



THE VIEW

FROM

Local 2

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November 2006

Local 244 Merges with SEIU Local 2 BGPWU

On October 22, 2006, Local 244, British Columbia, merged with Local 2 BGPWU, after ratification of the merger agreement by an overwhelming 97% of those voting on it.

"This merger will not only strengthen both our Locals, it is the first essential step towards building a strong, vital local union outside health care across Canada" reported Local 2 BGPWU President Cam Nelson.

Local 244 President Mike McDonald, added "This merger will give us the resources and strength we need to grow and do even a better job representing our members in British Columbia, and along with a commitment from Local 2 BGPWU in hiring a full time organizer in British Columbia, our membership will certainly benefit from our continued growth.

Sharleen Stewart, President of SEIU Canada, called the merger of these two non-health care Local Unions "an exciting development which will surely enhance both Locals and ensure that the benefits of trade unions will be brought to ever increasing numbers of Canadians".

Local 2 BGPWU is pleased to note that with the inclusion of Local 244, the total membership of Local 2 BGPWU will rise to approximately 7,500, in more than 200 bargaining units in Ontario and B.C, and has offices in Toronto and London, Ontario

and New Westminster, British Columbia.

Branch Local 244 will be the second largest Branch Local in Local



From left to right: Local 2 BGPWU President Cam Nelson with SEIU Canadian President Sharleen Stewart and Local 244 President Mike McDonald

2 BGPWU and President Cam Nelson welcomed the addition of Mike McDonald to the Local 2 Executive Board as well as the addition of Brother Roger Fitzpatrick and Sisters Cathy Conley and Emilia Disalvo to the staff of Local 2 BGPWU, stating that they bring both skill and experience to Local 2 BGPWU.

John McNamee Retiring

After 32 years of dedicated and outstanding service to the Union, SEIU Local 2 BGPWU Vice-President and labour lawyer John McNamee will be retiring at the end of the year. John joined the Brewery, General and Professional Workers' Union in 1975 and has been a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada since 1979. As an experienced negotiator and labour



lawyer John has represented the Union in hundreds of sets of negotiations and legal proceedings. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University) and a Bachelor of Law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. Although he's looking forward to enjoying his much-deserved retirement, John has graciously offered to help us out from time to time, such as teaching at our Annual Council & Training Conference. Words can never thank you enough John for

the tremendous job you have done on behalf of our members for over 30 years - we'll try not to impose on you too much during your well-earned retirement.

NESTLE Contract Ratified

Following long and difficult negotiations a new three year agreement was reached in Conciliation for our Nestle bargaining unit in Scarborough and ratified by a vote of 85% on Sunday September 24, 2006.

The new agreement provides wage increases of \$1.50/hour but the most significant feature of the agreement was the improvements to the Pension Plan which will see pension accrual increase by \$250/month over the life of the agreement.

The Union was also able to settle a long outstanding grievance that related to the payments to be made by the Company as part of it's downsizing in 2005. The settlement calls for the Company to pay \$300,000 to the employee group.

President Cam Nelson who led the negotiating team praised the determination and effort of Branch Local President Kumar Ramcharran and Stewards Sherry Ahmed, Daphney Oliver, Ed Gibbs and Claude Gonsalves for their hard work and their willingness to make the tough decisions necessary to reach this agreement.

HOLIDAY INN BARRIE - Ground Breaking Settlement

Chief Steward Jill Hindle was tired but happy when interviewed after ratification of a three year contract. "We made up ground on principled issues on work load for the House-keeping staff, and with "no contracting out" for three years"

"This negotiation had many twists", Hindle went on to say, "but with a hardworking Committee, a supportive membership and the resources that our Union provide, there is a happier ending."

Other gains were better rules and longer published periods for a posted schedule for all,

Work Outside?

Contact the Union for your free copy of an excellent health & safety publication by the CCOHS titled:

"Cold Weather Workers Safety Guide"



The Officers & Staff of SEIU Local 2 BGPWU would like to wish all its members a Safe and Joyous Holiday Season & a Happy New Year

SEIU Scholarship

Each year SEIU awards a \$3,000 scholarship (\$750 for each year of study) to SEIU members or their children to attend an accredited college or university of their choice. Preliminary applications must be submitted by February 2nd, 2007, with a final application deadline of May 4th, 2007. For further information and/or application forms, please contact the Union office.

