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IUOE 955 email update curated by Business Manager, Chris Flett

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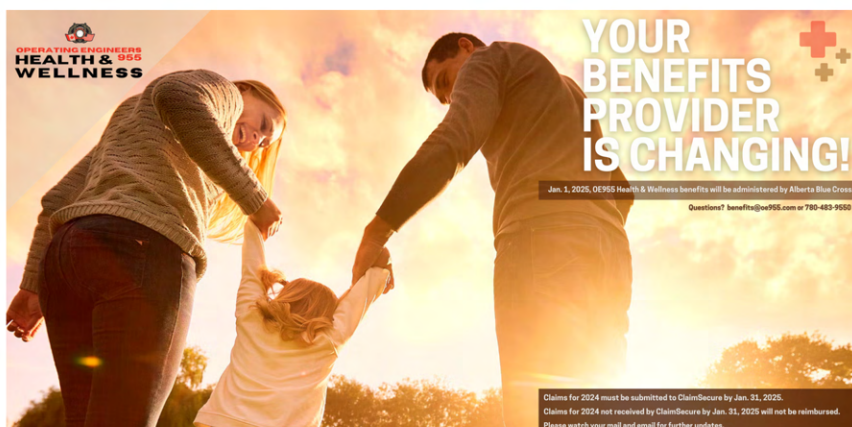
HELLO! FROM BUSINESS MANAGER, CHRIS FLETT

Welcome to the latest edition of IUOE 955's Connected! It's been another busy month around 955 as we prepare to host a large signatory contractor symposium and job fair at our Fort McMurray hall on Nov. 2, and a labour roundtable mid-month that will see several unions join us at Edmonton headquarters to discuss the benefits of union training with the Business Council of Alberta. BCA will then take the findings and include them in a report to be presented to the provincial government, advocating for more support for union training centres. I'll have more on that next issue.

In the meantime, enjoy November's edition, chock full of coverage from last month's happenings, including long service awards; a visit from MPs to Budd Coutts; our switch to Alberta Blue Cross and an upcoming information tour; a new agreement for members at County of Paintearth; our participation in the Premier's Summit on Fairness for Newcomers and much more. I hope you enjoy!



CHRIS FLETT



Jan. 1, 2025, OE955 Health & Wellness benefits will be administered by Alberta Blue Cross.

Questions? benefits@oe955.com or 780-429-9552

Claims for 2024 must be submitted to ClaimSecure by Jan. 31, 2025.
Claims for 2024 not received by ClaimSecure by Jan. 31, 2025 will not be reimbursed.
Please watch your mail and email for further updates.

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS SWITCH AIMS TO IMPROVE BENEFITS EXPERIENCE FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS PLAN MEMBERS, INFO TOUR COMING

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, OE955 Health & Wellness benefits will be provided to members through Alberta Blue Cross.

"After an exhaustive bid process with several interested providers, and considering feedback from the plan's membership, the Health & Wellness Trustees have chosen Alberta Blue Cross as the right partners to take our benefits plan forward," said Chris Flett, Business Manager and Chair of OE955 Health & Wellness Committee.

"We are excited for this change and to get to work with Alberta Blue Cross in providing these important benefits our members and their families rely on."

Catch the OE955 Health & Wellness team on the road with Alberta Blue Cross to answer any questions you may have at your local union hall:

Dec. 2 @ 6pm - Edmonton - 17603 114 Ave.

Dec. 3 @ 6pm - Fort McMurray - 258 Gregoire Dr.

Dec. 4 @ 6pm - Calgary - Bay 2, 2115 27 Ave. NE

Jan. 14 @ 10am & 6pm - Fort McMurray - 258 Gregoire Dr.

Jan. 15 @ 6pm - Calgary - Bay 2, 2115 27 Ave. NE

Jan. 16 @ 10am & 6pm - Edmonton - 17603 114 Ave.

Your union will continue to ensure information continues to flow to plan members as the transition takes place.

You can check the Alberta Blue Cross Transition Hub page on the members' website for the most up-to-date information as well.

