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**CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE  
AND ALLIED WORKERS CANADA**

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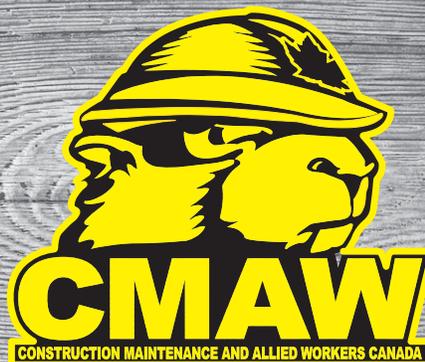
**SUMMER/FALL 2020**

*Happy*

**LABOUR**



★ ★ ★ **DAY** ★ ★ ★



**CMAW.CA**

# A message from Chris, CMAW President



2020 has been quite the year so far and I think it is reasonable to say that Covid-19 has impacted everyone, one way or another. The world we now reside in is definitely a different place, from holding meetings via ZOOM, which is now somewhat of a normal practice, to physical/social distancing and wearing masks etc. If the Covid pandemic has done anything good, it is how we treat people and conduct ourselves and businesses in a time where people may be vulnerable and that these practices and actions will continue to make everyday life better.

Since this pandemic started early in February of this year, many people have found themselves in a position at their workplace where they are putting their wellbeing at risk in order to provide an essential service. What was once a normal visit to the barber, dentist or the grocery store, and the way we went about our daily lives, has forever changed. These changes have affected our members when construction was deemed an essential service, so I would like to extend a big thank you to all of the members who, during these times, put themselves out there and continued to work these past months. And to all of the essential workers, CMAW is grateful and thanks you for your hard work and dedication.

2020 was to be a convention year for CMAW and when the pandemic hit, we were forced to make a decision whether to continue with convention as scheduled, but with reduced numbers, or hold the convention electronically, depending on the Provincial Health Authorities position on group gatherings. Your Executive Board had a lengthy discussion and decided to delay the convention to April 2021 in the hopes that, by then, we can host a full convention as per usual. We truly value the delegate participation and look forward to engaging with the membership at our convention in early 2021.

During the past months we have had many enquiries about the pension and benefit plans and their current position. I am happy to report that the CMAW Trustees on your plans have done an

excellent job in their roles and have ensured our assets were monitored carefully during this time. I can say, with complete confidence, your plans assets are in a good position and the Trustees will continue to monitor them to ensure we all have strong and healthy plans well into the future.

The work continues and we have a strong outlook for the foreseeable future. The Community Benefits Agreement (CBA) has started work with Emil Anderson on the Illecillewaet Project and work will be starting in the Lower Mainland on the Patullo Bridge replacement, scheduled to start late this fall. The CBA's initiative is to provide locals with the opportunity to grow within their trade and have long term work on the projects included within the CBA. It will also provide a great opportunity for both Indigenous and women in the trades to be a priority hire for all jobs covered within the agreement. Other projects proposed in the CBA are the skytrain extension from Vancouver Community College to Arbutus, with the hope that UBC will help fund the extension to the University.

Covid-19 has also impacted the Site C project. The project scaled down during the first few months of the pandemic and is more than likely going to push the completion date out further. Our members are well underway delivering the 4,500 person camp to LNGC with our Local 1081/1735 members working with ATCO Structures & Logistics, and there is the potential for the camp to expand to 6,000. We are continuing to work and secure more opportunities at LNGC through other contractors.

The future looks bright for CMAW members, there are a plethora of opportunities to have long term employment for our members and we look to continue to grow and expand our organization to provide safe and prosperous employment for all members.

As we enjoy this Labour Day weekend may we take a moment to reflect on the hard times and fights to support the Labour movement and for better working conditions for the working class.

Stay safe & healthy.

In Solidarity,  
Chris Wasilenchuk

## CMAW LOCAL 2020 – VANCOUVER ISLAND AND SUNSHINE COAST



Local 2020's Business Agent, Andrew Brown believes in always supporting his community as much as he can. Given the area his Local covers that can sometimes be a big job!

When the recent motion that permitted Locals to donate up to \$500 to a food bank

in their area was announced, Andrew and his team were ready and this time, selected the Victoria food bank as the community they were going to focus on.

For Local 2020 this was not a one-time deal to be community focused because they annually provide a \$250.00 donation to the Campbell River food bank



to help feed the less fortunate in that community. And it isn't just about those less fortunate or those who are hungry; Local 2020 is involved in supporting those with addictions through things like supporting the Family Manual, which is a reference guide sent out within different communities that has all the contacts for substance abuse services along with articles on concerns such as domestic violence, or drug use. If they aren't involved enough, they also sponsor a Campbell River bowling league and a hole for the men's night at Storey Creek Golf Course.

