

Next General Membership Meeting:

Saturday May 6, 2023

Meetings start at
10:00 am

Croatian
Cultural Centre, 3250
Commercial Drive,
Vancouver, BC

EXECUTIVE

WEB PAGE:
www.iuoe963.ca

BOARD 2019-2023

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Herman Sheng
Tim Chester

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Livia Hisaoka
Yvette Menges

CONDUCTOR:
Analida Leung

GUARD:
Herman Sheng

Volume 20, Number 97

April 2023

Inflation Projections from February Provincial Budget

From BC Budget 2023:

Outlook

Consumer spending is expected to moderate in the near-term as higher interest rates slow demand, following robust growth in recent years. The Ministry estimates that real household consumer spending advanced by 2.7 per cent in 2022, after growth of 7.3 per cent in 2021. The Ministry forecasts that real household consumption will increase by 2.8 per cent in 2023 and 2.3 per cent in 2024. Annual growth is then expected to be between 2.0 per cent and 2.5 per cent over the 2025 to 2027 period.

The Ministry estimates that nominal retail sales increased by 3.0 per cent in 2022. Retail sales are forecast to grow by 1.8 per cent in 2023, 2.9 per cent in 2024, and by 3.5 per cent on average over the 2025 to 2027 period.

Consumer price inflation in B.C. is forecast to be 3.9 per cent in 2023 and is expected to fall to 2.5 per cent in 2024 and 2.2 per cent in 2025, as the effects of elevated commodity prices and supply disruptions fade. Then, inflation is expected to return to the Bank of Canada's target of around 2 per cent for the balance of the forecast horizon. (emphasis added)

Our collective agreement provides for a 5.5% general wage increase effective July 1, 2023. In addition to this increase, members are entitled to a Cost of Living Adjustment ("COLA") of "up to 1.25%" based on economic data detailed in the Provincial Framework Agreement. For members to receive any COLA for 2023, inflation must be higher than 5.5%. Based on the BC Budget Forecast the provincial government is predicting a 3.9% rise in inflation in 2023.



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The Newsletter

For VSB

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Web Page:
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International Union of Operating Engineers Local 963

Local Union Bursaries

Each year Local 963 offers four \$1,000 Educational Bursaries to dependent children of members in good standing. The deadline for applications to be received at the union office is **4:00 p.m. Friday May 19, 2023.**

The Bursary applicant must be entering the first or subsequent term of a full-time or correspondence/online course of study of at least 6 months in length leading to a diploma, certificate or degree from any recognized public or private Canadian college or university or accredited Trades school. Members may not receive more than one Bursary for the same dependent.

The 2023 Bursary winners will be presented at the June 3, 2023 General Membership meeting.

For further information, including eligibility and conditions, please contact Shannon at 604-876-6287 Tuesday to Thursday.

*Canadian Conference Bursary notice to come out later this Spring.



Retro Pay On or Before April 9th

Members should receive retroactive pay on or before April 9, 2023. If you have questions about your retro-active pay please email payrollandbenefits@vsb.bc.ca

Public Education Benefits Trust
Education Sessions & Webinars



PUBLIC EDUCATION BENEFITS TRUST
Education Sessions & Webinars
In-Person: February 17 & April 24
Webinars: January 25 & June 7

**The Top 5 Things To Expect
If You Cannot Work Due
To An Illness or Injury**



If you are a regular K-12 support staff member (CUPE 15, IUOE 963, CUPE 407) working 15 hours per week or more, please join the 60-minute presentation from the Public Education Benefits Trust (PEBT) to learn:

- What you can expect from the Joint Early Intervention Services when you stop working.
- How other members have been supported including those suffering from depression, pain, and substance misuse.
- What you should know about long term disability benefits.



Register on Pro-D!

This QR Code takes you to registration for the webinars only. The in-person sessions are listed as part of overall Wellness Pro-Ds on February 17 & April 24

Questions? E-mail wellness@vsb.bc.ca

ATTENTION 5th Class Program/Certificate Holders

Your local union has been working hard to come up with constructive solutions to ongoing employee recruitment & retention challenges faced by the VSB. In recent bargaining with the VSB the parties reached a compromise that basically provides employees time to get the proper certification, failing which, they revert to their former position. The certification standards are unchanged- to be an ABE 2, ABE 3 or Building Engineer, a 4th Class Power Engineer certificate is required.

This, combined with an amendment to the Advancement Fund Policy to provide a powerful monetary incentive (up to \$3,000) to complete a 4th Class Power Engineer certificate, should help alleviate some of these recruiting challenges. **Now is the time to upgrade to a 4th Class Certificate!**

Cafeteria Workers-Need FoodSafe Training?

The Local Union will be arranging *Food Safe* training if there is sufficient interest from members. Please contact Shannon (Tuesday to Thursday) at 604-876-6287 to be placed on a list. This training will be held on a Saturday later this Spring at the union office. Sign up now!



On a Graduated Return to Work?

Have you been off work due to an injury or illness? Sometimes returning to work will require taking it step by step, in other words, returning gradually. A Graduated Return to Work Plan ("GRTW") is put in place that lists the revised days/hours of work and any limitations required.

It is important that these GRTW Plans are accurate, have been supported by your family physician and are clearly understood at the job site.

If you are asked to return to work on a graduated basis do not hesitate to contact the union office for assistance.