

UPCOMING ELECTION OF THE LOCAL 1944 – TELUS BARGAINING COMMITTEE

As previously announced, Local 1944 is in the **process of electing members of the Local 1944 – Telus Bargaining Committee.**

THE BARGAINING COMMITTEE: The bargaining process to negotiate a new contract with Telus will start in late 2021, but the Local is mobilizing now. The Bargaining Committee will attend all negotiation meetings, and do the necessary research to ensure that members' interests are protected. The Committee will seek information on member priorities and concerns. It will be led by the Local President. In the past, Local 1944 – Telus bargaining has been a long process (over a year), and has taken place in person, necessitating a great deal of travel.

THE ELECTION PROCESS: For the first time in the Local's history, all members employed at Telus can run and vote for the Bargaining Committee. First, nominations are taking place at 3rd quarter Unit Meetings, throughout September and October. Then, members will be voting via a "one member – one vote" electronic ballot which will occur November 20, 2020. Each member in good standing will be mailed a ballot to be completed online or by phone.

As stipulated in the By-Laws, all wages, travel and necessary expenses are paid for by the Local to the Bargaining Committee members.

"Bargaining is a process requiring teamwork, commitment, and perseverance," said Acting President Donna Hokiro. "Bargaining with our largest employer has been difficult in the past, but the Local has every intention of making strong gains in this round. We will not settle for less than what you deserve: good wages, improved benefits, safe working conditions, as well as other improvements to your working lives. If your goals align with those above then we would like to hear from you. Attend your upcoming Unit meeting and get nominated to seek election."

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE ON TELUS?

LOCAL 1944 – TELUS BARGAINING COMMITTEE ELECTION NOVEMBER 20, 2020

**NOW IS THE TIME TO STEP UP,
SO THAT TOMORROW WE CAN FIGHT BACK!**



6 rank and file positions are to be elected, 1 for each of 6 categories of membership:

- 1 British Columbia Clerical/Traffic
- 1 British Columbia Plant
- 1 Alberta Clerical/Traffic
- 1 Alberta Plant
- 1 Ontario
- 1 Quebec

To run for one of these positions, members must be nominated at a Q3 Unit Meeting being held in September and October 2020.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WELCOMES BROTHER BLAIS

At the Executive Board meeting in July, Richard Blais was appointed Regional Executive Officer Alberta to fill the vacancy left by David Skrober.

Brother Blais started working for Telus at the beginning of 2012, as a Telus rural Install and Repair technician out of Unit 214, in Hinton, Alberta. He works on copper, fiber, security and satellite as well as all business jobs. His Unit was facing some challenges, with less and less opportunities for people to advance in their roles in craft. That led him to become a Shop Steward. He attended the Local's conventions, took the Building Power course and has since graduated from the Leadership Development Scholarship Program.

"Our power as an organization lies within our membership. A strong, united membership is the only way we can move forward and achieve success. We need to be united and connected with each other."



IDEAS?
ISSUES?
NEED HELP?



Send an email to your Local Union
at contact@usw1944.ca

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

The 2014 TWU-United Steelworkers merger agreement provided that Local 1944 would benefit from the expertise of Staff Representatives.

There are currently three USW Staff Representatives assigned to the Local 1944 Burnaby office to assist the Local. They are the link to all the resources the United Steelworkers have to offer us.

Meet our three Staff Representatives: Randy Gatzka, Jayson Little, and Scott Lunny.

GRIEVANCES AND ARBITRATIONS

Staff Representatives assist Local Union Representatives with arbitrations, helping with research and the other components of the arbitration process from start to finish including attendance at the hearings.

They provide insight and mentorship.

They are actively involved in the [Grievance Committee](#).

BARGAINING

Staff Representatives provide collective bargaining support for negotiations, including strategic campaigns support. They are key in protecting the rights of workers.

Brothers Gatzka, Lunny and Little have experience in collective bargaining, that experience benefits our members in the negotiation of renewed collective agreements.

ORGANIZING

Staff Representatives work with our Local to grow our membership; and drive our organizing aims and efforts.

LEGAL ADVICE AND RESEARCH

Staff Representatives regularly liaise with the USW legal departments.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES



RANDY GATZKA

Randy Gatzka has worked for the USW for the past 19 years, servicing in Saskatoon, Regina, in Northern and Central BC. He's currently a member of Local 1976, a national local across Canada (previously known as the Transportation, Communication Union).

He's been involved in many organizing drives and he was the Organizing Coordinator for

District 3. He has negotiated in excess of 150 collective agreements in a variety of sectors from retail and manufacturing to mining and transportation. He has prepared and presented approximately 30 arbitrations in his career. Brother Gatzka started working with Local 1944 in May 2019 out of the Burnaby office.