IUOE 955 SIGNATORY CONTRACTOR SYMPOSIUM & JOB FAIR COMING TO FORT MCMURRAY



THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 955 WILL HOLD A LARGE SIGNATORY CONTRACTOR SYMPOSIUM AND JOB FAIR AT THE UNION HALL IN FORT MCMURRAY, 258 GREGOIRE DRIVE, ON NOV. 2 FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

IUOE 955 is excited to welcome many of the union's signatory employers to its union hall in Fort McMurray on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to highlight various work opportunities within these great organizations.

"We very much look forward to bringing together our employers and our community to help industry fulfil its workforce needs, and to spotlight rewarding careers in the unionized skilled trades to the next generation and others," said Chris Flett, Business Manager, IUOE 955.

The Local is expecting the symposium and job fair to be packed with community members, students, youth, etc. looking for a career within one of the trades its signatory contractors operate in.

All are welcome to join the excitement.

Plans are underway to hold a similar event at IUOE 955's Edmonton union hall in spring 2025.

NOVEMBER 2



258 GREGOIRE DR.



10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

MPS VISIT BUDD COUTTS TRAINING CENTRE

In mid-October, Business Manager, Chris Flett hosted Federal Conservative MP, Kyle Seebach, Shadow Minister for Labour out of Ontario, and Edmonton Conservative MP, Ziad Aboultaif for a meeting and tour of 955's Budd Coutts Apprenticeship and Education Centre just north of Edmonton.

The MPs got to see first hand the state-of-the-art education students get, in class, on simulators and on equipment. It's always a pleasure to show off the good work our Budd Coutts staff do at skilling up the next generation of trades pros.

The two even got to check out the Mobile Crane & Hoist class in session, funded with support announced by the provincial government in April.

IUOE 955 IS INCREDIBLY PROUD TO HAVE BUDD COUTTS BE THE VERY FIRST UNION TRAINING CENTRE IN HISTORY TO RECEIVE PROVINCIAL FUNDING FROM ANY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT.



BROTHER RODNEY PHILPOTT, 20 YEAR LONG SERVICE AWARD

"It was an absolute honour to present long-time 955er, Brother Rodney Philpott, with his 20-year long service award on Oct. 15 at the union hall in Fort McMurray," said Chris Flett, Business Manager.

"The loyalty, pride and dedication Rodney has shown to 955 over the last two decades is exceptional. He is a man of honour and professionalism, and we're proud to call him a brother, friend and colleague."

Philpott has spent the majority of his career with 955 in Fort McMurray's overburden sector.



IUOE 955 JOINS WBDLC TO SERVE UP THANKSGIVING TO THOSE IN NEED

"IUOE 955 was proud to be part of a coalition of labour unions through the Wood Buffalo and District Labour Council this Thanksgiving that delivered hot meals to many in need.

The Thanksgiving dinner, hosted by Centre of Hope, ensured a warm holiday meal for those who need it most in the community of Wood Buffalo and area.

Solidarity, combined with hard work and dedication from members of WBDLC, filled both hearts and bellies and was a testament to labour's commitment to giving back to the communities we live and work in.



Learn more about the Wood Buffalo and District Labour Council by visiting their website at: woodbuffalolabour.ca



PREMIER'S SUMMIT ON FAIRNESS FOR NEWCOMERS

IUOE 955 was invited to attend and present at Premier Smith's Summit on Fairness for Newcomers in Calgary on Oct. 16.

Assistant Business Manager, Anthony Noseworthy and President, Declan Regan - who presented to the large crowd - spent two days at the Summit in conversation with decision makers including Advanced Education Minister, Rajan Sawhney, Monte McNaughton, former Ontario Labour Minister, and more.

It was great to share the good work 955 is doing to highlight the talents new Canadians bring to the worksite, and also the need to ensure these workers are compensated fairly and know their rights - with the best way of doing both through union representation.

