

AUGUST 2018

# POWER WORKS



PWU NEWSLETTER



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE |



Dear Members,

I hope you are all enjoying a great summer with your families and friends! These past few months have been busy ones for the Power Workers' Union (PWU). Not only have we made significant advancements at the bargaining table; we've also been working on initiatives and events to connect with our membership and communities.

In addition to this, the PWU has been monitoring the direction and state of the energy industry in Canada. It's no secret that the industry is in a state of transition, but thanks to the expertise, unwavering dedication and solidarity of our members and leadership, the PWU continues to be the strongest energy sector union and a leading force in Ontario's energy sector.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

We are currently in the process of developing a new strategic plan, SP17, for our union that will successfully lead us into the future of energy in Ontario. Since August 2017, we have been working on the revitalization of the PWU's 17-year-old Strategic Plan. This required facilitated sessions with the Executive Committee to review the previous plan and develop new draft statements reflecting the current situation and the desired future state.

Next steps include the implementation of our Sector Specific Strategic Plans to be completed in the next year and we are looking at meeting our Action Objectives at Unit Advisory Committees (UAC) across the union. The needs of staff and Special Committees will also be reviewed to ensure appropriate opportunity for other parts of the union to align their actions by establishing meaningful accountabilities at all levels of the organization. When completed, SP 2017 will provide an effective, efficient and accountable road map directing the union's activities for the next four years.



By **Mel Hyatt**  
*President*  
*The Power Workers' Union*

**PWU continues to be the strongest energy sector union and a leading force in Ontario's energy sector.**





## BARGAINING

Our bargaining teams have made a lot of progress this year. Sector 1's Bruce Power and Compass Group contracts were both ratified with high membership approval. Bargaining with Ontario Power Generation will be ongoing for Sectors 1 and 2. A Memorandum of Agreement for KNSS has been reached and bargaining will begin in November.



Sector 3 ratified contracts with the following employers:

- **Collus PowerStream**  
(2-year Collective Agreement)
- **Kitchener Wilmot**  
(3-year Collective Agreement)
- **Rogers Communications**  
(4-year Collective Agreement)
- **Sioux Lookout**  
(3-year Collective Agreement)
- **Toronto Hydro**  
(4-year Collective Agreement)
- **Hydro One**  
(2-year Collective Agreement)
- **PUC Services**  
(3-year Collective Agreement)
- **Orangeville Hydro**  
(5-year Collective Agreement)

Bargaining for Tillsonburg Hydro is ongoing. This will be the first collective agreement with Tillsonburg Hydro.

Bargaining is currently in progress with the following Sector 3 employers:

- Alectra Utilities
- Kenora Hydro
- Inergi LP

Negotiations will be scheduled between now and the end of the year with the following Sector 3 employers:

- Hydro One Sault Ste. Marie (Inside and Outside) - Tentative
- Entegrus Power, ERT Holdings, Erie Thames

Almost all rounds of bargaining have been completed for 2018. Preparations for 2019 bargaining will begin this fall. Kudos to our bargaining committees for all the time and effort they have put in to ensuring successful negotiations for our members. We appreciate the time these members take from their home and families to do this important work. Thank you all for a job well done!

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY AUTHORITY (ESA)

The PWU executive recently had the pleasure of meeting 25 Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) union representatives from across the province on June 29, 2018. ESA is comprised of 400 dedicated members who are safety professionals in their field, focused on ensuring electrical safety for Ontarians through the administration and enforcement of electrical safety regulations.





## CANADIAN NUCLEAR WORKERS COUNCIL (CNWC)

I was proud to address the CNWC on behalf of the PWU in the past few months. In my address to this Council, I briefed them on our union, our values and beliefs, and the challenges that we face in the nuclear sector.

We look forward to having a strong relationship with the CNWC, whose role as the collective voice of the unions in the nuclear sector is valuable in the nuclear debate.



