

December 2021



Hello Local 114 Membership and friends:

On behalf of Gord McGrath our Local President and Bill Gaucher our Local Secretary Treasurer we want to wish each of you and your families a safe and wonderful Holiday Season (Christmas and New Year's).

What a year 2021 will go down as, well we thought things might be back to normal.....but the COVID crisis has pushed all of us to rethink our health and safety and how we progress through this pandemic and its variants along the way.

We have had to cancel so many functions again this year that would normally bring us all together, but we have found other ways of meeting and connecting through this pandemic.

Our Ocean membership had to deal with a Lock-out and they did the best they could under the circumstances. Thank you to our members and their families who had to endure this.

This last year we experienced some strange weather systems, the Heat Dome (with the wild fires), the Atmospheric River (with the flooding), what's next.....Flash Droughts, Polar vortex's, and Bomb Cyclones? We hope not.

As we find ourselves reflecting on what our local has still accomplished and what we all have done this last year. We have had to re-examine how we do unit meetings, bargaining sessions and grievance handling issue

It was a proud and honored time for us to put together our Locals "50 Year Anniversary" pins and a document on our history. We did a mailout to all our members with the Pins, we hope you all wear yours proudly. It was unfortunate that we could not hold an in person gathering for this historic 50 Year Event. Thanks' to Jim Sadlemyer for posting this information on our website.

We are also proud of the "Membership Covid Updates" that we send out to our leadership and posted on our website. We have just sent out our 42nd and final issue for 2021, please look for it on our website. <http://www.unifor114.com/>

Gord and I would like to personally thank and send our greetings to:

Our Local Staff Retirees, Paul McKane and Harry Moon we think of you all the time and hope your health and wellbeing is in a good place.

This year we experienced the passing of Debbie Jaques, that was not easy and although somewhat expected, still hard to accept it. Our thoughts and prayers are with Kirk as he struggles to get through this.

We also miss Jeannie Blaney; Jeannie was the voice and face of our local on Vancouver Island and servicing our members there. We miss her so much and wish her all the best.

We also must mention Lloyd Hynes who takes care of our members WCB issues. We didn't have a lot of WCB Appeals in 2021, but Lloyd thank you so much for what you do for our members we can never

thank you enough, you take on these WCB issues and do a great service for our Local and membership.

To our support staff, Lynsi and Tracey our sincere appreciation and respect for what each of you do for our members and executive as each of you go way beyond what is expected.

To our Local Representatives (Cynthia Anderson , Mark Misic, Linda Jensen, Nathan Shier, and Dave Boros), thank you so much for what you do each and every day for our membership. You carry out the day-to-day operations and show leadership and deal with the hard issues facing our membership each and every day. Thanking you does not go far enough for appreciating the work you do for us.

Dave as our 1st Vice-President, you have been appointed our Local Representative on the Island and you represent the future of our Local and your commitment and dedication is demonstrated each and every day. It has been our pleasure to see you grow and develop your leadership skills.

To Our 2nd and 3rd Vice-Presidents; Steve Frank and Kristian Nielsen, what a pleasure to work with both of you, you are both leaders and activists in your respected units that give so much each and everyday, keep up the great work you both do.

To our Trustees, Ed Lafleur and Cheryl Williams, thank you all for your diligence and hard work to be the eyes on the finances in the local. Sandra Kucheran retired from Brinks (and as one of our Trustees) and her strong leadership will be missed. Sandra enjoy your new chapter in your life in retirement.

Jim Sadlemyer, we have to acknowledge the work you do for our membership and our Union, you are the inspiration and the catalyst that fuels our movement, we can't imagine our Local and Union without your involvement and participation. Your solidarity and

activism on our Ocean picket line was outstanding and very much needed. We do not know how you do it, but please keep it up.

To Barbie Zipp, we know that you and your co-workers have been without work since early 2020 and it has been hard for you and others to remain active in the Local. You are part of our family, and it does not matter where you work you will always be part of our Local.

To Norm Lehman, Dean Williams, Anne Cody, Morteza Maleki and Brenda Gerling, what a great bunch of activists you all are, we see so much energy and enthusiasm and an eagerness to get involved, we have seen each of you grow into the positions you hold and all of you have enriched the lives of our members and our union.

To Gerry Shook, thank you for trying your best to bring about some involvement from our Northern BC membership it was not an easy task and one that all of us share a responsibility in to work on in 2022.

To all of our executive and committee members who give up so much of their free time to participate and forward the objectives and policies of our local union, thank you....thank you...thank you... Your commitments and dedication to our local and union are appreciated and our local is what it is today because of your involvement and participation.

To all our Unit Shop Stewards, Health and Safety and Bargaining Committee members thank you for everything you do at your workplaces for the membership, your tireless efforts do not go unnoticed. You are the backbone of our Local and Union and you are the ones on the frontline each day.

That does not mean that we all cannot do more and each of us in our own way should always look at pushing ourselves to do more.

So Gord and I thank all of you for your hard work, your dedication and your unselfish approach to bettering the workplaces and communities we all live in and work in.

We are looking forward to 2022 and the challenges that will certainly be ahead. We encourage you all to stay involved in the Local and in your communities. Remain an activist by getting involved and pushing our union, members, and family's agenda. Speak out to any injustices you see as remaining silent is not the way to build and prosper our union.

2022 will be an election year for all the Executive and Committees, so get ready to step up and run again in your prospective positions at the Local.

Now, this is very importanttake a moment and hug every person in your family and thank them for their understanding in sharing you with us, because they are the ones who are sacrificing your time so that you can be involved in our local and in our union and in our communities.

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season and see you all in 2022.

Gord McGrath and Bill Gaucher