AGREEMENT REACHED AT COUNTY OF PAINTEARTH

Members at the County of Paintearth ratified a three-year deal on Oct. 7 that will see the municipal workers receive a 12 per cent boost to wages and more.

The agreement will see a 4.5 per cent increase in year one; a 4 per cent increase in year two; and a 3.5 per cent increase in the third year.

"The work these members do to keep the county running smoothly every day is essential to the community, and we're pleased they've achieved an agreement that treats them with the value and respect they deserve," said Chris Flett, Business Manager.

The deal will also see many improvements to language and more, including:

- Increase to tool allowance for mechanics and safety allowances for all employees.
- New language to cover on-call appointments with adequate compensation provided.
- New language adds personal leave days into the agreement.
- Employer reimbursement if there is a cost associated with providing an employer required medical note.
- New vision care coverage plan within the employee benefits plan.
- Increases in dental benefit plan to provide more for major restorative work and orthodontics.
- Wage adjustments to lead hand position of \$2/hour and assistant agricultural fieldman position of \$3/hr to reflect market value of position.
- New article for an employer contribution to the IUOE International Training Centre.



IUOE 955 MEMBER PROFILE

Abdirahman "Hirsi" Abdulle



Know a member who should be featured? Please give us an email at: connected@oe955.com

Say hi to Hirsi! Chief Steward and operator at Golden Arrow in Fort McMurray. Hirsi has been operating for more than 10-years, ensuring workers who make the Fort McMurray oilsands run get to site safely and on time.

When asked about what he sees as the best benefits of being union, Hirsi tells us first that there are too many to mention, but ones that stand out are: a safer and healthier environment; job security and equal opportunity.

His best advice for newcomers to the industry: JOIN US!



IUOE 955 was on hand at the Alberta Legislature Oct. 24 amongst thousands of working people to add its voice to the chorus of many demanding Charter-protected bargaining rights be upheld, and fair compensation for a hard day's work.

This is a matter of respect, not party politics, and 955 will continue to stand up for the rights of working people across Alberta and beyond.



50 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP, BROTHER GILBERT MCDONALD

Half a century as an IUOE 955er. Wow!

On Oct. 9, Brother Gilbert McDonald received his 50 year long-service award in Fort McMurray from Business Agent, Marshall Payne.

Brother McDonald was initiated into the union on July 1, 1974 and spent decades serving the union with pride, honour and loyalty.

The accolades for Gil have poured in from members, with messages of congratulations and folks remember doing tandem pick and carries with him years ago at MRC (now Albion).

Thank you for being part of the 955 family then, now and always.

LAMPSON CANADA COMES TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE 20 YEAR MEMBER, GARY APPEL

Gov't makes positive changes to private sector pension plan rules

Recently, the Alberta government made positive changes to private sector pension plans - mostly for the construction trades - that no longer force the OE955 Pension Plan to hold a larger reserve than necessary.

These changes recognize that well-run plans like ours, that minimize risk, need less of a reserve to ensure it can pay the promised benefits.

I am delighted that I was able to announce another 5% pension increase effective Jan. 1, 2025, on top of a previous 5% boost announced last September, which will positively impact thousands of our members and their families.

I recognize this couldn't have been done without good government regulation, and I thank Premier Danielle Smith and President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance, Nate Horner for helping make this increase possible.

• Chris Flett, Business Manager/Chair, OE955 Pension Plan

MOBILE CRANE PERIOD 1 GRADS



Some of the less-camera-shy grads of the Mobile Crane Period 1 class at 955's Budd Coutts Apprenticeship and Education Centre.

We're proud to say this class has been made available with support from Alberta government; the first time in the history of the province a union training centre has received funding from any provincial government. Congrats to you all and we look forward to seeing you on the jobsite!



A visit to members at Lampson Canada in Beiseker at the end of October allowed Southern District Supervisor, Rod Sedrovic to deliver a 20 year, long-service award to Gary Appel who is now enjoying a well-earned retirement (with a pension that just received another 5% boost).

Thank you for your years of service, dedication and loyalty, Brother Appel!

