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**To:** [president@ilwu.ca](mailto:president@ilwu.ca)



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Providing information by email to our members and fellow unionists

# ILWU Canada Waterfront eNews

Official e-newsletter publication of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Canada

May 23, 2014

## Arrest Announced in Murder of Al Paskell's Wife

Local 500 member Al Paskell's wife was brutally murdered in Surrey, BC and an arrest of a suspect was announced today. Read more about it [here](#).

## Panama Canal Expansion

You may have read about some of the construction problems and delays going on in regard to the expansion of the Panama Canal. Although it has been significantly delayed the construction goes on and within a couple of years will be completed.

No one is really sure exactly what the consequences will be once the larger ships are able to transit. Here is a link to a Journal of Commerce story that talks about some of the things that are being done to attract container business to the East Coast of the US, cargo that now is being handled on the West Coast of both the US and Canada. The container business never stands still.

This shows what is needed to stay competitive in the game, and is of much interest. We, as workers, and Terminal operators, are all chasing the same dollar, and it is the same in all Ports around the world. Shippers/ship owners are in control and are very competitive within their environment with alliances and arrangements with terminal operators. In this type of market, the whipsawing of workers and terminals/ports to find the lowest price advantage, and then moving again when the opportunity arises is business as usual..There is no concept of loyalty, only the short term gain.

[Read the article on the Journal of Commerce site.](#)



## New Officers of ILWU Canada Sworn In

At the ILWU Canada Executive Board held on Wednesday May 21 in the Maritime Labour Centre,

the new officers of ILWU Canada were sworn in. Details on the election, and plenty of other information, are posted on the ILWU Canada website at [www.ilwu.ca](http://www.ilwu.ca).

Mike Hurtubise of Local 502, the Election Officer elected by Convention, presented his report on the election, along with some recommendations for future elections. He will probably bring his recommendations forward to the next Convention in 2016. He has suggested that we consider a mail ballot for the next election.

The officers declared elected are: President Mark Gordienko (500), First Vice President Rob Ashton (500), Second Vice President Steve Nasby (514), Third Vice President Romeo Bordignon (502) and Secretary Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal (502).

## ILWU Local 400 Bargaining

Our Brothers and Sisters in [Local 400](#) are having a tough time in bargaining a new Agreement with Seaspan. They are now preparing to take a strike vote as Seaspan has decided to take a very hard line on reducing costs, and reducing the conditions that our members work under including major pension and benefit changes.

Part of the problem for our Members is the competition they have with non-union companies and a unionized company with a union that has much lower costs due to much lower work conditions.

Read below the attached statement just released by the Officers of [Local 400](#).



LOCAL 400  
Marine Section

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ILWU Local 400 is a strong supporter of the Pacific Gateway, we believe that we can have the safest Marine Industry in the world by working with Industry and Government regulators for our mutual benefit.

Seaspan is demanding 46 major concessions including destroying our Industry Benefit Plan, cutting pension contributions and demanding workplace flexibility that will increase fatigue and we believe make the Marine Industry less safe. ILWU Local 400's negotiating committee has a package of proposals as well but we are willing to accept the regular industry wage increases and simply roll over our collective agreement for a number of years, the term to be determined by the parties.

Seaspan's position is that they need these concessions to compete with Ledcor but Ledcor has the ability in their Collective Agreement with CLAC to lower conditions virtually at the whim of the Company. This will result in lower and less safe conditions throughout the industry. Ledcor will still hold a competitive advantage and it will be much more difficult to convince the people of BC that the Marine Industry is capable of safely increasing traffic in our Pacific Gateway.

ILWU Local 400 is intent on seeking allies to resolve this issue without taking it public, because our industry is already under severe scrutiny by environmentalists and local governments but we will defend our working conditions and wages in every way possible if we are forced to.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE AND WAREHOUSE UNION (CANADIAN AREA)

## Our Vocational and Career Technical Scholarships Deadline Is September 30 Of The Current Year For All ILWU Canada Scholarships

The following ILWU Canada scholarships are administered through the ILWU Canada office. They are offered to Active Members, dependents, sons and daughters of Active Members in good standing, with the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Canada.

[Read the Annual Scholarship Bulletin here.](#)

The [application form is available for download here](#) and is also available in all ILWU offices.

Three (3) Vocational/Career Technical scholarship awards of \$1,300 each, and Seven (7) scholarship awards of \$1,300 to honour the following:

Don Garcia, our late President  
Bill Kemp, our late First Vice President  
Frank Kennedy, our late Secretary Treasurer  
Craig Pritchett, our late founding President  
Roy Smith, our late founding Vice President and President  
Doug Sigurdson, President Emeritus of Local 514  
Arthur Quissy, a late Local 502 Member

## BC Teachers Contract Struggle and Rotating Strike Information

The Teachers negotiations are going nowhere and it now looks like the BC Teachers Federation is moving to rotating strikes, [Read More](#)



If you go to the BC Teachers Federation web page at <http://bctf.ca> there is a lot more information and if you click on the 'For Parents' link they supply detailed information on times and places on the upcoming one day rotating strikes. Remember 'An Injury to One Is An Injury To All'.

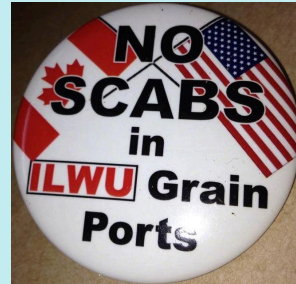
## The Pacific Northwest Grain Dispute Continues

The ILWU is still locked out on the two grain terminals on the Columbia River, one in Vancouver Washington with Local 4 and across the river at Portland Oregon with Local 8.

This is important to us here in Canada as some of the grain companies involved also operate here in Canada. With the [ITF](#) we have instituted a program here in BC to let the ships that have loaded behind picket lines know that we support our Brothers and Sisters that have been locked out.

We recently sent a donation to both Locals and they have both responded that this money will be very helpful as this dispute is now over a year old and it has had a big impact on all the members in this whole region. If you work on grain make sure you are wearing one of our buttons.

Some of your Officers have visited there several times and are planning to go back soon. You can read about some of the other Locals and how they are supporting [them here](#).



Read more about [Be More Than A Bystander](#)





# Be more than a bystander

**An injury to one is an injury to us all.**  
Together, we can **break the silence** on violence against women

Proud supporters of the BC Lions and EVA BC  
**Be More Than a Bystander** groundbreaking initiative  
to break the silence surrounding violence against women and girls



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