"The Telecommunications Workers Union was my father's union for his working life. I used to say that he was a *county lineman*. He worked in the Bralorne / Lillooet area and I would go with him to knock snow off microwave towers in the mountains. This Union looked after our family and I am proud to give back to it as a Staff Representative and activist."

"As Local 1944 looks towards 2021 and collective bargaining with Telus, I would like the membership to think of a quote by A. Phillip Randolph, who was an American labour unionist: *'At the banquet table of nature, there are no reserved seats. You get what you can take, and you keep what you can hold. If you can't take anything, you won't get anything: and if you can't hold anything, you won't keep anything. And you can't take anything without organization.'*"

"We work with the Executive to support the membership and the Local Union's goals through education, collective bargaining and grievance/arbitration handling. We assist in providing resources to deal with certain issues whether it be organizing new members or reorganizing current members. Our work is on top of the Local Executive and other union activists who donate their time to work for their fellow members." — Randy Gatzka

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

JAYSON LITTLE

Jayson Little started working at Shaw in 1994 as an Installer out of Unit 60 in Vancouver, BC. He became Shop Steward in 2010, a position he held for 10 years. He was elected Unit Counsellor and Unit Vice President in 2014. At the 2015 Local Union Delegated Meeting he was elected Regional Executive Officer BC. Among other training, Brother Little attended the Building Power course and graduated from the USW Leadership Development Scholarship Program in 2018.



In 2019, Brother Little completed a three-month Staff Representative internship, which gave him the opportunity to represent and defend workers in District 3 – comprising of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories. He became familiar with labour regulations, collective agreements and other legal documentation. He was able to contribute to multiple rounds of bargaining with several employers.

Brother Little became Staff Rep for the Local in January 2020. He had experience in bargaining prior to becoming a Staff Representative, as he was a member of Unit 60's bargaining committee in 2018 for the Vancouver and Surrey certifications. He's currently in bargaining for the Abbotsford certification.

"The Staff Representative position is a great learning opportunity. I was taken aback when Ken Neumann, USW Director for Canada, came to me and offered the position. It's what I have been working towards these past years, so I was honoured. Randy is an amazing mentor, and I felt very welcome by the Local executives. I appreciate how we work with the Table Officers. We are a united group of people working for the best interest of members."

"Companies don't like solidarity, it's kryptonite to them, they get frustrated by it. They do whatever they can to keep workers separated from each other. But once we come together, it levels the playing field, and restores the balance of power in our favour." — Jayson Little

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

SCOTT LUNNY

Scott Lunny has been working as a Staff Rep for Local 1944 since August 2020.

He started his union work for the Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers Union and the United Steelworkers 26 years ago, in early 1994. He quickly got involved in a lot of different activities, from organizing and Labour Board work to developing and delivering education to political action. He worked out of the USW District 3 as staff, including 12 years as Assistant to the Director. That gave him the opportunity to learn about various sectors like mining, steel and telecommunications.



"I've had the privilege to meet the hard-working members of our Union all across western Canada and work with our local activists and leaders on many contracts, issues, campaigns and, unfortunately, at times labour disputes, layoffs and closures."

Brother Lunny participated in the historic merger of the TWU and USW in 2015. He's also been involved in organizing non-union workers, which he considers a highlight of his union work.

"It's exciting to be back working with Local 1944. The industry is a very competitive one, with corporations that seem to be as aggressive with their labour relations as they are in competing for customers. When we look at Telus, the membership is spread across four provinces, with different jobs and functions and different histories. The real challenge continues to be bringing all of those members and diverse interests and experiences together. That takes communication, education and smart, strategic bargaining, whether it is over policies, grievances or a new collective agreement. Local 1944 is on the right path and working to tap into the resources and experiences of our District, National and International Union. It's a lot of work, but we have never won any rights or benefits without work, struggle, and many times, a fight."

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

(Scott Lunny continued)

"The Covid-19 pandemic has really shone a light on what is needed in our workplaces to keep people healthy and safe and in our communities to make sure no one gets left behind. We don't need to go back to the way it was, we need to move forward and rebuild a safer, fairer economy where workers are properly compensated and have the security and freedom to spend quality time with their families. The key to make that happen for workers is a union. And what better union than the United Steelworkers!"

