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## Key Projects for 2014

By Mike Nuyens,  
Chairperson of Operational  
Services, Component 10



NUYENS

Moving into the new year of 2014 there are some key things that Component 10 will be dealing with.

First is the AirCare campaign. We will be continuing to raise the profile of this program and its importance for the traveling public in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.

There are tens of thousands of cars and light trucks tested every year for emissions and from that there are many vehicles that fail. What will it mean if the program is eliminated? It means that all those polluting vehicles will be on the road polluting the air that we breathe. We need to save this program not only for the workers that work there, but also for all of us who breathe cleaner air as a result of removing the polluters off the road.

Our members on Canada Line will be going into collective bargaining shortly with their employer. They will need the support of the component so they can reach a collective agreement that meets the needs of our members.

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Local 1003 Chair Dave Cumming (centre) with NDP MLAs George Heyman (left) and Spencer Chandra Herbert.

## AirCare Campaign Update

By Dave Cumming,  
Local 1003 Chair

The campaign is well underway with coalition-building and member engagement. Site visits to all 12 AirCare locations have been completed. These visits allowed us to inform and engage our members on campaign activities, including recruiting volunteers to lobby their MLAs and/or opposition candidates.

The response so far has been ex-

cellent, with 9 in 10 members signing up to speak with their elected representatives. Site visits have been conducted by Component Chair Mike Nuyens, BCGEU Vice President Lorene Oikawa, and myself.

Meetings with MLA's George Heyman and Spencer Chandra Herbert were also productive. Both MLAs are now well aware of the issues and will raise their concerns in Victoria.



## New Local Chair

Jeff Gilchrist lives and works in Prince George. He started with YRB in 2006. Jeff has been a steward for three years and sits on a joint labour management committee as well as the OHS committee. He was recently elected as Chair of Local 1011 and looks forward to representing members at the Component 10 executive level. Good Luck Brother and thanks for standing up to the plate!

## KEY PROJECTS FOR 2014

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The component continues to deal with the highways contractors around the province on a number of items. The issue of the Health Spending Account (HSA) is a significant concern as the HSA formed part of the package that was bargained with these employers at our last set of negotiations.

There are other issues the component continues to deal with:

- the BCGEU Pension Plan and moving it forward to a target benefit model;
- the highways training manual;
- health and safety committees and joint labour management meetings.

The component will be working on these issues and many more in 2014.

In Solidarity

Mike Nuyens



**Make sure you're able to receive regular email bargaining updates.**

**To update or add your email address visit**

**[www.bcgeu.ca/email](http://www.bcgeu.ca/email)**

**And remember to check [www.bcgeu.ca](http://www.bcgeu.ca) often for Component 10 news!**

## “YOU BE THE JUDGE” Seventh Anniversary

Seven years ago the BCGEU and Component 10 rolled out the very successful “You be the Judge” highways maintenance campaign.

The campaign included an extensive lobbying outreach, leaflets and a video that was watched by thousands of people.

The video, and an accompanying checklist, gave the drivers the information they needed to determine whether or not the roads and highways in their area were being adequately maintained.

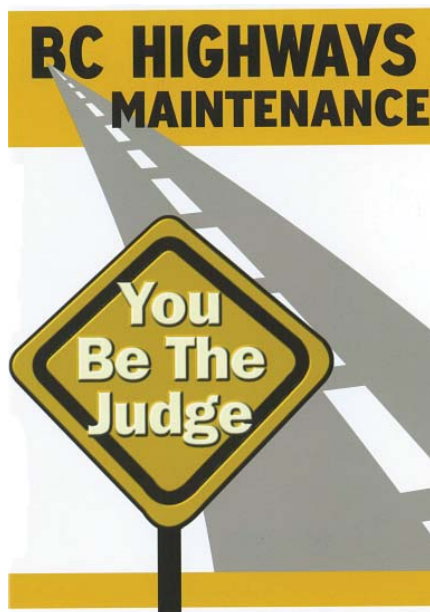
Well maintained highways are not just important from a safety perspective.

Well maintained roads are also a crucial part of our provincial infra-

structure and the provincial economy.

Your component executive is in preliminary discussions around a new highways maintenance campaign to be rolled out this fall.

Stay tuned.



## BCGEU Pension Plan Update

The year-to-date number at the end of October is 12.57% and the five-year return is 7.64% with a unit value of \$536.71.

The plan's fees at the end of October are .62%.

Auxiliary employees who have worked a minimum of 350 hours per year in the last two years and have earned at least 35% of the YMPE in the last two years can join the plan or decline to be a plan member.

Once you become a member of the plan, regardless of whether



your membership is compulsory or optional, contributions and participation will continue for as long as you are employed.

YEAR	YMPE
2011	\$48,300
2012	\$50,100
2013	\$51,100

# Workers Make the Canada Line Work

By Lana Vincent, Pro Trans

Nearly 200 BCGEU members who work the Canada Line are an important part of the success of this super infrastructure.

