



# SafeTalk



## 7000 BC Coast Forestry Workers Strike For Workers Health & Safety



### District 3 Director Steve Hunt speaking at the “hot declaration” press conference.

“Our union has been fighting in the communities and in Victoria for the future of our industry,” said Steve Hunt. “It’s the USW and our collective agreement that are the glue that holds this industry together and maintains basic standards in health and safety and working conditions for coastal woodworkers.” Steelworkers are demanding a return to shifting that improves workers health and safety and family life. There are a number of studies that supports the unions position even though industry spokesmen have claimed that there is no evidence that longer work days contribute to unsafe conditions. In the August edition of the American Journal of Industrial Medicine, a Yale University study into injury risk and hours worked concluded that injury risk is related to time worked during the previous week. They also concluded that controlling overtime in manufacturing may reduce the risk of worker injury.



**Steelworkers National Director for Canada Ken Neuman (l) talks with Local 1-3567 members Lyle Gray and Mike Duhra at the Interfor Acorn Division picket line.**

## Coming Events

- August 6-10 International HS&E Conference, Dearborn Michigan*
- September 16-19 Canadian Public Health Association 2007 Annual Conference, Ottawa Ont.*
- September 17-18 CCOHS Forum ‘07 Emerging Health & Safety Issues in Changing Workplaces, Vancouver BC*

### Sullivan Mine Coroner’s Inquest Jury Makes 16 Recommendations

With the urging of the USW a coroner’s inquest was held into the deaths of Douglas Erickson, 48, of Ha Ha Creek, the contractor who was conducting water testing; Teck Cominco employee Robert Newcombe, of Cranbrook, 49; and paramedics Kim Weitzel, 44, of Kimberley, and Shawn Currier, 21, of Cranbrook. The tragedy occurred May 17, 2006.

The four were killed in a confined space in a sampling station at the toe of a partially reclaimed waste dump.

The inquest was held July 9-13 in Kimberley. The inquest was presided over by Jeff Dolan, Deputy Chief Coroner. Seven different parties received standing from the coroner. The USW was represented by Jim McNaught and Andy King.

#### Recommendations of the jury:

##### To BC Ambulance Service

- 1) to follow question #3 on the EMD protocol with the further question “is the victim inside or outside a building?” this could lead to card #22 Confined Spaces. This could then be expanded as to what type of building.
- 2) Dispatch should have access to a mine rescue telephone number 24 hrs/day similar to CANUTEC for advise on rescue protocol regarding abandoned mine sites.
- 3) Install sound proofing/deadening materials on the walls and ceiling to cut down on ambient noise in the dispatch center.
- 4) Enforce that communication center dispatchers take entitled breaks away from their work stations.
- 5) Issue one oxygen sensor per ambulance mandatory to be worn by the senior person at all times while on shift. Appropriate training along with the issue of the sensor be provided.
- 6) Make it mandatory for all BCAS staff to review the WorkSafe BC website and take the confined space course annually and have the supervisor record and track their progress.
- 7) The Kimberley station assign a full time unit chief to ensure training and compliance are maintained to a high standard.
- 8) BCAS designate a contact for the families of the deceased to provide periodic updates on the progress and state of the implementations.

##### To Teck Cominco

- 9) take responsibility for safety training of all contractors on their sites.
- 10) Continue to support the technical panel in the work to develop a complete understanding of information related to mining waste dump respiration to assist in preventing future incidents of this nature.

Continued next page

## HAZARD ALERT

- While attempting to fall a tree on a 53% rocky side hill a self-levelling feller buncher slid down the hill rolling over and eventually coming to rest below a logging road and against a stand of fir trees.
- A worker was seriously injured when he came into contact with a running head saw of a shake/shingle saw.
- 2 forestry workers engaged in Timber Development works encountered a 2 - 3 year old Grizzly Bear. The first worker was attacked and mauled, suffering multiple injuries before driving the bear off by kicks to the head with caulked boots. The bear then turned on the other worker who engaged it with Bear Spray driving the animal off permanently.
- A millwright in a OSB mill was seriously injured when replacing a worn drive sprocket for a log in feed jack ladder. The chain for the jack ladder was lifted off the drive sprocket and supported by a fiber sling, the sling failed, catching the workers fingers between the sprocket and the chain.
- A short log truck driver was seriously injured when struck by logs that fell from the grapple of a rubber-tired front-end loader when he went outside his cab during the loading process. The loader operator was placing logs onto the front bunks of the truck trailer from the drivers' side and did not see the truck driver exit his cab.
- **While trying to remove a 4' x 12" x 4" slab from a conveyor system a worker was caught up in the tail spool of the system and was fatally injured.**
- A Helicopter crash-landed into standing timber. A pilot and co-pilot were onboard the aircraft at the time of the crash were seriously injured.
- A young worker was caught in a nip point between a rotating pulp roll and drive spool during the pulp roll removal procedure suffering multiple injuries.
- **A driver was setting up his logging truck trailer, including attaching airlines. The tractor-jeep-and-trailer started rolling downhill and the driver was run-over by the trailer tires, fatally injuring him.**

## Jury Recommendations Continued

### To Ministry of Mines, Energy and Petroleum Resources

- 11) Amend the Mines Act regulations to meet or exceed the WCB standards with regards to confined space provisions in the OH&S regulations
- 12) Review the effectiveness of the Ministry's enforcement strategy establish a minimum number of site visits per mine per year and increase the penalty provisions with enforcement of the Mines Act to reflect the seriousness of non-compliance.
- 13) All BC mines must identify with signage all of the confined spaces on their respective mine sites within the next six months.
- 14) Have all decommissioned mines in BC contact local fire/rescue and notify of hazards.
- 15) The review committee incorporate the Chief Inspector of Mines directives of May 26, 2006 within the mining code.
- 16) The recommendations addressed to the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Resources in its Sullivan Mine accident report be implemented as soon as possible with follow-up with the reports recommendations as they apply to emergency responders as the mining industry.

### **Buchanan Mill Fined \$268,000**

Buchanan Forest Products' lumber mill in Longlac has been fined \$268,000 following an investigation by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board into how injured worker cases were being reported.

But the company says it is already planning to appeal the fine. "The matter is going to be under appeal and we plan to appeal it aggressively," Buchanan legal counsel Yves Fricot said Friday. "We feel there were a number of errors made in a number of different areas."

Justice of the peace Marcel Donio imposed fines ranging from \$20,000 to \$60,000 on seven violations of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, according to a WSIB news release.

The mill, Long Lake Forest Products, was sentenced June 11. It was given two years to pay the fine, which includes a 25-per-cent victim fine surcharge.

When a worker is injured on the job in Ontario, employers are required to report the incident to the WSIB and indicate whether or not the injury resulted in the worker being unable to return to work – a situation known as a lost-time injury.

With respect to Long Lake Forest Products, the injury reports in question "were not an accurate depiction of what happened to the worker, with respect to the issue of lost time, or no lost time," said WSIB regulatory services director Mike Johnston.

The WSIB release said LLFP "pleaded guilty last November to seven charges of willfully failing to inform the WSIB within 10 days of a material change in relation to its obligation as an employer."

"If someone is reported as being able to return to work, and they don't, then that's a violation (of the act)," said Johnston.

Johnston said Friday he had not received notice of Buchanan's intention to appeal the fine.

The WSIB investigation at Long Lake Forest Products began in 2003. Johnston said "numerous court proceedings" began in the fall of 2004.

Before deciding on the amount of the fine, Donio heard victim-impact statements from Long Lake workers.