"My role is to bring my experience and perspective to all of that, and support the great work that the Local Union is doing to engage the membership and get folks involved in building a stronger Union and achieving better outcomes on the job, for our families and for our communities." — *Scott Lunny*



HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

**Because a right denied to one is a right
denied to all, Local 1944 members
need to hear from you!**

Contact your Local Union Representative

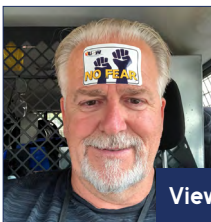
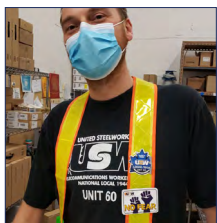
Share your story by email
at communications@usw1944.ca

#NOFEAR SHAW ABBOTSFORD

The current Collective Agreement between Shaw Abbotsford and USW Local 1944 expired March 31, 2020. The bargaining committee is working to achieve a fair and respectful agreement for all.

You can check the bargaining updates [here](#).

Show your solidarity on social media using the hashtag #NoFear



View the #NoFear photo album at <https://1944.fyi/nfa>

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

From August 6 to September 15, members have been participating in a photo contest organized by Local 1944. **Congratulations to our 3 winners:**

Shelene Campbell from Unit 32

Neil Marshall from Unit 32

Allan Wong from Unit 51

Each member has won a \$500 Visa gift card, which they will receive shortly in their mail boxes. Their pictures have been selected because they displayed our "Thanks To All Telecom Workers" [poster](#) in creative and effective ways.

"Thank you to all who participated," said Acting President Donna Hokiuro. "We enjoyed looking at all of the pictures that were submitted. Getting involved in your Union can be as rewarding and as fun as participating in a contest. Shop stewards win every day when they take up the call of service for their peers."

Once again, thanks to all Telecom Workers that allow Canadians to work from home!



Shelene Campbell - Unit 32



Neil Marshall - Unit 32



Allan Wong - Unit 51

Remember, you have the right to put Union material on your Union Board, company truck, at your desk if you still work out of an office, or anywhere you are presently allowed to post personal items.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2020

LOCAL 1944 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Four scholarships valued at \$1,000 and three scholarships valued at \$750 are awarded each year to students who have displayed exceptional community involvement, leadership abilities, and dedication to academic excellence. We are proud to present this year's Scholarship recipients.

Alisha Abbasi from Calgary, AB, will be studying for a Business Bachelor of Commerce at University of Calgary (\$1,000);

Katelyn Brotherton from Red Deer, AB, will be studying Kinesiology and Sport Studies at Red Deer College (\$1,000);

Ryan Piccolo from Burnaby, BC, will be studying for a Bachelor of General Studies at the Simon Fraser University (\$1,000);

Lindsey Skelton from Maple Ridge, BC, will be studying Political Science at the University of Victoria (\$1,000);

Cassidy Chow from Vancouver, BC, will be studying General Science at the University of British Columbia (\$750);

Anne Coulter from Langley, BC, will be studying Educational Psychology at Simon Fraser University (\$750);

Brynn Witwicki from Prince George, BC, will be studying for a Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Northern British Columbia (\$750)

DAVID ELLIS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Ryan Piccolo is also the winner of a 2020 David Ellis Scholarship issued by USW District 3. He received a \$500 cheque for continuing his education.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2020



Mark Piccolo is a Unit 60 Shaw Installer in Burnaby, BC. This year, his son, Ryan, is the recipient of both the Local 1944 Scholarship and the David Ellis Scholarship. Mark and his family are very proud of their son's accomplishment.

DON'T MISS OUT ON SCHOLARSHIPS!

Every year, members of Local 1944 and their families are eligible for several United Steelworkers scholarships and paid internships. You can apply for both Canada-wide opportunities and the District awards.

**Don't miss your opportunity to apply
for Steelworker Scholarships!**

More information at usw1944.ca/scholarships

\$2,000 DONATION TO UNITED WAY

On July 14–15, 2020, members of the Executive Board passed a motion to make a \$2,000 donation to United Way / Centraide's effort to combat the economic effects of COVID-19, which has led to the highest level of unemployment in decades.

United Way has created the "Local Love Food Hubs" program to provide groceries, food hampers, prepared meals, and other essential goods at no cost to people who are facing food challenges. They now have 128 Local Love Food Hubs — an incredible achievement made possible through donations.

Across Canada, United Way is working locally to build great communities for everyone, using 3 key strategies: moving people from poverty to possibility; helping kids be all they can be; and building strong and healthy communities. Many of our friends and neighbours need help. Learn how you can help at www.unitedway.ca.



**SHOW YOUR LOCAL LOVE TODAY,
AND HELP COMBAT HUNGER IN
OUR COMMUNITIES.**



\$50

buys 10
nutritious
meals.



\$100

buys 5
weekly
grocery
hampers.



\$250

buys 10
grocery
vouchers.

Visit www.uwlm.ca/action if you'd like to make an individual donation

United Way is a long-standing, reputable, national charity with whom the Labour Movement has partnered for many years.