SPRING/SUMMER 2015



The 'Bridging the Way' UBC women's conference provided participants with valuable skill development workshops and networking opportunities. Pictured is the group photo of the Canadian District attendees.

UBC Sisters Conference focused on skill development, opportunities for women

Exploring personal and professional skill development and creating opportunities for female UBC members was the focus of the 2015 UBC Sisters in the Brotherhood conference held in Las Vegas in January.

More than 400 attendees from Councils across the U.S. and Canada participated in general sessions and skill development workshops with the aim of 'Bridging the Way' to opening up more opportunities for women in the construction industry. The ACRC sent 18 participants to attend the three-day conference.

A number of guest speakers and panelists

gave informative and entertaining presentations on topics ranging from strategies to increase the number of women working in the skilled trades to mentoring and leadership.

The 2015 conference hosted the highest number of participants than any previous SIB conference, a symbol of the conference's increasing relevance to both Sisters and Brothers alike.

With the tremendous success of this year's SIB conference, we are looking forward to participating in future events and supporting our Sisters!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN TRADES

Tradespeople are in high demand in Canada. Studies and industry reports show that large populations of skilled trades' workers are gearing up for retirement, and they are taking their skills and knowledge with them. According to BuildForce Canada, an estimated 100,000 new workers will need to be recruited from outside the construction industry between

Continued on page 6





SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Cyndi Sweeney

High school students from Halifax Regional School Board put their carpentry skills to the test during the 2015 HRSB Regional Skills Competition in Lower Sackville last month.

"We're really excited to have seven schools represented from all over HRM," says Bev Young, director of Carpenter Millwright Trades College (CMTC). Up from four schools in 2014, the 11 students arrived at CMTC for 7:30 a.m. and were given a blueprint, tasked with building a garden shed using materials donated by Atlantic Canada Regional Council.

The structure is similar to last year's dog house, but four feet taller. The scaled-up challenge was chosen to give finalists an advantage at provincials and nationals.

"For those who move onto provincials, they'll likely do a dog house ... they'll have an advantage because they will have already encountered something bigger," explains Young. "If they go to nationals, he or she has to build a shed or playhouse, bigger than this, so we said lets give them the scope of what they're to expect at a national level ... and see how they rise to the challenge."

Returning competitor, Donovan Linfield from Eastern Shore District High School says he prefers the garden shed project. "It's more up to your height, so you're not bent over."



Key competition factors include accuracy, measurements, neatness and safety. "All big factors, but end of the day, the main objective is to give an experience of competition and showing off their skills; learning where they can improve; and the carrot of course, is moving onto the provincial competition," says Young.

"The top two students are guaranteed to see the provincials and hopefully we'll have a third space open up," explains Lynn Hogan Gillespie, teacher and O2 career-supporting consultant with HRSB. "I really don't care at the end of the day if you come first or last, I want to see how much you take away from this learning experience ... that's what today is, a learning experience," said Hogan Gillespie during the award ceremony.

CP Allen student Chandler Slater enjoys competing and is no stranger to the pressure of the competition. Slater finished second place in the 2014 provincial competition. "I'd say I'm a little bit more confident and less nervous than last year," says Slater.

MLA Stephen Gough (Beaver Bank-Sackville) presented each student a certificate of participation commemorating the experience on behalf of CMTC, HRSB and the Atlantic Canada Regional Council of Carpenters, Millwrights and Allied Workers.



Slater was awarded first place and alongside second place winner Matthew Devoe from Halifax West, the pair are guaranteed a spot in the Provincial Carpentry Skills Competition. Third place was awarded to another Halifax West student, Tyler Slaunwhite.

"A skills competition is really not a test, even though it feels like one," says instructor and judge, Elliott Boudreau. "You're leaving with a lot more knowledge and skills than you came here with."

"It's like life. Some of you were under a little bit of stress, little bit of anxiety and learning how to deal with it under pressure with everybody watching you ... But I hope everybody knows it doesn't matter where you're going to place ... I hope you leave today feeling like winners," says Boudreau.

