



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

Mar 13 , 2017

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

It has been an eventful few weeks at ILWU Canada. Our rally on Feb 23 when off with a bang. We were able to make our presence felt in the streets and heard in the upper floors of the high-rise towers downtown.

I was able to attend a conference on shipping the following week and the changes that are occurring in the broader shipping industry are going to affect us very soon. As the ocean carriers merge into ever larger alliances and ever larger ships start to visit our coast we will have to adapt. We have to be careful that we are not simply pawns in this global chess game.

Ships crews are one type of worker that are already being squeezed in this vicious cycle.

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- 2) More ships to be sent to scrap?
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- 7) Latest industry articles put together by [WESTAC](#).
- 8) Join the [Fight for \\$15](#). Sign the petition [today](#). Over 47,000 people have signed up already.

In solidarity

Bob Dhaliwal

Secretary Treasurer



Justice at last for crew abandoned in Algeria

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) is pleased to announce that the 17 crew members of the Sea Honest, who were abandoned unpaid and unprovisioned in Algeria in July 2016, have finally returned home.

The last group of five Indian seafarers left the ship last week en route to Mumbai. Another eight seafarers were paid and repatriated on 26 February, following the payment and return home of the two Turkish crew members also last month. Two Indian seafarers have been paid and have opted to remain on board.

ITF inspector Mohamed Arrachedi explained: "The good news is that this long-suffering crew is now being repatriated, and the even better news is that they are now in receipt of the wages they have been owed throughout their long ordeal. These total USD151,823."

He continued: "Their patience and resolution has paid off, and we all appreciate the help given them by Algerian trade unions, the port authority of Algiers Port and the embassies of India and Turkey. Without their and the ITF's help these men would have starved."

The Panama-flagged ship is owned by the Turkish company Vera Shipping, which settled the crew wages

The Panama flagged ship is owned by the Pakistan company Vera Shipping, which cutted the crew wages and has recruited new seafarers on board.

One of the crew members sent the following letter to Mohamed Arrachedi: *"We the Indian officers and crew of MV Sea Honest would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the help and support you have given us all these 7 months. We are very thankful for the provisions and moral support you provided us when our life was in danger. Today all our problems are solved and it is all because of your hard work and concern. You always answered our calls and messages no matter what day or time and always guided us in every situation.*

Today we are going home after all this bad 7 months.

We would like our fellow seafarers to know that we are not alone. The ITF is always with us to support us in all possible ways. Don't be afraid in any such situations, approach them and your problems will be looked after. Thank you very much Mr Mohamed Arrachedi and Seddik Berrama and everyone who has been a part of solving this distress of MV Sea Honest.

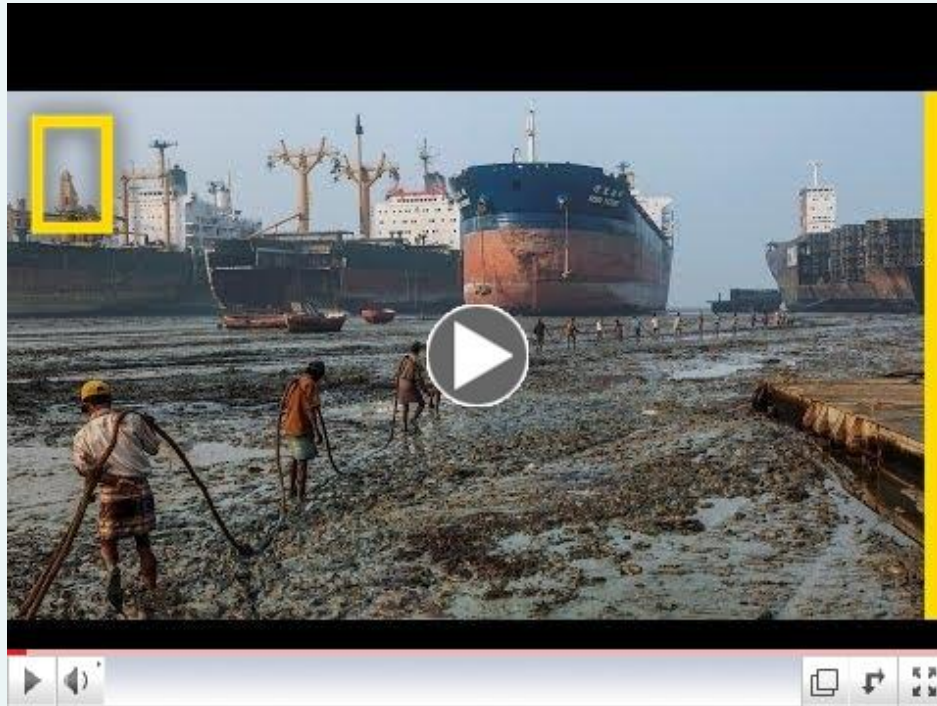
Surging steel price boosts scrap value of redundant containerships



Watch this short documentary on ship breaking in Bangladesh. It shows the real cost to workers who carry out this dirty business. There are several other main ship-breaking cities in India and Pakistan. Over 100 workers are killed every year, not to mention the many that are maimed and injured.