Local 2020 is definitely doing all it can to support its communities!

*Article idea submitted by Andrew Brown, Local 2020 Business Representative*



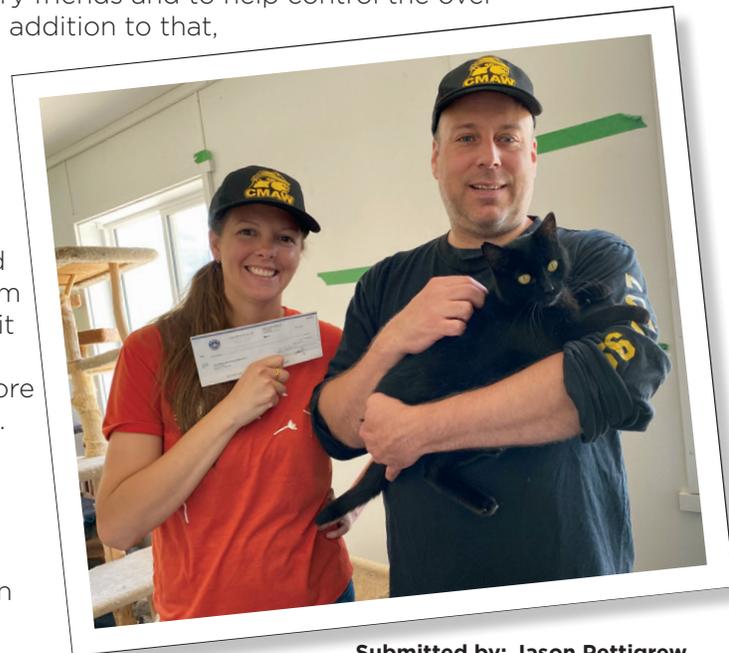
## LOCAL 99 ALBERTA/SASKATCHEWAN SUPPORTS LITTLE MITTENS



Just a 2-hour drive from Calgary is a little non-profit organization doing a big job, with a big name: Little Mittens Animal Rescue Association. They are a group of animal lovers dedicated to the well-being of our furry friends and to help control the over-population of feral cats and kittens. In addition to that, they find homes for cats and kittens living on the streets, provide shelter and care for homeless animals and rescue, rehabilitate, and release wild small mammals and birds.

This association relies on a lot of volunteers to help in their mission and one such volunteer is Local 99 Member Conrad Hayter. In fact, his entire family volunteers at the shelter from time to time. So, when the Covid-19 Pandemic came about it meant that the volunteers couldn't help out and in addition to that, it also meant that donations stopped, leaving the core group scrambling to provide for all the animals in their care.

When CMAW Canada passed a motion for each Local to donate up to \$500 to their local food bank or a deserving charity in their community, Local 99 instantly knew they wanted to present their donation to Little Mittens! Conrad was more than happy to be the one to make the donation in person, knowing it would go a long way to help.



Submitted by: Jason Pettigrew

## COVID HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR SKILLED LOCAL WORKERS ACROSS BC

Article submitted by Mike Jensen, President & Business Representative for Local 1081/1735 - Northwest

CMAW 1081 and 1735 are busy in Kitimat at LNGC with 170 or so members employed on site with several contractors.

Northwest construction locals have been busy seeking new opportunities for members that are not related to the LNGC project. Local contractors are busy, and our membership continues to grow. The increased work options with our Locals means that we now have a more diverse membership by trade, but also by demographic.

We took in 4 of the 10-person cohort from the first round of Your Place, that's a program that JFJV has created in Kitimat to get more women into the trades. Three of these members have been gainfully employed with our contractors ever since and the fourth found employment in a field more to her liking. All have reported back to the program about the positive impact that our Union has had on their newfound career in construction.

DCM is making its presence known in the area and we are getting work on sites that we have not in many years.

Ron Wolfe has been a member of Local 1735 since the 80s and can't remember the last time he had an industrial job right in his hometown.



Northwest BC is fairly remote and prior to the highway and airport improvements in the mid 90s nearly every company with work in the area would work with us; realizing the cost savings that come from using local workers. This model has served us well over the years.

Travel restrictions and Covid-19 in general, have made us realize that CMAW has and will continue to do it right. Local workers doing local work is not only a good business model for the Union, project owners and contractors; but it keeps the local economy healthy while at the same time reducing the health risks to local residents and the community at large.