The PWU has also had the opportunity to partner with LiUNA on important industry events and initiatives. The PWU and LiUNA had the opportunity to host the very first social for participants at this year's Canadian Nuclear Conference. I would like to thank Bill Barbosa from LiUNA and Paul Reece from the PWU for their efforts in organizing this very successful event which allowed politicians, industry leaders and union leadership to connect at the conference. At the same conference, the parties also joined forces with Bruce Power to host the Cobalt 60 Awareness Social.

One of the tremendous benefits of Canadian nuclear reactor technology is the production of medical grade Cobalt-60. This radioisotope is used to sterilize medical equipment such as hospital gowns, gloves, masks, implantable devices and syringes as well as some food products. We're pleased to be partners in this tremendous life-saving initiative with LiUNA and Bruce Power.

Our involvement in events and initiatives like these and our partnership with LiUNA will allow us to remain active and ensure our voices are heard in our workplaces, within the union and within our communities.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH LIUNA

The PWU is proud of its ongoing partnership with LiUNA. Through Hiring Hall agreements, LiUNA members are able to work with employers the PWU represents. This arrangement ensures sustained jobs for LiUNA's members while allowing us to provide a workforce that meets the needs of our employers; in turn, it ensures the work remains under the union's control.

Through mergers and acquisitions, the PWU has not only grown its membership, but has expanded opportunities for LiUNA to provide additional staffing for the companies we work for. It's the PWU's intention to ensure that similar agreements are negotiated at all further employers where the Hiring Hall is established.





## THE ENERGY ROUNDTABLE

In mid-June, I attended The Energy Roundtable in Toronto to learn about the direction of the energy sector in Canada and the transitions that will lead us into the future. As a progressive voice for energy in Ontario, it's important we remain updated on the advancements on industry in order to stay ahead of developments that could impact our members and the communities they live and work in. The PWU will continue to take a proactive stance on these new developments to ensure the success and protection of our members.



## 2018 EVENTS

The PWU has had the opportunity to host some great union events over the past couple months. We had an excellent turnout overall, which you'll find out more about in this newsletter. It was great to get to spend the day with our members and your family and friends. I enjoyed seeing all of you, and look forward to seeing you all again at our future events. Thanks to all members for their ongoing dedication and solidarity. We look forward to connecting with you in the months ahead at our Fall and Winter 'Powering the Maple Leafs' events.

## UNION MAIL

The decision to implement a union-based email server for the PWU was made in order to protect our membership and enable us to provide more union-sensitive information to our members.. Previously, our database mainly comprised of employer-based emails. Keeping up to date with personal email changes was also a challenge for the union. Through Union Mail, our goal is to ensure that you get the information you need in a private, secure, and sustainable manner. We hope you will find this platform beneficial. Further information on how to activate your accounts can be found at the end of this newsletter.

***Please keep an eye on your Union Mail account and check back to @PWUConnects on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube) for the latest PWU updates, bulletins and notices.***





# RECENT NEWS





## DARLINGTON NUCLEAR TO PRODUCE LIFESAVING MEDICAL ISOTOPES

**T**he Darlington Nuclear Generating Station in Clarington, Ont. has announced a plan to produce crucial radioactive isotopes used to detect conditions such as heart disease and cancer.

In a collaboration between Ontario Power Generation's (OPG) subsidiary Canadian Nuclear Partners, and U.S.-based BWX Technologies, Darlington will produce molybdenum-99 (Mo-99), the parent isotope of technetium-99 (Tc-99m), which is used in approximately 80% of all nuclear medicine scans in Canada.

Over 7,500 Power Workers' Union members work in Ontario Nuclear Generating Stations, including Ontario Power Generation's Darlington. The Darlington facility would be the first large nuclear plant in the world to produce the isotope.

According to OPG, producing molybdenum-99 in Canada will secure a long-term, domestic and North American supply of the isotope, which is needed for over 30 million diagnostic and medical treatments each year.

Canada's supply of medical isotopes was disrupted in 2016, as the Chalk River reactor ceased to produce molybdenum-99. Due to this, Canadian hospitals were forced to import the imaging material from Europe, Africa, and Australia.