COMING SOON

SEIU Local 2 BGPWU 2007 Pocket Calendars

All Calendars will be distributed by your stewards shortly

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overtime payment on a lieu day for statutory holidays. Holiday Inn employees will receive 2.5%, 2.5%, and 3.0% over the life of the agreement as well as retroactivity.

LABOUR DAY - 2006

Local 2 BGPWU seen its largest turnout yet for the Toronto Labour Day Parade. The Union encourages all our members across Ontario and British Columbia to take part in the 2007 Labour Day Parade in their respective communities. If you and your family want to participate in fu-



ture Labour Day Parades, please contact the Union office or your local Labour Council for details.

NORTHERN COMMUNICATIONS – North Bay

The employees of Northern Communications in North Bay, Ontario recently unionized with SEIU Local 2 BGPWU. The Union secured an agreement with the employer to have these new members covered under the same collective agreement of our Sudbury members, which was coming up for renewal at the end of this year. Earlier this month, a new collective agreement was ratified providing wage increases of 4.5% in the first year and 2.5% in each of the second and third years. Other highlights include a training premium of 50 cents/hr, increased vision coverage, payment for eye exams, and a prescription drug card to take effect in 2007. The Union also negotiated the immediate implementation of the pay increases even though the collective agreement does not expire until Dec 31st, 2006. Congratulations to staff rep Pat Green and the

negotiating committee on a job well done.

KAWARTHA DOWNS - Slot Workers Ratify First Contract

Negotiations for our Union's 115 slot machine workers at the Kawartha Downs Racetrack just outside Peterborough started in April and finally concluded in July.

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Cam Nelson, president of SEIU Local 2 BGPWU, said that negotiations were

difficult and tense. Both the Union and the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC) were in a legal strike/lock-out position but talks continued past the deadline.

Key issues in the negotiations included seniority rights and fairness in the treatment of employees in case of layoffs. The Union local represents slot attendants, cashiers, technicians, environmental service clerks and customer service representatives.

McMASTER UNIVERSITY "Living Wage" Campaign

Following the successful "no contracting-out" strike last year by SEIU Local 2 BGPWU members in the part-time cleaners unit, the "Living Wage" campaign at McMaster University is gaining impressive momentum.

This campaign is lead by a growing coalition of campus unions, student groups, faculty members, and others. The coalition is pressuring the University to display moral and ethical leadership by adopting a formal policy of providing all its employees, including many of our Physical Plant and Hospitality members on campus, with a decent, "livable" wage. SEIU Local 2 BGPWU continues to play an active and leading role in this historic initiative. Stay tuned...

Bill 211 End of Mandatory Retirement

On December 12, 2006, Ontario's Bill 211 will come into effect ending the mandatory retirement age of 65.

As a result, many Ontario workers including our own SEIU Local 2 BGPWU members may elect to continue working past the age of 65. Where necessary, collective agreements will need to be revised to reflect this new reality. For more information on Bill 211 or a copy of the Act, please contact the Union office.

SALVATION ARMY - 48 New Members Come On Board

Twenty four members at the Florence Booth House hostel on Queen Street West in downtown Toronto have begun to negotiate in October after a successful organizing drive.

In addition, twenty four new members will join their brothers and sisters at the ARC Center hostel on Church Street, in downtown Windsor. These members' have been recognized with a Voluntary Recognition Agreement after launching a spirited drive, before a vote could take place. They will be folded into the current Collective Agreement after some negotiations. Welcome on board!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Local 2 Employees

Local 2 would like to welcome three new employees to the team. **Bruce Price**, joined us in September 2006, In addition to his work as legal counsel, Bruce also services several of the union's bargaining units, **Mary Hart** will be joining us in January 2007, as Senior Legal Counsel, and **Ritch Whyman** has joined our Organizing Department. Please join us in welcoming Bruce, Mary and Ritch to the team.

Member Retirees:

If you have just or are planning to retire in the near future, please make sure you let the Union office know so you can enjoy the benefits of their functions, including the Annual Retiree's Dinner Dance. Please contact Tracey Shannon in the Toronto Office at 416-762-7477 or Judy Hodgins in the London Office at 519-432-0455 to ensure we have your current details.

Visit Our New Web Site
www.seiulocal2.ca