



OPCMIA LOCAL 919

MEMBER NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2026



A MESSAGE FROM BUSINESS MANAGER ROY BIZZUTTO

Time has flown by since our last newsletter. The busy summer construction season is upon us. Here is the latest update from OPCMIA Local 919.

Economic conditions across B.C.'s construction sector are still relatively strong. The industry is being supported by major investments in healthcare, transportation, energy and trade infrastructure. Projects such as the Surrey Langley SkyTrain, the Broadway Subway and the new St Paul's Hospital are sustaining demand for skilled tradespeople across the province. Some levels of economic uncertainty continues to influence private-sector investment decisions. But a healthy pipeline of public infrastructure and industrial development projects is expected to support construction activity in the years ahead.

Notably, the federal government's Major Projects Office has identified six major projects in B.C., including LNG Canada Phase 2, Ksi Lisims LNG and the Red Chris Mine Expansion. Those projects represent many billions of dollars of public and private investment and provide hope of great jobs for many of our members in the future.

The Dispatch Board is currently empty for Lower Mainland work, which is why we have seen a significant increase in hours in 2025 (736,894 hours) as compared to 2024 (667,035 hours). That represents an increase of 10.5%. We are projecting high hours once again for the rest of 2026.

BARGAINING UPDATE

The CLRA Agreement has been ratified and members working under those agreements have been mailed updated wage schedules. The agreement will be completed in the next few months.

Now that the CLRA agreement has been ratified and the standard has been set, negotiations of the Allied Hydro Council Collective Agreement (AHC), the British Columbia Infrastructure Benefits Agreement (BCIB) and the Pacific Regional Maintenance Council Agreement (PRMC) will begin.

We will also begin Vancouver School Board (VSB) negotiations now that the Provincial Frameworks Agreement is complete. We look forward to productive bargaining processes that will lead to improved wages and working conditions for Local 919 members.

Pension

OPCMIA 919 PENSION UPDATE

All OPCMIA Local 919 members will receive an Annual Pension Statement in June that details service to the end of the previous year and shows earned pension to that time.

It is important that you review this statement and advise the Pension Plan Office (Convyta) of accuracy within 90 days of receipt.

If you are working under a Local 919 collective agreement, you are entitled to become a member of the pension plan. You can become a member 24 months after starting work as a Local 919 member provided that:

- Contributions have been received of at least 250 credited hours in each of the two (2) years since you started work.

And

- You are a member in good standing of the Union (all initiation and registration fees paid, and monthly dues or assessments of no more than two (2) months in arrears).

REST IN PEACE

It is with great sadness that we would like to acknowledge OPCMIA Local 919 members who have passed away this year:

Pensioners non-member

Adelino Gualdino
Liliano Passaglia

Members – Active

Austin Maton
Joao Pires



PROJECTS OUTLOOK

LNG Canada

An announcement regarding the Limited Notice to Proceed marks another important step to advance essential work supporting a potential Phase 2 final investment decision (FID) by year end.

Massey Tunnel Replacement

The Bargaining Council of the BC Building Trades Unions (BCBCBTU) has signed a Project Labour Agreement (PLA) for the Massey Tunnel Replacement Project. We could see members working on that by the 2nd quarter of 2027.

Revelstoke Dam Unit 6

Construction on BC Hydro's Revelstoke Dam Unit 6 (REV-6) project is scheduled to start this Fall, with the 500-megawatt generating unit slated to go into service by December 2032. The project will add capacity for peak energy demands, with a total workforce of roughly 200 workers on-site.





ENROL IN RED SEAL COURSES TODAY!

UPCOMING COURSES

Apprentices can enrol for Red Seal Concrete Finisher training for upcoming classes.

- **Level 1** - July 6 to August 2026, in New Aiyansh, north of Terrace, B.C.
- **Level 1** - November 16 to December 18, 2026, at the Trowel Trades Training Association in Surrey.

SKILLED TRADES RECEIVE BOOST

Speaking of apprenticeship, there were several new measures and funding streams included in the federal economic update, with notable emphasis on programs and initiatives that support skilled trades workers, training and apprenticeship.

Team Canada Strong has been funded \$6 billion over five years, with a goal to recruit, train and hire 80,000-100,000 new Red Seal skilled trades workers by 2031.

The government's goal is to align this

spending with housing, infrastructure and defense needs. The update also highlights a goal to cut the timeline to Red Seal certification by 50 per cent.

Highlights include:

Build Canada Apprenticeship Service

- Up to \$10,000 per apprentice for small and medium size employers to incentivize hiring, training and retaining apprentices.

A new and re-designed Apprenticeship Grant

- \$400/week in income supports while apprentices are in technical training.
- This program is worth up to \$16,000 total per apprentice and is paid on top of EI.

Apprenticeship completion bonus

- A one-time \$5,000 bonus to apprentices upon Red Seal completion.

To learn more, look up - Build Canada Apprenticeship Service.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



7 p.m. at the OPCMIA Union Hall.
12309 Industrial Rd., Surrey



MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AVAILABLE

It's normal for people to face mental health challenges from time to time. Substance use and addiction can be very difficult to deal with. Please remember, you are not alone.

All OPCMIA Local 919 members have access to FREE mental health and addictions support through BuildStrong, also known as the Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan.

You have access to FREE counselling services and FREE addictions services. Please do not hesitate to reach out to BuildStrong if you need support!

Call now: 1-888-521-8611
www.buildstrong.org

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