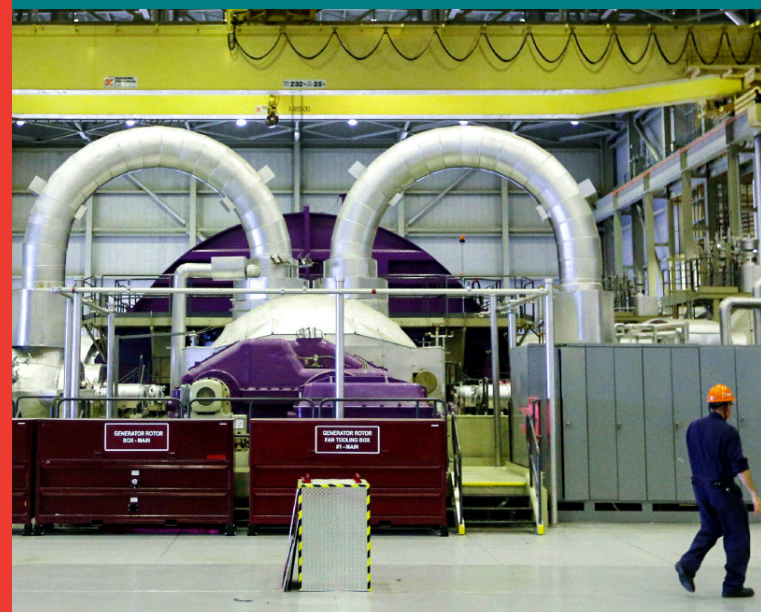
The CANDU reactors at the Darlington station can produce molybdenum-99 while still generating electricity.

Both Tc-99m and the Mo-99 it is generated from have short half-lives and need be used quickly once they are produced. As a result, it is crucial to have a constant, stable supply of the isotopes.

BWX Technologies has said it expects to have sufficient production capacity to satisfy all North American demand for Mo-99.

Darlington's production of molybdenum-99 is just one example of Ontario's nuclear sector working together to provide life-saving medical isotopes. Ontario's nuclear industry is major world supplier of Cobalt-60, which is used to sterilize medical equipment, as well as tritium, which is used for photoluminescence. Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power supply 70% of the world's Cobalt-60.

Pending regulatory approval, Darlington's facility will begin generation of molybdenum-99 by the end of 2019. The four CANDU reactors at Darlington are also currently undergoing a \$12.8 billion project refurbishment which is scheduled for completion by 2026.





## PICKERING NUCLEAR STATION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 2024

**A**fter many efforts by the Power Workers' Union to fight for the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station to remain open, the current government has confirmed their commitment to keeping the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station open until 2024. This commitment will protect 4,500 local jobs in Durham Region, and an additional 3,000 jobs across the province.

The status of the Pickering station was a highly contested topic in the recent provincial election. The NDP, the official Opposition, came under fire for proposing a plan to start decommissioning the plant this year. The Liberals had planned to keep it operating until 2024, suggesting that shutting it down this year would risk Ontario's energy supply, as well as the production of medical isotopes.

The nuclear industry in Ontario supports 60,000 jobs – many of them done by Power Workers' Union members. The Pickering station is one of the largest nuclear generating facilities in the world, and produces enough power for the equivalent of Hamilton, Waterloo and London, combined. The low-cost energy created at the plant will save Ontario electricity customers \$600 million dollars by 2024.

Operating Pickering until 2024 will also avoid 17 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, thereby supporting Ontario's efforts to combat climate change. Along with Bruce Power, Pickering will also continue to supply two-thirds of the world's Cobalt-60, which hospitals around the world use for instrument sterilization.

The Pickering Nuclear Generating Station's continued operation will ensure a safe and reliable supply of electricity while other Ontario nuclear plants, Darlington and Bruce Nuclear, undergo refurbishments in the upcoming years.





# THE PWU PAYS TRIBUTE TO FOUNDING FATHER

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, we lost a great leader and a wonderful countryman: Charles Kealey Cummings. Born on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1926, Kealey dedicated his life to improving workers' rights. He grew up in Timmins, Ontario with his parents and two brothers. Throughout his youth, Kealey excelled as a goalie in hockey and loved golf.