The Canada Line is an automated rapid transit rail system that connects downtown Vancouver, YVR airport and Richmond. Originally called the RAV Line (Richmond-airport-Vancouver) it consists of 9.1 km of underground tunnel (2.5 km of bored and 6.6 km of cut and cover) and 10 km of either elevated or at-grade track. It has two bridges that cross the Fraser River and a bored section that is dug 30 metres under False Creek.



Construction of the line began in September 2005 with completion slated for November 2009 but instead it opened on August 17th, 2009. The final cost of the Canada Line was \$2.05 billion.

Rotem, a division of Hyundai motor group in Korea, built the stainless steel train cars of the Canada Line, which consists of two “married” cars that hold about 334 people (seated and standing).

The automated system is controlled by computers in both the train and the Operations and Main-

tenance Centre (OMC) that optimize the safe spacing between the trains and the arrival and departure times at the stations. The trains can travel up to 80 k.p.h. with the propulsion power being fed to the train from a third rail with 750 V DC that runs along one side of the running rails.

There are 16 stations along the line with the possibility of three more that could be built in the future.

The highly trained staff play a crucial role ensuring the travelling public are safe and arrive on time in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

## CHANGES TO CPP CONTRIBUTION RULES

*Changes were made to Canada Pension Plan contribution rules*

### Previous rules

Before January 1, 2012, as an employer you had to stop deducting CPP contributions from an employee's pensionable earnings when the employee:

- was 60 to 70 years of age; and
- gave you proof that he or she was receiving a CPP or Quebec Pension Plan (QPP) retirement pension

### New rules

Since January 1, 2012, you may have to deduct CPP contributions from the pensionable earnings you pay an employee who is 60 to 70 years of age, even if the employee is receiving a CPP or QPP retirement pension.

Under the new rules, an employee who works and receives a CPP or QPP retirement pension now has to contribute to the CPP if he or she is:

- 60 to 65 years of age;
- 65 to 70 years of age, unless the employee has filed an election with you or another employer to stop paying CPP contributions (the election will take effect on the first day of the month following the month the employee provides you with a completed and signed election form);
- 65 to 70 years of age, if the employee revoked his or her election to stop paying CPP contributions in 2013 or later.







# Liberal Cuts Leave British Columbians Without Income to Keep Up With Service Hikes

By Kevin Staneland,  
Chair Local 1008

For over a decade now the citizens of B.C. have been falling further and further behind the top 1% of income earners in this province. We have seen hikes for services while pay raises are few and far between.

The Liberal government also implemented a 7.2% carbon tax that

we were told was going to go into programs that would help reduce greenhouse gases. However, this Liberal government has decided to cancel the AirCare program even though environmental experts and Lower Mainland mayors have said this is not the direction the province should go.

Now we hear about service cuts and rising prices at B.C. Ferries.

Is it just coincidence that a majority of the people who use and need ferry service live on one of the many islands that voted for the NDP?

Premier Clark says her government puts families first. What she has not told British Columbians is that she puts LIBERAL families first, and the rest of us are on our own.

## Return to Work

Most members have heard the expression RTW or return to work. A lot of employers are using this process to get workers back to work in a productive manner as soon as possible. That's great! But hold on, there are roles and responsibilities for both parties (employers and employees) to participate in.

I have put a few of these together that may or may not be contradictory to individual employers' RTW policies. It is your responsibility to check with your shop steward or union rep to see how it may affect you:

- RTW planning ought to be a tripartite process and some collective agreements have language that addresses this. They are normally comprised of a union representative, a nurse or rehabilitation expert, the employer and the injured worker.
- Doctor's notes clearing a member for RTW need to specify the prognosis for a full return to work, any limitations or restrictions to the hours of work and/or duties, and whether the limitations and restrictions are temporary or permanent.

These are only a few points for your consideration on any RTW. Your shop steward or area office can provide you with more information.



Component 10 Local executive Fred Street taking some time out from the the National Union of Public and General Employees 2013 convention in Ottawa.

## SPEEDY RECOVERY



**Lance Robinson** Local 1006 hit a deer while driving to work and broke his neck. The union present-

ed him with this basket to cheer him up. Lance is a longtime plow truck driver out of Bridge Lake. We wish him a speedy recovery.

## MOVING ON

**Lana Holway** went to work with the Ministry of Highways in 1982 and she became a great advocate for her fellow workers.

Lana loves bingo, wiener roasts and "her" Vancouver Canucks. For several years she was involved



with the organizing and running of the YRB Social Club.

Your service was appreciated Lana, and remember, to quote the latest,

"If Lana was here, there would be gloves there."

Enjoy your retirement ... you deserve it!



