

## **MPP**

We are happy to announce that on September 22, 2010, the trust fund holding all MPP deductions to-date have been signed off to BC Pensions. This did take a fair bit of legal leg work by our legal council Amanda Rogers and Karen Dean. For those owing monies to their MPP account, a payment plan will be offered till December 2011. The end result was worth the wait and your patience is noted!

Should you have any questions about your pension contributions to-date, please contact BC Pensions.

Vancouver: (604) 660-5366

or

[http://www.pensionsbc.ca/portal/page/portal/pen\\_corp\\_home/mpp\\_home\\_page](http://www.pensionsbc.ca/portal/page/portal/pen_corp_home/mpp_home_page)

NOTE: For those members that are new to BC Pensions as of April 2010, you won't have access to your internet account information until you receive the "Members Benefit Statement" in June of 2011. This statement will give you website logon access.

## **56th ATU International Convention**

Every 3 years our union as a whole (Canada, United States, Romania), representing 190,000 members, has a Union business convention to elect Officers, amend Constitutional language and set the future direction of our 117 year old union. The convention took place in Orlando Florida from September 26th to October 01st of this year.

We are pleased to announce Larry Hanely was elected as our new International President. Larry started driving bus back in 1978 at the age of 21, and has been an activist and a strong voice for the union and public Transit.

Also, we are also pleased to announce Bob Baker to Vice President. Bob as well has been part of ATU for 30+ years and has committed himself to issues that better our wages and benefits.

Bob Hykaway was acclaimed for another 3 year term as IVP

Robin West, our former Canadian Director, was voted in as IVP for a 3 year term.

If you wish to view Larry Hanely's and Bob Baker's profile, [oneatu.com](http://oneatu.com)

Congratulations to all !

## **Unions Email List**

If you are not receiving any emails from the union, then you are either not on the list or your email is being placed into the junk folder. In being informed and updated in Local 1724 union matters this is one of our ways in communicating with you. Please forward your email address to the union. We also have meetings every last Thursday of the month. Look for the General Meeting poster. We encourage you to attend. If you don't attend, how can you complain?

"Whatever their faults, unions have been the only powerful and effective voice working people have ever had in the history of this country." - Bruce Springsteen

## **Safety Before Schedule**

As it is a common occurrence these days that the drivers are constantly running late due to unrealistic scheduling, we must remind you, the drivers, that safety is always first. It is not your fault that you are getting clients to their appointment late, or having someone on the bus for more hours than they should be.

We recently had one of our clients scheduled on a bus for 4 hours. The driver upon picking up this client, notified dispatch that this client would not make his appointment in Vancouver. There was no help for the driver or client. The driver was also forced to drive that long without any break. The return driver showed up 5 minutes after this client was dropped off. The client missed his appointment and had another long trip from Vancouver back to Maple Ridge. Who is accountable for scheduling trips like this?

Drivers need to advise dispatch of these scheduling scenarios, and if you are not getting a satisfactory response, request to speak to a manager. Also, please fill out an incident report, hand it in and keep a record of your file. Encourage the client to complain.

Schedulers are forcing drivers to drive 4 to 5 hours, and even longer without a break. This is unacceptable and it is also a Health and Safety issue. Do you think that the schedulers or dispatchers are waiting 4-5-6+ hours for their breaks?

When drivers need to use a washroom, notify the dispatcher of such. If your request is not granted, continue with your drop offs and do not pick any clients up. Do not leave clients unattended on the bus unless it is an emergency. Drop then go! Do not use your coffee break as a washroom break. These are separate breaks. We will be dealing with this at our next labour/management meeting. We are protected by WorkSafe laws on this issue.

For those dispatchers who are working with and helping the drivers through bad scheduling, we value you and appreciate your efforts. The drivers know who you are!!!

## **Benefit Settlement**

The Union and MV met with Mark Brown to settle the dispute we had over the per employee cost for benefits. After a long day of mediation we were able to settle on a per employee cost, and we also resolved a grievance with in the process. We will be meeting with the company, in November, to establish a new plan for all current and future employees on benefits. Out of the current 7 benefit plans, the range of coverage is from good to not so good and we will have to find a middle ground. Which means that some will have improvements in benefits and some will have to settle for a lesser plan. We do get a 10% increase each year towards benefits and the more responsible we are in using the benefits the more benefits we can attain for the members.

Remember, benefits aren't free. They cost us as a whole. Please use them wisely!

## **Grievance Settlement**

All employees that were hired in 2009 were covered by the Vancouver (PTC) collective agreement were entitled to monies in lieu, for the Long Term Disability benefit which casuals couldn't receive. The settlement of this grievance will see those affected paid out. This also applies to all casuals that were grandfathered in from the PTC agreement.

If you have any questions please contact Tyler Felbel at: [tylerqfelbel@yahoo.ca](mailto:tylerqfelbel@yahoo.ca)