2016 - 862 ships dismantled worldwide - 668 ended up on the beach □ 27,4 million

GT dismantled worldwide - 23,8 million GT were beached □ India scrapped the most ships in numbers, but Bangladesh broke most in terms of GT, indicating that it was the preferred destination for the larger vessels □ EU ship recycling yards dismantled small-size vessels



A sharp increase in steel prices has prompted a new wave of vessel scrapping, bringing the supply-demand ratio in container shipping further into balance.

According to the latest report from London shipbroker Braemar ACM, containership scrapping this year has already reached 56, amounting to 185,500 teu. This compares with 16 ships (45,000 teu) in the same period of 2016.

Moreover, the delivery of newbuild tonnage has slowed considerably, with only 18 vessels, totalling 91,500 teu, having been delivered so far this year. Over 2016, there were 189 demolitions (658,000 teu), according to Braemar - a new record for the container industry.

The latest driving force is twofold: plenty of surplus tonnage, particularly in a panamax sector the industry would do well to get rid of, and steel prices have firmed significantly since the low point of 2016.

By 6 February, the idle containership fleet had swelled to 342 ships (1.32m teu), according to Alphaliner data, with liner voyages blanked and ad-hoc demand disappearing during the Chinese new year holiday.

This included 47 classic panamax vessels seeking employment in a charter market where daily hire rates have collapsed to only \$4,250-\$5,000 - below operating cost.

Rolls-Royce Gets Research Grant for Smart Ships



UK-based power systems provider Rolls-Royce has received an approval for a research grant by Tekes - the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation, supporting its aim to make remote and autonomous shipping a reality.

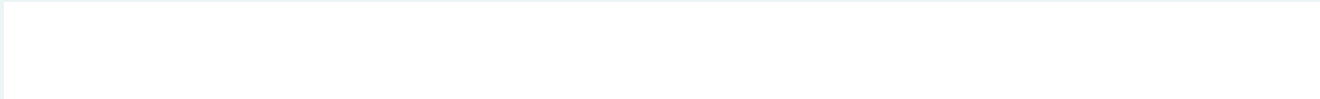
The company said that the funding would enable it to invest further in a research and development centre in Turku, Finland.

Rolls-Royce plans to carry out further development projects there focused on the future development of land-based control centres, and the use of artificial intelligence in future remote and autonomous shipping operations.

"Digitalisation will transform the shipping industry in the years ahead, and the time is now right to set out how we are going to make this happen. Over the coming years we need to invest globally to develop the required capabilities and to establish a range of market-ready products and systems to take advantage of what is a significant global market opportunity," Mikael Mäkinen, Rolls-Royce, President - Marine, said.

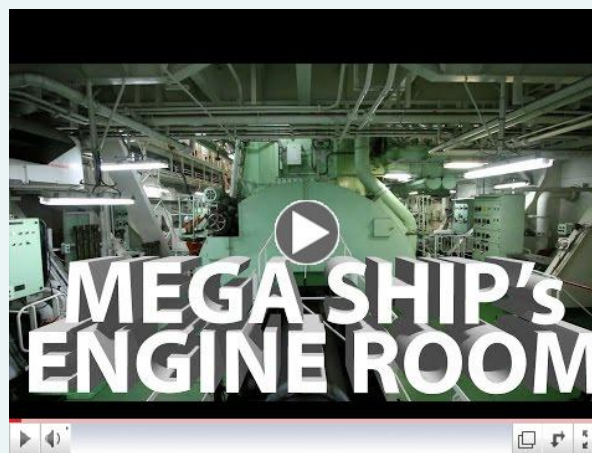
In Norway, the company is currently investing in a range of R&D projects, which will include a new Marine Fleet Management Centre in Alesund, to allow

which will include a new Marine Fleet Management Centre in Aalesund, to allow remote monitoring, data analysis, optimisation of ships and their on board equipment.



Check out this tour of a Mega Ship Engine Room. The sheer size will amaze you.

The video is from marine Vlogger JeffHK, who has been documenting his life on-board vessels as a third mate. In this video, Jeff gives a tour of the megaship he is currently working on. Keep up with his life at sea [here](#).



Mega-Alliances Causing Concerns





The April 1, 2017, launch of THE Alliance and Ocean Alliance - the largest in history, have been created in response to the Maersk Line and MSC 2M network, but has so far provided patchy information since announcements in November.