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UBC millwrights play an integral role across a wide range of industries and disciplines. From oil and gas projects to the construction of power plants, millwrights solve problems and require comprehensive training that meets the highest standards.

In February 2015, millwrights, along with associated contractors and employers from the U.S. and Canada, were invited to the International Training Center in Las Vegas to discuss workforce growth and development of the millwright trade.

As contractors have an important role in hiring the best workers for the job, the conference had a directed focus on the value of hiring a UBC millwright. Several large employers gave presentations on their experiences on how UBC-trained millwrights exude values such as productivity, cost competitiveness, reliability, accuracy, safety, leadership, and professionalism on the job. They also outlined their own successes working with unions.

Contractors from Locals 1009, 1178, and 2262 were invited to attend the conference.

A number of keynote speakers gave presentations at the conference, including distinguished speaker, psychologist, and executive coach Dr. Rita Murray. She gave an engaging talk on multi-generational diversity and how it plays out in the workplace. This is an increasingly relevant

topic due to the projected numbers of Baby Boomers who will be retiring – along with the number of new entrants to the workforce – beginning as early as 2017. The diversity of ages and generations currently seen on the job site can present its own challenges related to cultural differences and contrasting leadership styles.

Dr. Murray outlined strategies to better manage generational gaps, which she states "will reduce stress, increase productivity, build relationships, and positively impact the bottom line."

The multi-generational workplace discussion struck a chord with many attendees, including Harry Grant with Atlantica Mechanical. As a Baby Boomer himself, Grant was receptive to the points Dr. Murray referenced about working through generational differences before they become hostile or lead to resentment.

"Another thing that really hit home was the fact that our younger generation has a different outlook on things and we need to adapt to and take advantage of their skills," Grant says.

In addition to Dr. Murray, Rusty Sherwood with FMI Management Consultants and inspirational speaker Mark Breslin rounded out the conference.

Eugene Nowlan, Vice President of Sunny Corner Enterprises Inc., also enjoyed the conference and its focus on the business side of managing construction projects.

"Sometimes we forget that a foreman or general foreman has many human resource issues as well as production issues they have to deal with," Nowlan says. He praises the UBC and the ACRC for its commitment to this level of training he feels will go a long way to help increase the market share of union projects and the number of union contractors in the future.

66... reduce stress, increase productivity, build relationships, and positively impact the bottom line



















LOCAL 1009 MILLWRIGHT APPRENTICE STEVE FORD FOUND HIS PERFECT FIT IN UNION WORK

Here is Steve's story about growing up in Ontario, his life as a bike courier in Toronto, and how he eventually found his way to working union in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Growing up in Oakville, Ontario, Steve, 36, always knew he had an inclination to work with his hands and use his head to solve problems.

"Coming up through the conventional track wasn't for me," he says. "By that I mean going to high school, then university, then getting a job wearing a suit and being part of society, I always felt like it wasn't the right fit for me somehow."

While in school, it never dawned on Steve to pursue a skilled trade of any kind, although he had friends who took automotive shop classes and drafting. "It never occurred to me that being a millwright would be such a great match with my personality and aptitudes."

After a number of years working as a bike courier on busy streets of Toronto, Steve settled down into a warehouse job spending the better part of a decade working his way up within the logistics field. After the company restructured, management suggested he look into a millwright apprenticeship program. That same day, Steve went to the local college and bought the millwright manual and read through it cover to cover. He recalls the experience as a light bulb moment.

"It was as if the flood light above my head suddenly burst on," he says, "and

I thought to myself, 'where has this job been all my life!'"

Soon after, Steve decided to leave the company and was focused on training for his dream career. It was now 2009 and the economic downturn was starting to be felt in the global economy, including Ontario. "Trying to acquire funding during this time to go to school was problematic at best in Ontario," Steve says. "My application went nowhere."

