



2009

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# LOCAL UPDATE

## USW 2009 Local Union Officers

**Manjit Sidhu**  
*President*

**Scott McRitchie**  
*1st Vice President*

**Jim Kilty**  
*Financial Secretary*

**Les Veale**  
*Treasurer*

**Karen Adams**  
**Trena Legge**  
**Ardell Brophy**  
*Vice Presidents*

**Carolyn Ruppenthal**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Hans Raagner**  
*Guide*

**Bhupinder Badesha**  
*Outside Guard*

**Peter Peats**  
*Inside Guard*



Director Steve Hunt and Glenn Orris proceed with private prosecution against Weyerhaeuser in Lyle Hewer Death

### Weyerhaeuser Summoned to Court in Steelworkers Private Prosecution for Lyle Hewer Death

Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd. has been summoned to appear before a provincial court judge in New Westminister on March 28, regarding the United Steelworkers' (USW) private prosecution for the death of New Westminister sawmill worker Lyle Hewer in November 2004. Lyle Hewer was a 55 year old member of USW 1-3567 when he was killed on the job.

Prominent criminal lawyer Glen Orris will appear as prosecutor for the union, which is pursuing charges under the 2004 Westray amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada. Weyerhaeuser has retained criminal lawyer Leonard Doust of the international law firm McCarthy Tetrault.

Judge Therese Alexander issued process on March 2 in the private criminal prosecution case. The union alleges Weyerhaeuser was criminally negligent in Hewer's death at the company's New West Division sawmill.

Hewer died horrifically after being trapped and asphyxiated by debris in a hopper connected to a hog - a machine that converts wood waste to chips. He was rushed to Royal Columbian Hospital where he succumbed to injuries. Hewer died from injuries incurred after following a supervisor's request to work under conditions the employer knew were hazardous.

"We expect that our union will either proceed on its own in the role of a private prosecutor or that the Crown Counsel may step in to prosecute the criminal case," says USW Western Canada Director Stephen Hunt.

Over three days of hearings in October and November 2010, 23 witnesses gave evidence before Judge Alexander in New Westminister Court. "The testimony and evidence presented at those hearings convinced the judge that this case has merit that warrants a Summons to be issued," says Hunt. "In our view, it would be an injustice if the Crown were to step in and stay the charges at this point in time."

Crown Counsel previously rejected New Westminister Police recommendations that a charge of criminal negligence causing death was warranted.



### USW 2009 Launches New Website @ [usw2009.ca](http://usw2009.ca)

After months of waiting, the local union is proud to unveil its new website. The site is a windows based platform which makes updates and uploads easier which will help to keep it current and relevant to our members. Please visit us often, and let us know what you think.



# 2009

## Upcoming Events

**USW 2009 Executive Board**  
April 16, 2011

**USW National Health and Safety Conference**  
Vancouver April 17-20, 2011

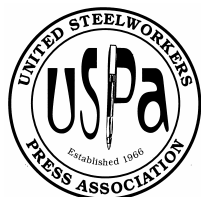
**Vaisakhi Day Celebration**  
April 23, 2011

**National day of mourning for workers injured or killed on the job** April 28, 2011

**USW 2009 Health and Safety Training** April 28/29, 2011

**Canadian Labour Congress Convention, Vancouver**  
May 9-13, 2011

**USW 2009 Executive Board**  
May 14, 2011



The local bulletin is a regular publication of USW Local 2009. Previous issues can be found at [www.usw2009.ca](http://www.usw2009.ca)



USW 2009 and "The Laff Riot Girls" host an evening of laughter and burgers on April 9th at the Union Hall in support of Earl & Brian (Team USW) Ride to Conquer Cancer.

The Ride is a unique, two-day cycling event to take place on June 18-19, 2011.

We at the USW (United Steelworkers) are on a conquest. We have decided to team up in The Enbridge Ride to Conquer Cancer benefiting the BC Cancer Foundation. It's a cycling journey through Canada's Pacific region taking place in the summer.

The USW is here because we know that cancer is too big a disease to ignore. It affects everyone, maybe you, me, our parents, kids, siblings, friends or coworkers, sadly, maybe all of us. Too many people go to work each day and are exposed to known carcinogens that cause cancer. We at the USW want to raise the public awareness of this and help stop this disease before it starts as well as help fund research not only for prevention but for a cure. By riding in this event we are doing something about it. We're rolling closer and closer to the end of cancer. It's an awesome triumph in a physical sense and emotionally as well.

So hey, join us! This can be your opportunity to do something challenging and rewarding in so many ways. And you won't do it alone. We will be doing training rides, helping each other to fundraise, and generating awareness for critical cancer research at the BC Cancer Foundation, a leader in cancer research and care.

Please donate to us or join us.

Thank you in advance for your support.  
In Solidarity Brian Harder and Earl Graham.



Canada is at a crossroads, just like it was forty years ago when it was time to do something about our health care system. Today, we need to do something about retirement income, and we need to do it soon. It's time to change some things

The problem with Canada's retirement income system has become so obvious that even bank economists have started to admit the RRSP approach has failed. There's too much risk and not enough security to ensure that, after a lifetime of work, people can retire and live out their last years in dignity.

The federal and provincial governments must:

- ◆ Phase in a doubling of payouts from the [Canada Pension Plan \(CPP\)](#) and the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP).
- ◆ Immediately [increase Old Age Security \(OAS\)](#) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for all retirees.

Our governments must also:

- ◆ Create a national pension insurance fund to ensure that workers' defined benefit pensions aren't at risk when employers go under or speculative bubbles go bust. The United States has a pension guarantee fund covering up to about \$50,000 of pension income.
- ◆ Regulate financial products to ensure that risks are reasonable and clear to all investors, and to ensure that rating agencies are truly independent.
- ◆ Regulate pension fund investments in risky financial instruments and prosecute any cases of fraud.
- ◆ Regulate pension funds for solvency in order to secure promised pension benefits.
- ◆ Provide any temporary solvency funding relief to employers in serious financial trouble on a case-by-case basis only. Applications must be approved by the workplace bargaining agent (the union) or a majority of pension beneficiaries (in a non-union workplace).

Whether retirement is just around the corner or something that's decades into the future, Labour's plan for Retirement Security has clear benefits for everyone - no matter where you work.