

PIPELINE NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

Welcome back from what has been something that was way out of the norm. Spring 2020 will go down in history, with a Covid 19 pandemic that changed our world drastically. March 13, 2020 is the day Alberta acted quickly to protect its citizens.

Our Government has borrowed billions of dollars to cover Canadian 's unemployment, banks were deferring loans for a later date. Your Local 488 management had to make quick and hard choices to control the Covid 19 spread and look at ways to keep our members working safely and protected. We had some close calls with CNRL and Kearn Lake.

With the large number of members signing the out of work board or them being asked to sit at home until further notice, the Local 's finances had to be assessed. The Union has made a variety of decisions to ensure that the finances are being handled responsibly and lowering costs where possible.

Now here we are in the middle of June and we are looking at reopening the Welding Shop to limited numbers (Members only) to practice and for member welders that must test for the July shutdowns.

We have new construction started. BFI, Fluor and Chemco are now on the IPPL Fort Saskatchewan site. For those members that will be pulling a slip, please remember that we perform and inform our clients and contractors that we are more productive and skilled than our competition. Let us show the CLAC contractors, what the union can do (skill wise and by following the Standard for Excellence). Please be the professionals we are and do not get caught up in name calling. We are UA PROUD.

We are asked daily, "Why can't the dispatch hall open to the public? Well, we had our first call for the IPPL Site, and had over 400 online requests! This made us think that we cannot reopen the hall up to the members. It would be too hard to control the members dates on the board and how many could enter the building.

The online is working well and we just made some adjustments. If you haven't already done so, you now need to create an account online in order to apply for a job. You also have the option to apply for 6 jobs instead of 2.

On average, our main building has been receiving well over 1100 phone calls a week from our members and contractors. Our Agents and Rep's cell phones were probably double that. With the pandemic, our clients from the Wood Buffalo region, like Syncrude and Suncor, asked our contractors to use Local Hire first, then Edmonton area, then all Albertans after. Their reason was that if someone was affected with Covid 19, they had a better chance of getting surrounding workers home to loved ones instead of being put up in a hotel until they were cleared to go home.

We are glad that we are now into Phase 2 of reopening resulting from the pandemic lockdown and are seeing our members heading back to work.

Local 488 and the Head Office will be helping our members out, that have not worked more than 40 hours in the months of March, April and May, by covering their out of work dues. There is protocol to follow as the Business Manager has stated in his letter.

Please read all the Agents reports to see what is happening in their areas. Brother Stu MacLeod is now covering the Syncrude and CNRL area as well.

Brother Rodney Carlson
Assistant Business Manager