For his first job, Kealey worked as a newspaper boy for Roy Thompson at the Timmins Daily Press. As the story goes, his employment was terminated after attempting to negotiate an additional penny or two per paper for himself and his fellow paperboys.

After serving in the Royal Canadian Navy towards the end of WWII, Kealey returned to his hometown and joined the Construction Division of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario in 1947. While working as a construction lineman, he moved through the Employee's Association ranks, eventually becoming the union's 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in 1955.

In 1956, Kealey put forward a motion to change the name of the association to the Ontario Hydro Employees' Union (OHEU). The motion passed, and the association gave way to a union boasting 11,000 members. The Chief Stewards elected Kealey Cummings to be the OHEU's first full-time President.

At the time, the union was affiliated with both the National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE) and the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in 1960.

This decision would clear the way for Kealey led the OHEU through their first strike in 1969, and successfully negotiated better contracts and benefits for pensioners. Kealey continued to work in the OHEU as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and later as Special Assignments Officer. He served as a general Vice President of CUPE, and later travelled to London, England as a Labour Counsellor to Great Britain and the Netherlands, before returning to Canada.

After officially retiring in 1986, Kealey continued to serve members of the PWU. He established the Retired Workers' Chapter (RWC) in 1996, and worked as the Chapter's president for 13 years. He retired when he was 82 - yet remained active as a member of the Chapter Executive.

A celebration of Kealey's life and distinguished career as a founding father took place in Ottawa on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018. He is survived by his son Michael (Toronto), and his daughter Charlene and grandson Daniel (Ottawa). Kealey Cummings was loved and admired by many. He has left working class people across Canada with his lifelong legacy of leadership and positive change.







PWU  
EVENTS



# SOLIDARITY IN SAFETY HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE

May 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

This May, The Power Workers' Union (PWU) hosted the *Solidarity in Safety Health & Safety Conference*. During the conference at the Hilton Suites in Markham, Ont., PWU Chief Stewards and elected Health & Safety Committee Co-Chairs had the chance to go over current research regarding several health & safety topics that affect PWU members.

Key note speakers included:

- **Dr. Bindu Kumar**, Main Line HealthCare  
Dr. Kumar provided the latest medical information about Lyme disease including the most effective preventative measures and treatment protocols.
- **Bill Simms**, Dynamic leadership speaker and author  
Mr. Simms explained how his well-researched positive reinforcement philosophy has had lasting positive effects at multinational firms in creating great health and safety cultures.
- **Allan Kehler**, Mental Health expert; bestselling author  
Mr. Keller spoke of his personal and professional experiences with mental health and substance abuse. He provided resourceful strategies for holistic approaches to healing.
- **Dr. Ash Bender**, Occupational Psychiatrist and Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto  
Dr. Bender spoke of his professional experiences and research in the field of occupational disability.

The conference also featured a trade-show like environment for safety, labour and health services related organizations, including:

- The Ministry of Labour (MOL);
- Workers Health and Safety Centre (WHSC);
- Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council (CNWC);
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH); and
- Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation (CanLyme).



# PWU DAY AT CANADA'S WONDERLAND

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PWU Day at Canada's Wonderland on Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> was a great success, with over 6,000 PWU members enjoying the park with their family and friends.

PWU Members had the chance to experience the exciting rides in the park's top five ride areas, and enjoy an excellent lunch together in the Courtyard Area. PWU Staff and elected representatives were on hand to distribute specially-designed event T-shirts. Member events are fun ways for PWU members and their families to get to know one another and build solidarity - and this event keeps getting bigger!

Our thanks to the PWU Executive, Elective Representatives and Staff who helped organize the event. We're already looking forward to next year!



# PWU ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT 2018

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018



On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Power Workers' Union held our annual Charity Golf Tournament at 2 venues in Alliston, Ont.: Nottawasaga Inn & Resort and Woodington Lake Golf Club.