# WORDSEARCH – OH&S

S	R	V	I	N	J	U	R	I	E	S	E	C	U	V	U	P	W	S	M
S	W	L	N	O	X	N	A	W	B	S	Y	T	H	Q	K	L	T	E	U
D	O	A	O	M	S	D	S	U	C	T	X	T	P	D	H	B	R	I	Y
R	R	V	Y	C	X	A	L	I	A	N	R	S	W	U	H	S	A	T	C
A	K	H	V	H	K	L	M	F	I	E	I	T	S	B	N	G	I	I	I
Z	E	B	J	C	Y	O	X	L	U	M	S	A	D	M	O	T	N	L	L
A	R	S	S	I	N	M	U	R	C	N	V	N	R	T	I	N	I	I	O
H	S	A	N	O	D	R	E	T	C	R	R	D	A	A	T	E	N	B	P
S	R	G	G	S	O	D	M	A	L	E	I	A	U	R	A	M	G	I	A
H	U	R	W	P	R	Z	E	X	A	V	N	R	G	E	S	P	C	S	C
A	E	L	Y	O	J	I	K	E	I	O	D	D	E	G	N	I	O	N	T
B	W	W	N	Z	S	G	C	J	M	G	U	S	F	U	E	U	M	O	X
S	A	F	E	T	Y	D	C	P	S	W	S	R	A	L	P	Q	M	P	B
E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N	X	Z	T	V	S	A	M	E	I	S	O
G	N	I	T	E	E	M	T	O	V	X	R	L	V	T	O	J	T	E	H
K	F	S	S	I	M	H	W	U	J	T	Y	R	F	I	C	G	T	R	S
Q	Y	M	T	I	K	S	E	C	I	V	E	D	W	O	K	Z	E	T	C
U	Q	B	O	A	R	D	R	I	G	H	T	S	B	N	W	J	E	Q	R
H	B	N	Q	R	I	A	H	C	L	I	N	S	U	R	A	N	C	E	S
I	G	C	R	Y	I	H	I	N	C	I	D	E	N	T	O	G	U	H	O

ACT  
 BOARD  
 BULLYING  
 CHAIR  
 CLAIMS  
 COMMITTEE  
 COMPENSATION  
 CSA  
 DEVICES  
 EDUCATION  
 EQUIPMENT  
 ERGONOMICS  
 GOVERNMENT  
 HAZARDS  
 OVERWEIGHT  
 INCIDENT  
 INDUSTRY

INJURIES  
 INSURANCE  
 LOCKOUT  
 MEETING  
 MSDS  
 OHS  
 ORDER  
 POLICY  
 REGULATION  
 RESPONSIBILITIES  
 RIGHTS  
 SAFEGUARDS  
 SAFETY  
 STANDARDS  
 TRAINING  
 WHIMS  
 WORKERS



## BUD HALLSTROM

**Bud Hallstrom** passed away suddenly on December 28, 2013.

Born in 1956, Bud started work for the Ministry in July 1980 working out of Greenwood and retired in March 2013 working for Emcon out of the new Midway yard.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.



## FRANK DILL

**Frank Dill** was a friend and co-worker for 12 years. He was steward at the Bridge Lake Highways Maintenance Yard. Frank always had a copy of the collective agreement and if you were a worker having difficulties he was there on the spot to help you.

Frank had the neatest hand writing I have ever seen. It was something everyone commented on.

I will miss the long talks and buckets of coffee we shared. Frank's biggest regret was being forced to retire at age 65 in 2001.

My condolences go out to the Dill family for their loss and ours too.

Frank passed away on Jan 2, 2014 in 100 Mile District General Hospital.

*Kelly McDonald, Local 1006*



## GRAHAME SOMERVILLE

**Grahame Somerville** was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1958. He immigrated to Canada at the age of 14 and became a Canadian citizen in 1987. Grahame spent many years in highway maintenance in Prince George and became the Local Chairperson of the BCGEU as well. Grahame sadly passed away on Sept 3, 2013 and leaves behind his loving wife Toni, their two children Echo and James, grandson Shylden, sister Betty and numerous other relatives in Canada and Scotland.



## CRISANTO (CHRIS) MENDOZA

**Crisanto (Cris) Mendoza** was with Envirotest from the beginning, starting at the Richmond site in August of 1992. He spent his whole Envirotest career at BC03 and was a fixture there for both employees and customers. Cris died after a long struggle with cancer.

## ISAAC B. HANDINERO

**Isaac B. Handinero** was a retired inspector with Envirotest Canada. He was born in the Philippines in 1939 and moved to Canada at the age of 50.

His warm engaging smile and friendly personality made him very popular with his co-workers.

Isaac passed away on April 30, 2013 after a battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Carmencita.



## DIEDRICH (DICK) NEUDORF

**Diedrich (Dick) Neudorf** worked in Quesnel for the provincial government Highways department from 1975 through to 1987. That's when he moved to Vancouver Island, and he continued to work for the government Highways department there until 1988 when they privatized. He continued there and retired in 1997.

Dick will be missed by all who worked with him.



BCGEU members with questions should call BCGEU Direct at 1-888-991-6062 (toll free). Lower Mainland members can call 604-291-6062.

**Story ideas and comments for the Comp-Ten Report  
can be submitted to [comp10report@bcgeu.ca](mailto:comp10report@bcgeu.ca)**