

# Newfoundland & Labrador

Newsletter October 2020

## Message from Regional Manager



Hello Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach Thanksgiving this weekend, I want to extend a happy Thanksgiving to each of you and your families. The past seven months have been extraordinary times for each of us, our brotherhood, our industry and the world around us.

As Newfoundlanders & Labradorians we should be proud and grateful for the tremendous job we have been doing dealing with COVID-19 in our province and be optimistic that world scientists will have vaccines ready in the coming months. As the cold and flu season approaches, it is very important that we continue to follow healthcare professionals advice and respect public health protocols in our workplace, home and community.

I hope you take a few minutes to read the information provided in this newsletter. Have a happy and safe weekend!

Yours in solidarity,

*Mike Williams*

Mike Williams

## Organizing Team

Nose to the grindstone is an understatement when describing the work our organizing team has been putting in during this global pandemic. In August of this year, Local 579 filed a union certification application at the Labour Board on Grieg NL. The days that followed resulted in; a breach of members' confidentiality by the Labour Board; our union filing a complaint on our members' behalf at the Office of the Privacy Commissioner; and the subsequent filing of an unfair labour practice complaint. A hearing date is expected to be scheduled in the coming days. In the meantime, your union leadership will continue to hammer away to look for fair representation for workers, increased industry representation at the Labour Board and changes to the Labour Relations Act to bring us up to a level with the rest of our country. Now more than ever, it is vital for our union to pull together and support our organizing team as they strive to reach the UBC goal to achieve 70 percent of market share in the crafts we represent. Every company that is unionized, increases market share and this means more jobs for our members. There are currently two active applications filed at the Labour Board.

## Federal Government Programs

There have been a number of inquiries from members regarding qualifications for Employment Insurance Benefits. The Government of Canada has made some changes to existing programs as the CERB program ends.

**Simplified Employment Insurance:** Individuals with a minimum of 120 hours of work, claimants will receive a one-time insurance credit to bring them up to 420 hours so that they qualify for EI. The hours credit will be retroactive to March 15th. Claimants will receive a minimum of \$400 per week. Minimum entitlement of 26 weeks regular benefits.

**Canada Recovery Benefit:** Individuals who are not eligible for EI, can receive \$400 per week for up to 26 weeks. To qualify, individuals had to have employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or 2020. Workers would have to apply after every 2 week period.

Complete details on each program can be found at the following web-page: <https://rebrand.ly/SupportForWorkers>. Inquiries or questions can be directed to you Federal MP. Their contact information can be found here: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members>



## Supporting our Community

Local 579 Executive members: Neil Mulrooney and Mike Williams attended the 2020 Janeway Children's Miracle Network Telethon to donate \$60,000 on behalf of Local 579.







Photo Credit: The Telegram

## Muskrat Falls Project, Labrador

The Muskrat Falls Project has had significant challenges since start up of construction in 2013. It has also contributed greatly to the construction industry of Newfoundland and Labrador. Just recently, on September 22nd the project reached a major achievement by generating its first hydro power on Unit 1. Power for Unit 2 is expected by the end of 2020.

Congratulations to members of Local 579 and Millwrights Local 1009 who worked on the site for your contribution in this provincial mega project.





# Welcome to Aspiria

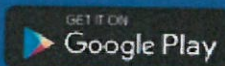


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With the ongoing COVID -19 crisis impacting all aspects of how we work and learn, CMC Newfoundland and Labrador took a different approach this year with our fall enrollment. In addition to our safety members, we had over 40 new students register for our Pre-Employment Carpentry and Industrial Mechanic programs; all arriving on September 8th to start their training.

In the past, all students arrived as one large group to register for their programs and then continued to an orientation, lunch, and a tour of the College. With lots of planning from our Administrative staff, we had the students preregister through one-on-one meetings with our administrative personnel. The students were then preassigned classes for their arrival on September 8th. Tours and lunch were staggered and completed in classroom "bubbles" in accordance with standard safety measures (physical distancing & masks). All students were also required to read our COVID Recovery Policy and our Student Manual prior to attending the College. This process took a lot of planning and preparation, but in the end proved to be more efficient and will continue in the future.

We also give weekly surveys to all students and staff to gauge how CMC is doing with our COVID safety measures. The feedback will let us know what we are doing well or where we need to improve. To date the survey results have indicated that the registration process made everyone feel comfortable and safe.

Picture below: NL UBC delegates for 42nd General Convention held virtually in Fredricton, NB in August. Congratulations to the McCarron Team on their re-election!



The Office to Advance Women Apprentices is excited to announce that we have opened a new satellite office in Corner Brook. While we have always offered services province-wide, we are eager to provide more hands-on, localized services for tradeswomen, women interested in trades, small employers and contractors on the west coast and throughout Labrador.

We are located at 10 Main Street, Corner Brook, in the Carpenter/Millwright suite of offices. Our West Coast Project Coordinator, Jennifer Brake Strickland, will be available to meet with clients, employers and industry in person or electronically and is looking forward to connecting tradeswomen with employers in the Western and Labrador regions of Newfoundland.

## Dispatching Update

The Pandemic has slowed work down tremendously in the province but work is slowly starting to rebound. There are active projects at IOC, Voisey Bay, Muskrat Falls, Wabush, NL Hydro, St. John's and surrounding area, Corner Brook and Grand-Falls Windsor. Summary of members working:

- Carpenters Union Local 579 – 399
- Millwrights Union Local 1009 - 179

Members are reminded to keep all safety training up to date to be work ready. Members should also complete the new COVID-19 Awareness Training by registering with CMC.

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