With Steve's wife being from
Newfoundland, they relocated to St. John's
and Steve soon found an apprenticeship
with a small hydraulics company that
allowed him to pursue a fluid power
certification while working and logging
hours as a millwright apprentice. Steve
was drawn to the variety of work that was
rewarding and challenging even though
he was working in a small, non-union
shop.

It was not long after that Steve achieved his fluid power certification and had logged a considerable number of hours in a short period. He admits that working in an open shop had its drawbacks: unresolved safety issues, disputes over training pay, unpaid overtime. For Steve, it became the right time to make the move into the union environment. He decided to join Local 1009 and was now an active member.

"I headed to Voisey's Bay [Newfoundland and Labrador] for a shutdown which opened my eyes to the pluses of the union atmosphere," he says, singling out the people, work environment, and pay as just

some of the benefits of working union. In early 2014, Steve went up to work in Schefferville – a remote town in northern Quebec less than two kilometres from the Labrador border – to construct an iron ore processing plant and he describes the work as rewarding, challenging, and worthwhile.

"There are typical issues on a site of this nature in a remote area, but nothing that shouldn't be expected or cannot be dealt with," he says. Last summer, Steve took some time off to complete his third trade block and attend the UBC National Apprenticeship Contest in Toronto. That turned out to be a great decision as Steve's skills earned him a first place finish in the millwright competition – an honour he is proud of.

For the precious few days Steve spends at home each month, he enjoys the outdoors and takes every opportunity to take the bicycle out whenever he can. Although he grew up in Ontario, Steve now calls the East Coast home, and sees himself working with Local 1009

himself working with Local 1009 or travelling into other Locals in the future.

"The feeling I have working with so many quality people from many different trades and backgrounds and experiences is beyond invaluable," he says.

"I wouldn't trade it for anything."







ACRC DROPS PANTS TO SUPPORT FIGHT AGAINST PROSTATE CANCER

The ACRC has pledged \$20,000 to support research and programs in the fight against prostate cancer.

Stanfield's Pants Off for Prostate Cancer is a fundraising effort from Prostate Cancer Canada Atlantic Region that seeks to raise awareness of a cancer that affects 1 in 8 men. The organization estimates that more than 23,000 Canadian men and their families will be impacted by prostate cancer this year alone.

The ACRC will be participating in events that are planned throughout Atlantic Canada. The first Pants Off party was held at the Halifax Waterfront on April 16. More than 300 people partied in their underwear – all to support a good cause. Events are also planned for Cape Breton, Moncton, NB, and St. John's, NL.

For more information on the event and the cause, visit http://pantsoff.ca

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN TRADES continued from page 1

2013 and 2021 to help compensate for this gap. This number doesn't even include average labour increases, or new entrants under the age of 30 to the industry. In Canada, women represent only four per cent of the construction trade workforce. This is an enormous opportunity for women seeking secure, well-paid, and fulfilling employment.

Two major conferences were held earlier this year with a focus on recruiting and expanding opportunities for women to work in the skilled trades. In addition to the UBC women's conference, Canada's Building Trades Unions (CBTU) held a national building trades conference in Ottawa. CBTU represents the interests of more than half a million construction workers across multiple trades. In addition to actively working to recruit women into the trades and supporting them on the job, the CBTU sponsors JQurneyman, a national program that promotes, supports, and mentors women in the skilled construction trades. Representatives attend networking

and mentorship functions, Skills Canada events, trade shows, and career fairs. Their role is to share experiences, be a mentor, and to promote careers in the skilled trades.

Toni Drover, a 4th Year Apprentice with Local 579, attended both conferences and says events like these are important to bring women together to help promote and advance themselves in the construction trades.

"I think it's an amazing opportunity for women to join the trades; great salaries, benefits and pensions," Toni says.

Inheriting an interest in carpentry from her father's side of the family, Toni originally pursued a career in interior and architectural design before turning her focus to learning carpentry and the construction side of things.

"The construction industry is constantly changing and there is always something new to learn. It gives great satisfaction and pride to look back on something you have built."