With over 500 members in attendance, this tournament was the PWU's largest yet. Thanks to our generous sponsors, raffle tickets and 50/50 tickets, the PWU was able to raise an incredible \$80,000.00 for our three charities:

- Diabetes Canada
- The MS Society
- The Ross Tilley Burn Unit at Sunnybrook Hospital

A cheque ceremony will take place within the next few weeks to present our raised funds to these worthwhile causes.

Along with the outstanding charitable donations, the entire day was filled with camaraderie between members over a round of golf.

We want to thank all of the members who participated and donated. We hope to have an even greater turnout next year!





# PWU IN OUR COMMUNITIES





## RIDE/RUN FOR HEART 2018

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, six members of the PWU Staff accepted the challenge of the annual Manulife Run/Ride for Heart, raising \$1,650 for cardiovascular disease research.

The PWU Run Team included team captain John Ives, Lisa Kim, Liz Barber, Erin Farley, Bailey Farrell, and Kait Gillis.

Chris Dassios from PWU's legal counsel also continued his tradition of competing annually, raising \$4K for the cause.

The Ride/Run for Heart route is 5 km, and takes participants from Toronto's Exhibition Place up onto the Gardiner Expressway, before looping back to the start/finish line. The money raised for this event will go towards finding incredible breakthroughs for the treatment of strokes and heart disease.

Next year's event will take place on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. Get your team together and plan on participating!





# HYDRO ONE LINES RODEO

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The Hydro One Lines Rodeo 2018 on June 16<sup>th</sup> was a huge success. With 4 different components, lines workers from across the province gathered in Kleinburg, Ont, and competed in teams to complete the 4 tasks as efficiently as they could. The winners overall, were team Avista.

PWU Members from across Ontario had a chance to compete, as well as let their little ones give it a try. Teaching them the importance of safety, as well as giving them a taste of climbing the hydro poles, increases their appreciation of the hard work PWU Members are doing all over our province daily.





# LABOUR DAY THE HISTORY

Canadians have been celebrating Labour Day (Fête du Travail) on the first Monday in September since the 1880s.

The origins of Labour Day in Canada trace back to December 1872, when The Toronto Trades Assembly (TTA) called on its 27 unions to demonstrate their solidarity with the Toronto Typographical Union, who had been on strike since March 25<sup>th</sup>. The unions staged a parade to support the Typographical Union's call for a 58-hour work-week.

George Brown, Canadian politician and editor of the Toronto Globe, hit back at his striking employees, pressing police to charge the Typographical Union with "conspiracy." Although the laws criminalizing union activity were outdated and had already been abolished in Great Britain, they were still on the books in Canada. The police arrested 24 Typographical Union leaders. Other labour leaders decided to call another similar demonstration on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to protest the arrests. Seven unions marched in Ottawa, prompting Canadian Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald to promise to repeal the "barbarous" anti-union laws. Parliament passed the Trade Union Act on June 14<sup>th</sup> the following year, and soon all unions were seeking a 54-hour work-week.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1894, Canadian Prime Minister John Thompson and his government made Labour Day an official holiday to commemorate these historic events.

Since then, organized labour movements have taken to the streets every September. On Labour Day, workers in Canada celebrate their occupations while underlining the fight we still lead to ensure quality jobs and safe working conditions for generations to come. The march is always a fun-filled day spent with family, friends, and co-workers, while presenting a chance to mingle with other union members.

Join the PWU at this year's Labour Day Parade on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018! Keep an eye on your Union Mail at the beginning August for more details on this year's celebrations.





# LABOUR DAY PARADE 2018

**J**oin the Power Workers' Union (PWU) at the Toronto Labour Day Parade as we celebrate the strength and solidarity of workers across Canada!

**DATE:** Monday, September 3, 2018

**TIME:** 9 am

**LOCATION:** University Ave. (West side), South of Dundas St. West and North of Armoury St.

*The parade will travel south from our assembly point, making its way west on Queen St. towards the CNE; the parade will arrive at the CNE entrance by approximately 11 am.*

The first 600 members and their immediate family members who register for the parade will receive a specially designed, Canadian-made PWU Labour Day t-shirt and hat.

Register now at:  
[\*\*pwu.ca/events\*\*](http://pwu.ca/events)

