without positive change. One Member wants to know why the federal government will not match dollar for dollar the amounts raised in its own Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC) like it does for floods, tsunamis etc? The Membership is tired of being beat up and no credit given unless we ask for it.

We have had/have a few notable fights in the region in the few months since convention.

One was the refusal of management to accept paper leave forms. This has since been corrected after numerous discussions with various levels of management up to and including the RCN's Rear Admiral (RAdm). Turns out the Human Resources Director issued the degree and management was content to let him do their jobs.

We also have the blanket refusal by management to allow any Time off in Lieu (TOIL), which is being pursued as a Policy Grievance.

As well, and lastly, is the issue of a joint safety meeting above the Base level but below the National one. This appears to be moving forward now, but without the presence at the meeting of the Federal Government Dockyard Trades and Labour Council (West) (FGDYT&LC (W)), I was refusing to go too far down the road. We will continue to move forward secretarially on this issue which is now a pan-Naval one.

While not fights as listed above, we do have some concerns over managements hiring of long term Terms. 3 years seems to speak to a permanent need, yet the Base sees otherwise. Likewise, the issue of safety footwear coming out of the Salary Wage Envelope (SWE) is confusing. This has been acknowledged practice in both the RCAF and the RCN yet it is not understood as to the why?

In keeping with BC's statement at convention concerning hosting our next convention, we have been in preliminary discussions with a possible host hotel in downtown Victoria on the harbour. We can only do so much without formal sign-off by the NE following its decision making process in the Spring, but we are exploring our options in readiness for a hopeful outcome.

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**Activities Report to the UNDE National Executive for the fall 2014 sitting:**

Sat Aug 23-depart Quebec City after convention

Wed Sept 03-meet with CFB Esq BCE Admin O to sign for higher security clearance

Thurs Sept 04-have yearly (?) audiogram done by HC nurse and attend WW1 captured cannon refurbishment ceremony at Esq Cenotaph

Sat Sept 13-meet with Labrador MP Yvonne Jones

Tues Sept 16 – travel to Comox, attend IE townhall, and then attend 1007 GM

Wed Sept 17 – travel home and meet with IE Col DQ

Thurs Sept 18 – meet with CFB Esq BCom

Sat Sept 20-participate in the CFB Esq Formation Fun Day with the UNDE tent

Tues Sept 23-donate 82<sup>nd</sup> pint of blood and attend 1016 GM

Wed Sept 24-meet with 1009 Member

Thurs Sept 25-travel to Ottawa

Fri Sept 26-attend ADM IE UMCC-T and travel home

Mon Sept 29-grip and grin with new CFB Esq BCEO

Tues Sept 30-travel to Ottawa

Wed Oct 01-attend IE RP meeting and travel home

Fri Oct 03-meet with 1016 LP & DVP and meet with VLC UW Reps

Mon Oct 06 – take sick Member to hospital

Tues Oct 07 – attend CFB Esq BCE yearly training session

Wed Oct 09 – meet with the other unions and the CFB Esq BCom in a pre-BUMCC

Wed Oct 15 – participate in the UNDE NE conf call and attend the CFB Esq BUMCC

Sat Oct 18 – travel to and from Courtney for the PSAC NI AC meeting

Sun Oct 19 – participate in the PSAC Vic AC “19 mins on the 19<sup>th</sup>” Membership engagement BBQ

Tues Oct 21 – meet with CFB Esq POESB CO with 1013 LP

Wed Oct 22 – travel to Ottawa

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Thurs Oct 23 – participate in CAF AGM and roundtable meeting

Fri Oct 24 – travel home

Sun Oct 26 – assist 1013 LP with move

Wed Oct 29 – attend FU MCC, Health and Wellness Forum and UW signing

Sun Nov 02 – travel to Comox, pick up NP and attend Local 1007 dinner

Mon Nov 03 – attend Local 1007 AGM and travel home

Tues Nov 04 – travel to Ottawa while DVP Jesson and the NP attend Local 1009 AGM

Wed Nov 05 – attend IE RP meeting and travel home while DVP Jesson and the NP attend Local 1013's and 1008's AGMs

Thurs Nov 06 – attend Local 1010's and 1016's AGMs during my Grand-daughters first birthday

Fri Nov 07 – do walk-about through a potential Convention Host Hotel, have breakfast with past VP Garry Robinson and attend Local 1017's AGM on way to Comox

Sat Nov 08 – attend Local 1017's AGM and Dinner

Sun Nov 09 – take NP to airport and travel home

Tues Nov 11 – travel to Winnipeg

Wed Nov 12 – attend 1CAD UMCC and travel home

Thurs Nov 13 – meet CFB Esq BCom, then meet with MP Randall Garrison

Fri Nov 14 – attend meeting with CFB Esq Formation Safety to discuss new ToRs for a joint meeting structure

Tues Nov 18 – donate 83<sup>rd</sup> pint of blood

TENTATIVE ACTIVITIES POST REPORT WRITING AND PRE-NE

Respectfully submitted by T. Mark Miller

VP/BC