Toni thanks her employer M&M Engineering, and the Carpenters Union, Local 579, for supporting her during these conferences.





Welcome new contractors!

We are pleased to report that 2015 has gotten off to a great start in regards to organizing initiatives across the ACRC. The contractors below have all become organized as they see the value that being a union company has on their workforce and bottom line.

Please join us in welcoming the following contractors to the ACRC:

- Harbour Construction a formwork company based in Halifax
- DGN Contracting a millwork company in New Brunswick
- T & J Demeyere Properties Ltd. Cape Breton
- Paul MacDonald Trucking and Backhoe
 Cape Breton
- Northeast Timber Company Cape Breton
- Bison Contracting residential high rise sector across Atlantic Canada
- Linear Roofing residential and commercial asphalt shingles across Atlantic Canada
- Remley Construction
- RU Safe
- Fournier Industries
- Brad Watts Carpentry
- Unistrut Canada
- CMG Railings Ltd.
- Dovetail Contracting Ltd.







ABA Contracting

About a year ago, the ACRC filed an application in Newfoundland to test a new rule in the industrial relations act that stated if a union had signed 65 per cent of a company's workers that this would not require a vote to take place. As the first union to test this rule, we received word in March that our application was successful!

Congratulations to everyone involved for seeing this through!

Did you know...

- ...that 170 companies have been organized since the inception of the Council in June 2011?
- ...that nearly 1 million organizing hours have been accumulated (955,789 to Feb 2015) resulting in 478 jobs based on 2,000 man hours per job?
- ...that this equates to approximately \$30 million dollars in wages and benefits to our members?

Organizers host community event in Cape Breton

On Saturday, June 6, organizers with the ACRC will host a community breakfast at the Menelik Hall community center in Whitney Pier. Members with Carpenters Local 1588 sold 500 tickets to the breakfast with proceeds from the ticket sales going to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Cape Breton. Stay tuned for more details on the event in our next issue of The Blueprint!

New to the Organizing Team

We would like to welcome the following business representatives/organizers to the ACRC team!

Chris Rhodes - Nova Scotia

Darryl Yetman – Newfoundland and Labrador

You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter! Get in touch and stay up-to-date with what's happening in your union!



facebook.com/weareacrc



@WeAreACRC

Do you have a suggestion, idea, or comment for The Blueprint?

We'd love to hear from you!

Send us an email to suggestions@acrc.ca and tell us about it!



THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF MERGERS ON COUNCILS' BOTTOM LINE

Under the mandate of UBC General President McCarron and Canadian District Vice President Jim Smith, the Atlantic Canada Regional Council formed in 2011 and brought together three provincial councils and one local union in Eastern Canada. Since then, the council has made great strides by providing value to members and expanding its contractor network through new and innovative initiatives.

HEALTH AND WELFARE MERGER

Within one year of forming the Council, the ACRC took steps to improve efficiencies to contractors and combat competitiveness against increasing threats from MERIT shops and the CLAC association by merging its health and welfare plans into one common plan.

Despite initial skepticism among some trustees as to the value of such an undertaking, the health and welfare plan merger was agreed upon by the majority who view this initiative as an opportunity for the council – and any other regional council – to exercise greater fiscal responsibility to their members by saving money, fulfilling fiduciary duties, and providing better and more comprehensive benefits to members.

Originally, the ACRC maintained eight separate health and welfare plans along with a board consisting of 28 trustees. A challenge with a board of this size is the lack of flexibility and responsiveness to make effective management decisions. As a result, the board was reduced to 12 members: six management trustees and six labour trustees. The move to go to one plan and the reconfiguration to a smaller board has inevitably reduced costs, improved efficiencies, and helped to better manage the plan going forward.

UBC members will see a host of improvements to the plan as a result of the merger, including benefit bundling of most treatments (up to

\$1,500), an increase in the death benefit and dental coverage (now at 100% as some plans were at 80%), and a standard per person hour cost (now at \$2 whereas previously it was fluctuating between \$1.70 and \$2.45).