The consultancy said this is giving some industry stakeholders "cause for concern". With six weeks until the launches, only the service names and rotations have been publicly divulged by some of the carriers, with brochures missing some of the port names and crucial information such as size of ships being deployed by the services and days of the week for port calls.

Without this information it is difficult for ports and terminals to properly plan future workloads. However, it is not yet clear what kind of direct contact carriers may have had.

Dear Friend,

When airlines banned the use of Samsung's Note 7 after its fire-prone batteries started to spontaneously combust, the public got a sense of the fear that Samsung supply chain workers face on a daily basis.

Because beneath Samsung's shiny exterior as global electronics giant is a corporate culture that is callously geared towards maximising profit to the detriment of the everyday lives of its workers. **It's a modern tech company with medieval labor practices**, whose calling cards are union busting, poverty wages, and insecure and unsafe work conditions.

This week Samsung's modern face is on full display at the Mobile World Congress in

Barcelona, where tech industry giants are gathering to unveil the latest in smartphones, tablets and mobile tech. Who's not invited to the glitzy convention? **The largely invisible workforce of 1.5 million low-paid supply chain workers from across the globe** who make Samsung products under precarious and sometimes deadly conditions.

Join with us to help bring the stories of Samsung's hidden workers to Mobile World Congress and the attention of the world's tech elite. [Share now.](#)

It wouldn't take much for Samsung treat their workers with dignity and pay a living wage. **Our research shows Samsung makes \$10,435 in profit for every supply chain worker** -- meaning if they increased wages of \$50 per month (just \$600 per year) to reach a minimum living wage in Asia, they would still make \$9,835 per worker. A tidy sum, even for a company so ruthlessly devoted to profit.

For Hesty, who works in semiconductor production in Indonesia, a minimum wage on which she can live from Samsung would mean being able to pay for basics for her family such as clothes, food and childcare, without having to worry about whether her wages will last until the next pay day.

Though Samsung would have to suffer very little to raise wages across its supply chain, its workers pay a huge price for the work they do: **at least 79 workers have died of cancer related diseases after being exposed to chemicals used in the Samsung production process.** And did the company take responsibility? Indeed not -- they refused to name the chemical that led to the deaths, citing trade secrets.

It's time Samsung and other tech giants acknowledged the true cost of modern tech by shedding their medieval practices. With all eyes on Samsung at the Mobile World Congress right now, your shares right now will have maximum impact.

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

Thank you for all you do,

Sharan Burrow,
ITUC General Secretary.

[WESTAC](#) is a non-profit society of major transportation organizations in Western Canada represented by business, labour, and government decision-makers. The ILWU is a founding member and holds two positions on the Executive Board, one is Local 333 Grain Workers President Gerry Gault and the other through the ILWU Affiliate in Saskatchewan the Grain Services Union General Secretary Hugh Wagner.

March 3

Bulk Products

1 result

[Wall steps up in lentil dispute](#)

The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)

March 3rd, 2017

Premier Brad Wall says the Saskatchewan government will help the federal government make the "science-based case" that India should extend an exemption that allows Canadian pulse crops to be treated for pests on arrival in India rather than before ...

Economy/Trade

1 result

[BoC issues climate-change warning; Environmental effects and carbon-tax-induced inflation will slow economic growth, ...](#)

The Globe and Mail

March 3rd, 2017

Canada's economy is already taking a hit from global warming, including more frequent droughts and forest fires plus a burst of carbon-tax-induced inflation, a top Bank of Canada official says. "Climate ...

Energy

1 result

[Risk at the refinery: Alberta's multibillion-dollar bet](#)

The Globe and Mail

February 25th, 2017

In a rural industrial zone northeast of Edmonton, a deadline draws near. Just months remain before the country's first newbuilt refinery in decades is set to begin operations, and more than 5,000 workers are labouring around the clock in the dense ...

Environment

1 result

["Risk of overland flooding remains moderate to major" across Manitoba: Blaine Pedersen](#)

THE NATIONAL

February 27th, 2017

PETER MANSBRIDGE (HOST): The Manitoba government issued its latest forecast for spring flooding today. BLAINE PEDERSEN (MANITOBA INFRASTRUCTURE MINISTER): (Winnipeg) The risk of overland flooding remains moderate ...

Infrastructure

1 result

[John Ivison: Liberals' hopes in infrastructure plan to grow Canada's economy dimmed by fiscal realities](#)

News - National Post

February 28th, 2017

When Bill Morneau was asked about a Finance department report that predicted Canada will not balance its budget until 2050, and also forecast the national debt will more than double to \$1.5 trillion, he was unperturbed. The report did not take ...