*Skeena Bio, pictured, is a pellet plant in Terrace. They produce wood fiber pellets for domestic use and export from Prince Rupert. Left to right is Ron Wolfe 1735, Iian Macormac 1735 and Richard Hambrook BC manager for DCM.*

# LOCAL 1998 Helping to feed Families in Quesnel

June 1st, 2020

I met up with Cleo to present her with a \$125 gift card from Safeway and \$125 a gift card from Extra Foods in Quesnel. Both of these companies have been helping her to feed families and homeless people in Quesnel.

Cleo tells me that she started this project about 16 months ago in March of 2019, when she found a need in the community that was not being met by other agencies and she wanted to help people locally.

With the family hamper program she takes referrals to help people out temporarily until they can get back on their feet usually in about 6 months time. Single parents and the elderly have benefited greatly and many have helped her with the program by making deliveries, fixing hampers, supplying baked goods, fixing sandwiches and providing what they can, when they can, to benefit others. Cleo says she will come home and find people have dropped things off anonymously outside her door.



*\$250 in Gift Certificates Presented from CMAW Local 1998's Barb Bachmeier to Cleo Stromquist for Food Hampers for Families and for Single Serving Soups & Sandwiches to help the Homeless in Quesnel get through their day*

Over the period since she started the hamper program, she has caused to have delivered 477 hampers to needy families. She started with a weekly hamper but is currently delivering hampers once every 10 days. For now she is delivering hampers to 6 families. The number of requests for hampers and the supply of donations, determines the number of hampers that get delivered.

Due to Covid-19, Cleo started taking on Street Food where she prepares single serving soups and makes up sandwiches, which are then delivered to areas where Homeless People can access them. Since March of 2020 she has made 18 street food drops with anywhere from 18 to 48 servings each. One of the main reasons that she started this program is due to Seasons House not being able to feed people who are not sleeping in their homeless shelter. Cleo tries to make these food drops when no other organization is open or making food drops.

Cleo has many stories from the people she has helped. Many are grateful for the hamper; they didn't know how they were going to cope and this is the one thing that has really helped them get through their day, gives them a leg up so they can concentrate on making adjustments to their lives.

Cleo is a very generous and kind person who is grateful for all the help from the community to help others. She uses all of the donations she receives to put towards the Food Hamper Program and the Soup & Sandwich Program while giving freely of her time.

She says that just when she thinks she is done with these programs, gifts of money and food arrive from community members and so she continues to feed the hungry in Quesnel.

Submitted by: Barb Bachmeier  
Construction, Maintenance and Allied Workers Union of Canada  
Local 1998 Prince George, Quesnel, Dawson Creek (CMAW)



***Thank you to our members for recognizing the need to help others,  
who are less fortunate, in our communities.***



When the CMAW Local 1237 decided to sell their Union Hall in Dawson Creek, the proceeds from the sale were donated to establish a Pre-Apprentice Bursary fund.

On average there are six \$500.00 bursaries awarded each year and to qualify the applicants have to meet certain criteria; be enrolled in a carpentry pre-apprenticeship program, be a resident of BC and submit a 500 word essay on why they want to be a carpenter. From the many applications submitted, the CMAW

Training Committee reviews all the essays and selects the deserving individuals.

So when Wade Stinn, a young Vernon resident, was contemplating a career path after high school, he decided to sign up for the Carpentry Foundations Program being offered by the Okanagan College. As soon as he had enrolled in the Foundations program, he submitted his application for the Pre-Apprentice Bursary and sent in his essay to CMAW, which was selected as one of the six winners.

Wade has even taken that next exciting step and become a Member, signing up with Local 1346 (Thompson/Okanagan). Congratulations Wade and welcome to CMAW, Brother!

### **Why I Want to be a Carpenter** By Wade Stinn

*When people think of carpentry, what often comes to mind first is difficult jobs and hard labor, but as some may see, there are many perks of being a carpenter in a world where trades demand is still rising. These skills consist of self-reliance, problem solving, great work ethic, and determination.*

*The largest factor of why I want to be a skilled carpenter is being self reliant and independent. A carpenter's knowledge can be very broad; this can come in hand all throughout the trials of life and can be applied to much more rather than just building techniques. This appealed to me greatly, especially because, nowadays, the supply of admirable skilled carpenters, are dwindling; because people would rather pay to have it fixed, than to learn how to fix it. A carpenter is an adept tradesman, who gets experience not only from his own work, but also works and learns with other trades. This makes a carpenter more knowledgeable and diverse than most. The experience a carpenter gets from working can be different everyday depending on the job at hand. I chose to pursue carpentry mainly for this reason, to be able to master one specialty, but to also gain expertise from others and to expand my thinking process.*

