



Providing information by email to our members and fellow unionists

ILWU Canada **Waterfront eNews**

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July 22, 2016

New Statue Planned For Tacoma Will Honor Labor Leader And ILWU Founder Harry Bridges

A towering figure in U.S. labor history will be honored with a statue in Tacoma. The sculpture will commemorate Harry Bridges, founder of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, known as the ILWU.

Bridges was born in 1901 in Australia. According to the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies at the University of Washington, Bridges settled in San Francisco in 1920 and became a longshoreman.

He rose to prominence in a major maritime strike in 1934 and founded the ILWU, which he led until 1977. He's remembered for leading a largely democratically controlled union and for pushing for racial equality.

Now union members have contributed money to create a bronze statue of him. Sculptor Paul Michaels says he's taking a bit of artistic license - for example, the statue will be more imposing than Bridges was in real life.

"He was 5'6". We're kind of making him kind of heroic. He's going to be about 6'3" or 6'4"," he said.

Michaels says the statue will be ready in September. He says it will at first be displayed in Fife at the Local 23 union hall. The permanent home for the piece hasn't been decided yet, but Michaels says it will likely be an educational institution, such as the University of Washington Tacoma or perhaps Bates

Technical College.

Mike Jagielski, president of the ILWU Local 23 Pension Club, said the statue was the dream of a Tacoma pensioner named Emil Korjan, who has since passed away and left a bequest to help fund creation of the sculpture.

Jagielski said the statue will be a lasting tribute to Bridges and the substantial contributions of longshore workers to Tacoma.

"These workers helped create a major port on the West Coast, which became the economic engine for Pierce County," he said in an email.



ITF upholds cabotage role to TTIP stakeholders

The ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) has upheld the vital role of maritime cabotage in protecting jobs, economies and skills at a TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) stakeholder event in Brussels, Belgium.

ITF seafarers' section secretary Jon Whitlow addressed the meeting's audience of TTIP negotiators.

He told them: *The ITF welcomes the opportunity to state our position on behalf of our affiliates regarding the labour and maritime transport issues under discussion in TTIP and trade agreements in general. Trade agreements should be an opportunity to improve workers' rights and have as a primary objective the facilitation of full employment and decent working conditions for the workers of the contracting parties. Therefore, we believe that TTIP should include a strong, legally binding labour chapter, with recognition of ILO global labour standards as minimum standards and EU and US standards on social and labour rights and should exclude transport from the scope of the negotiations*

Jon Whitlow concluded: *There is no reason for either side in TTIP to seek access to the other's domestic cabotage regimes or to restrict measures by either party to grow their national first registers and national seafaring jobs. And therefore, since access to the international maritime trades on both sides of the Atlantic is already open, there is no reason for the European Commission to continue to call for a maritime services chapter in TTIP.*

ITF president **Paddy Crumlin** commented: "The ITF and its unions are committed to defending cabotage, which is in operation in 47 countries. We are on record as pointing out that failing to protect cabotage undermines sovereignty and has national security implications. It also has serious economic implications for maritime regions and communities."



Supreme Court Ruling Protects Non-Union Workers From Unjust Dismissal

OTTAWA, ONTARIO; Jul 14, 2016

Today's Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruling in *Wilson v. AECL* will deliver accountability and fairness to roughly 500,000 non-unionized federal employees, said the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC). The SCC upheld the interpretation that, under the Canada Labour Code, dismissing an employee without cause is unjust, and therefore not permitted. "This ruling is a win for all federally-regulated employees, particularly those who do not currently benefit from the protection of a union. Now, about half a million people can rest assured that they can't be terminated by their employers at will.

Employers must have just cause for firing an employee," said CLC President Hassan Yussuff. The plaintiff in the case, Joseph Wilson, was fired from Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) after having reported improper procurement practices within the organization. AECL never specifically denied having terminated Wilson's employment for whistleblowing. Instead, AECL argued that because they paid him severance in lieu of notice, the dismissal was legal, and that termination without cause did not necessarily mean the termination was unjust.

The CLC and other Canadian unions intervened on behalf of the 500,000 non-union workers employed in banks, telecommunications, transportation companies and some Crown corporations, who will be affected by the ruling. "We hope today's ruling sends a wake-up call to employers. Firing someone without cause or warning is unfair, plain and simple. I applaud the court for recognizing this and upholding the principles of the Labour Code in their decision today," said Yussuff. The federal government has already committed to performing a review later this year of Part III of the Canada Labour Code, which covers unjust dismissal

protection."We will keep pushing to strengthen protections for all workers. The government needs to seize this opportunity to more clearly define 'unjust dismissal' and reconfirm the original intent of a law intended to ensure that workers are treated fairly," said Yussuff.

The Canadian Labour Congress, the national voice of the labour movement, represents 3.3 million Canadian workers.

FIGHT FOR \$15 Minimum Wage

It is time to increase the minimum wage and address income inequality in BC.



At \$10.45/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.

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.](#)



For those participating in the upcoming BC Fed sponsored Vancouver Pride parade Sunday July 31, please on the link below:

[Multi-Union Pride](#)

**Western Transportation
Advisory Council**



[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 ILWU Canada President Rob Ashton and the other through the ILWU Affiliate in Saskatchewan the Grain Services Union General Secretary Hugh Wagner.

[Click here for the weekly information package we receive from Westac, with links to many interesting articles that relate to transportation.](#)

WESTAC Info Service **July 11 to 16, 2016**

Bulk Products

Wheat farmers thinking big - Winnipeg Free Press (Canada)

Mosaic temporarily cuts 330 jobs at potash mine - Times Colonist (Victoria)

Economics and Trade

Mainland China import and export falls accelerated in June - China Post

Infrastructure

Beating the low-productivity trap: How to transform construction operations - McKinsey & Company

Innovation & Technology

Nippon Steel devises lighter, stronger auto steel - Nikkei

Marine

St. Lawrence Seaway facing uncharted waters over Europe, domestic shipping - Cornwall News Watch

What Needs to be Done to Alleviate Port Congestion - Material Handling Management

'It's not just oil': Vancouver Port's expansion delayed as NIMBYism threatens vital projects - Financial Post

Workforce

Canada's gateway to Pacific trade faces labour shortages - Business in Vancouver
Supreme Court rules federally regulated workers have protection against unfair dismissal - Globe and Mail

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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