PENSION PLAN MERGER

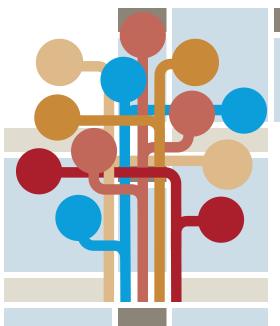
In addition to the health and welfare plan merger, the ACRC is also moving forward with plans to roll its separate pension funds plan into one plan to further its goal of maximizing efficiencies across all its portfolios. The pension fund merger is expected to save nearly \$1 million in investment fees annually and open up greater investment opportunities with higher rates of return (expected 2% to 4% greater return). A focused effort on managing and controlling these costs will translate into increased value to members.

Furthermore, one board will manage both the health and welfare and pension plans. This will help simplify and streamline the audit process for the Council going forward.

The move to standardize and merge the health and welfare and pension fund plans was carried out by using a multi-stage approach. This included seeking initial approval for the merger plan, merging of the H&W and pension boards, addressing legislative requirements in each Atlantic province from a legal perspective, hiring consultants to work with trustees, and looking ahead to what the plans would look like in the future.

Altogether, the merger of both Council plans will improve efficiencies to contractors while at the same time compete against open shop plans, and is a scalable model that will bring value to members across Atlantic Canada





DISPATCHES

News and notes from around the Counci



NL locals make significant contribution to hospital renovations

Local 83 member praises 3rd year apprenticeship training

Adam Burrell was one member who attended the 3rd year apprentice training in Las Vegas in April, and praises the program that helped him better understand the union and the ITC (International Training Center where the sessions are held) and an experience he will not forget. Here is how Adam described it:

I attended the 3rd year apprentice training in Las Vegas and to put it into words and describe what I took from it I cannot do. I can tell you that everything was positive. The experience, the classes, the people I met, and the lasting friendships. I applaud all who helped put this training on. I do now have a better understanding of the UBC and ITC and my role as a Brother. The training was just what I needed. To all my Brothers and Sisters across North America, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend this training. It was an experience of a lifetime and one that has changed my outlook on many things. On the job being one, but personally as well. Again, I thank you all.

Honourary Members

Congratulations to the following members who are being recognized as Honourary Members for achieving 50 years of service in 2015! You should all be proud of hitting this significant milestone!

- Cape Breton (Local 1588)
 - o Campbell MacLean
 - o Patrick Pertus
 - o Fred MacIntyre
 - o Bernard McCarthy
 - o Gerald Martell
 - o Ronald Rogers
 - o Duane MacLeod
 - o J. Bruce Campbell
- New Brunswick (Local 1386)
 - o Ronald Daigle
 - o Fred MacLeod
 - o George Paisley
 - o Norbert Lanteigne
 - o Murray Scoville
- Newfoundland and Labrador (Local 579)
 o Ford E. Hibbs
- Nova Scotia (Local 83)
 - o Keith Mitchell

NL locals make significant contribution to hospital renovations

Building Trades Workers of the Resource Development Trades Council (RDTC), including carpenters with Local 579 and Local 1009 Millwrights, are involved with the upgrading of traditional operating suites at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre in St. John's, NL.

Seventeen traditional operating suites will get a facelift with advanced medical equipment and

technological upgrades. To date, two suites have been completed. Each integrated operating suite will contain a plaque recognizing the contributions made by individual trades unions involved with the project, according to the Health Care Foundation.

Make Fredericton First

We are proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of the Make Fredericton First campaign, part of a national initiative to display 250 Light Armoured Vehicle (LAV) memorials in communities across Canada. The LAV Monument Program recognizes the service and sacrifice of the Canadian Armed Forces in Afghanistan and the work of General Dynamics Land Systems Canada (GDLSC) in building the vehicles.