*Carpentry is a job that can be done in many ways. A carpenter must be creative yet straightforward with his or her thinking. Carpenters have to deal with problems and mistakes everyday. No matter how good the day is going, a carpenter almost always has to solve problems. This is a trait that is also great to have. Critical thinking must be apparent in every action a carpenter does; whether that would be physical work, or strategically planning the steps before the work starts. This skill is simple, yet not everyone can possess it. It requires guided thinking and common sense. When mistakes are made, a collected carpenter can think on his or her feet and fix the problem quickly, without treading on the problem for too long. Problem solving is a skill used in abundance during life and can make it much easier.*

*At the end of the day, a carpenter can look back on what he or she successfully completed and receive a great feeling of accomplishment; not every working person can say that. To be able to feel pride in what you have done and be able to see your hard work assist the progression of the project. This feeling of accomplishment can make you feel proud. This, in turn, leads to a much better life; to be able to enjoy what I do, and to make work, not necessarily feel like work at all.*

*Carpentry is not all perks; it is a position in which hard work, determination, and patience are needed. Though through constant effort and applying yourself, an experienced carpenter can do all these without breaking a sweat. Everyday requires determination, strength of the body and mind; but with a positive outlook and practice, I can overcome these hardships and simultaneously become a better person, who is more self reliant, successful, and proud of how they live and what they accomplish.*

# TRAINING REPORT

July 27, 2020

First, I would like to give a big CMAW Training welcome to the newest member of our training family, Shelley Barrett. Shelley is the training administrative assistant and works out of the Prince George office. Some of Shelley's many duties are to register students for training, issue online training courses, re-issue lost certificates. You can reach Shelley at [training@cmaw.ca](mailto:training@cmaw.ca) or by calling 250-596-0133.

## Changes in training due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

Like everyone else, COVID 19 has changed the way we do training.

The fall protection and elevated work platform courses are now blended: the theory portion of these courses is done online and the practical portion is done on a 1 on 1 basis with the instructor. All COVID protocols (handwashing, sanitizing and distancing) are being strictly adhered to.

The IVES counterbalance and rough terrain forklift full certification training also has a new format: The student will receive the course manual to read and complete prior to a training appointment. At the training appointment the student and instructor will go over the manual and the test will be given. After the test, the student will inspect and operate the equipment. Again, all COVID 19 protocols are strictly adhered to.

The confined space training is now done completely online.

## Upcoming Scaffold Training Schedule

The scaffold training has been rescheduled to the following dates and locations:

Scaffold Introduction	August 17 - 28 2020	in Prince George, BC
Scaffold Intermediate	Sept 08 - 18 2020	in Castlegar, BC
Scaffold Qualification/ Journeyman course:	November 16 - 27 2020	in Prince George, BC

**If you would like to sign up for any of these courses, please Contact Shelley to register.**

**When registering for courses please provide the following information your email:**

**Name (first/middle/last), date of birth, address, phone number, and CMAW Local number.**



# CMAW RECRUITMENT

In June 2019 CMAW Canada and Local 1995 began a recruiting partnership to ensure that CMAW would be able to meet the labour demands, not just in the Lower Mainland but for high-profile projects like Site C and the CBA jobs around British Columbia.

A combination of face to face and online recruiting brought over 200 new Carpenters and Scaffolders into Local 1995. At the same time, we were able to bring dozens more into our Locals around the province, helping to meet the crew requirements for Site C.

These new members have raised the Pension plan contributions by as much as \$1,799,600/year and Benefit plan contributions by as much as \$1,012,000/year.

We have established and strengthened working relationships with trade schools, Indigenous training organizations and organizations promoting the role of women in trades. These efforts have brought about a higher profile for CMAW and Local 1995 and will contribute to our future success and growth.

At the beginning of 2020, we switched our focus from recruiting to organizing. As we all know, the strength of our Union is in our numbers and more contractors mean more members.

Organizing is a difficult task and requires patience and a thick skin. But, with several contractors in our sights, we are confident that we will be able to sign new collective agreements in the near future.

*Article by Mike Chimenti, CMAW Recruiter & Josip Lovric, CMAW L1995 Recruiter.*



**CMAW CONSTRUCTION MAINTENANCE AND ALLIED WORKERS CANADA**

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Publication Mail Agreement No.