Innovation & Technology

2 results

[William Watson: Why worry about aging when the robots might save us all?](#)

Financial Post

March 2nd, 2017

Maybe this aging thing won't be so bad, after all. Not personal aging. As Jimmy Stewart once said (according to my colleague John Robson): "After 70, it's all patch, patch, patch." It's hard to believe physical decline won't be a melancholy process. ...

[Start-up aims to drive more clients to its shipping platform](#)

The Washington Post

February 26th, 2017

A logistics start-up seeks help adding new customers. - Dan BeyersThe entrepreneurs: Somil Desai earned his undergraduate degree in information systems and completed a dual MS/MBA program in marketing management. He went on to start his career in ...

Workforce

1 result

[Four tips for helping women climb the corporate ladder; Also in this compendium: How tech freezes out women and how to increase gender ...](#)

theglobeandmail.com

March 3rd, 2017

How can we help more women climb the mountain of career success in conventional workplaces? Three Bain & Company consultants say it starts with front-line managers. "As every climber knows, having a seasoned guide - someone who knows the different ...

WESTAC Event Reminder: On March 14, WESTAC and the Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table are hosting a roundtable to discuss advancing women in leadership roles within transportation. The roundtable is complimentary and open to men and women. More info [here](#).

Marine

5 results

[CEO of Seaspan Announces His Retirement](#)

Maritime Executive

[Permalink](#)

February 28th, 2017

On Monday, Vancouver-based shipbuilder and vessel operator Seaspan ULC announced the retirement of longtime CEO Jonathan Whitworth. Frank Butzelaa...

[Living/Working | Business in Vancouver](#)

www.biv.com

[Permalink](#)

March 3rd, 2017

Port among group of five that poses a growing threat to EU market share in shipping, according to Deloitte analysis

[Why a shift to cleaner marine fuels could hurt Canadian oil: the International Maritime Organization is implementing a ...](#)

theglobeandmail.com

March 2nd, 2017

Cast your mind back to that holiday moment on the rear deck of a cruise ship. Did you notice the trail of greasy black smoke under the azure sky? Ocean liners and almost every other working vessel on the high seas are burning the dirtiest fuels on ...

[Thunder Bay shipyard owners reveal their plans](#)

Thunder Bay Source

[Permalink](#)

February 28th, 2017

from the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission as well as the Thunder Bay Port Authority. Padulo said Fabmar "will form the cornerstone of Heddle's operations at the Thunder Bay Shipyard." He added that although it ...

[Port Of Vancouver Rides High On Grain Exports](#)

www.marinelink.com

[Permalink](#)

March 1st, 2017

The Port of Vancouver marked its third consecutive year of record volumes in bulk grain in 2016, its fifth year of an upward trend. Bulk grain export volumes through the port increased 1.3 percent from 2015, to reach 21.8 million metric tons in ...

FIGHT FOR \$15 Minimum Wage

[It is time to increase the minimum wage and address income inequality in BC.](#)



[At \\$10.85/hr BC's minimum wage is one of the lowest in Canada. As the cost of living continues to go up, workers earning minimum wage cannot make ends meet.](#)

[BC's minimum wage leaves full-time workers living below the poverty line](#)

BC's minimum wage leaves full-time workers living below the poverty line.

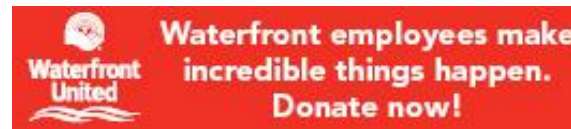
The BC Federation of Labour believes that work should lift you out of poverty. It's time for the BC government to increase the minimum wage so that nobody is left behind.

Help us fight for \$15/hr. It's only fair!

Sign the petition!

[Click the image below to visit the Fight For \\$15 website.](#)

FIGHT FOR 15



Waterfront News

Reminder

The Waterfront News is the newsletter produced by ILWU Canada and mailed to members several times per year. The Dispatcher is the newsletter produced by our International Union and is also mailed to members several times per year. ILWU Canada keeps an address database for both of these, but we only receive addresses from the Locals or the Members directly.



[Copies of past editions of the Waterfront News are available here:](#)

[Copies of past editions of the Dispatcher are available here:](#)

If you are a Member of the ILWU in Canada, or on the A or B boards in any of the Longshore Locals you are entitled to receive one or both of these. If you are not receiving it now you should contact your Local to make sure they have your current address.

You can also send us an e-mail at communicate@ilwu.ca or phone us at 604-254-8141 to update us.



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[Second Vice President Steve Nasby](#)

[Third Vice President Romeo Bordignon](#)

[Secretary Treasurer Bob Dhaliwal](#)