Earlier this year, an event was held in Fredericton that hosted several MP's, the Mayor, and a number



of provincial cabinet ministers and business leaders to show support for the campaign. The New Brunswick Capital Region is seeking to have the first LAV memorial built in its municipality due to the community being home to many military families from Canadian Forces Base Gagetown.

Approximately 40,000 Canadian soldiers served in Afghanistan since 2001.

For more information on the campaign, visit www. makefrederictonfirst.com.

Shop Steward earns acclaim for leadership on jobsite

Mike Andrews, a Red Seal Carpenter and journeyman scaffolder with UBC Local 1907 in Vancouver B.C., received praise from Local 83 member Jason Rogers for his work ethic and leadership abilities on the jobsite. The two work together on the upgrading of Rio Tinto Alcan's aluminum smelter as part of the Kitimat Modernization Project. As a shop steward, Mike enjoys working with his hands but also helping coworkers find resolution to conflicts that arise from time to time. "People just want to be heard," Mike says, adding that having parents who are both psychologists gave him a keen sense of the importance of open communication. When it comes to being a jobsite leader, Mike offers some advice to those starting out in their career: "I always encourage apprentices to walk with purpose as we need to dispel the myths [of union work] and we need to rebrand ourselves for the future."



UBC member Timothy Gouchie constructing the wood framing

Hope Blooms Grand Opening

With a kick-off that included a barbeque, music, and a follow up visit from a crew with CBC Dragons' Den, the Hope Blooms community group officially unveiled its new state-of-the-art greenhouse on May 1.

Having received an investment of \$40,000 from Dragons' Den investors towards construction of a greenhouse to grow herbs for their unique blend of salad dressings, Hope Blooms has become an inner-city success story.

With the publicity the youth group received on television, it was not long that organizations wanted to step in to help. One of these sponsors



The completed greenhouse was built using eco-friendly building materials

was Build Right Nova Scotia, a cooperative of unionized contractors and tradespeople. Brad Smith with Build Right Nova Scotia praises the project as being integral to the community and one he was excited to get involved with.

"We do a lot of community work, and when we saw this project, we thought, 'this is absolutely the right thing for us to do,'" Smith says.

Located at Murray Warrington Park, the greenhouse is completely "off the grid," meaning it is not reliant on power or heat and was built using environmentally-sustainable building materials.

For more information on the Hope Blooms project, visit www.hopeblooms.ca

In Memoriam

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Jean-Francois Boulay

It is with great sadness that we announce the accidental death of business representative/organizer Jean-Francois Boulay, April 10, 2015, at the age of 31 years. He lived in Dieppe, but was a native of Pointe-Verte.

He is survived by his parents Michel and Raymonde Boulay Guitard of Pointe-Verte; his three beloved brothers: William (Sylvie) of Moncton, Maxime Pointe-Verte, Louis-Pierre of Dieppe; a nephew, Alex Martin; a goddaughter, Vanessa; a godson, Oli; his godmother, his godfather, and several uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and family. His grandparents Martin and Yvonne Boulay and Jean Hector Guitard and Miriam, have predeceased.

At the request of the family, a donation to Portage Atlantic in Jean-Francois' memory would be appreciated.

We would like to extend our best wishes to lan MacIsaac who retired from the ACRC in May. We would like to thank lan for his many years of service to the Council and wish him a happy retirement.



NEW IDENTITY FOR TRAINING SCHOOLS UNVEILED

Following an extensive design process, a new visual identity has been developed for our training schools across Atlantic Canada.

The new-look Carpenter Millwright College will start to be rolled out at schools going forward. Students were involved in the design phase by participating in a survey asking for their opinions on the logo concepts.

Along with the updated logo, work on a new website will also begin. Stay tuned for updates on this as the project moves forward.

We are excited about this initiative, and feel it will help to further strengthen our market share and our standing as the premier provider of skilled-trades training in Atlantic Canada.

Stay Connected!

Stay connected to what's happening in your union by having news and updates from the ACRC delivered right to your mobile phone!



Sign up today by texting ACRC to 770077

