

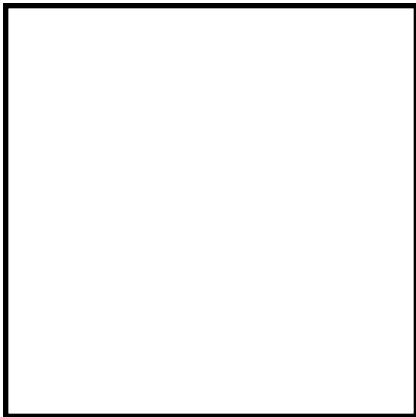


# Impact

FEBRUARY 2006

COMPENSATION EMPLOYEES' UNION

## New business agent brings public and private sector experience to the CEU



**Doug McCorquodale**

Business Agent Doug McCorquodale began working for the CEU on January 3, 2006. Although Doug has worked as the Legal and Defense Coordinator for the British Columbia Provincial Council of Carpenters for the last 10 years, he has spent

more than half his working life as a worker or union representative in the public sector. His experience ranges from being a full-time, elected officer of a union at a crown corporation to being an employee of a union with many private sector bargaining units.

At the Carpenters Union, Doug did legal and servicing work for members in the construction industry. He also took care of five to seven bargaining units in the public

health care, hospitality, retail, and graphic arts in four different provinces. He has organized and serviced collective agreements in most of the occupations he held. He has been an activist or representative in these unions:

Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers' Union (OCAW)  
Energy and Chemical Workers' Union (ECWU)  
Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)  
Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union (SGEU)

Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP)

In one job as a union representative, Doug was assigned to coordinate a strike of 400 union members. It lasted over a year. Doug described it this way: "It was ugly -- all strikes are ugly but sometimes necessary. However, not one member lost their home during that dispute because of the solidarity and strategy adopted in regard to the financial institutions. A strategy that did not require union funds!"

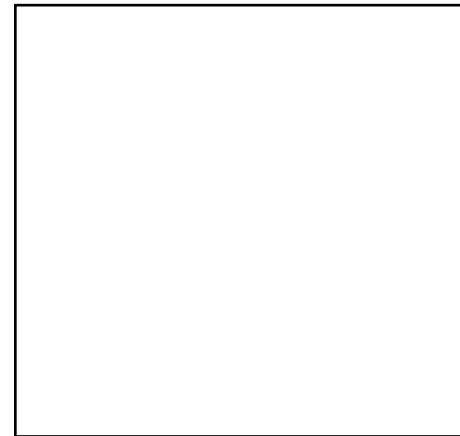
Doug has negotiated many collective agreements in his 30 years' experience. He had this to say about those agreements: "While I have negotiated hundreds of agreements, not one set of negotiations that I did from start to finish ever ended in a strike or lockout. It has been close a couple of times, but so far so good."

Because of his varied background, Doug is often asked which is more difficult -- administering a collective agreement in the private or public sector? Doug's first agreements were in the public sector. At that time, he

take away the exceptions in the private  
Entwhistles, Pocklingtons, and the Cor  
the public sector employers are general  
mean-spirited. Deregulation and privat  
this view."

Doug hasn't pre-judged our employe  
He also said: "Not all public sector emp

## Saying goodbye v



**Bonnie Pearson**

accept a senior position with the HEU  
Union).

We all shared some laughs at Bonnie  
was pretty much a sad affair. That's beca  
that Bonnie worked as a business agent  
completely wove herself into the fabric  
only did Bonnie capture our hearts, she  
grasp of the issues facing the membersh  
felt like she had worked for the CEU f

Why did Bonnie make such an impr  
Because she has so many admirable qua  
in pursuing an issue ... an incredible w  
strong belief in doing what is right ...  
commitment ... dedication ... energy .  
of humour

# CEU supports labour's demands for action on logger deaths

Mainstream media and labour leaders alike described an emergency resolution on forest industry deaths as the most important debate at the BC Federation of Labour's (BCFL) annual convention. At the time of the debate, 41 forest workers had died working in the woods. (That number has now increased to 43.) This is more than double the number of forestry fatalities that occurred in 2004. The United Steel Workers (USW), the union that represents most of the unionized workers in the forest industry, put the emergency resolution forward. The resolution calls for:

- ▶ Timely investigations of serious accidents and deaths
- ▶ Immediate and mandatory coroner's inquests following fatalities
- ▶ A Day of Mourning every time there is a death in the forest industry
- ▶ More monitoring and enforcement by the Board
- ▶ The creation of "implementation" committees with the authority to order immediate workplace change in response to fatality investigations and inquests
- ▶ "Aggressive" enforcement of the Westray Bill - the 2004 amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada by which directors, officers, managers, supervisors, or anyone associated with directing the work of others, may be liable to criminal prosecution for failure to ensure a safe workplace

the WCB is not conducting enough inspections and doesn't have an effective enforcement strategy. This is especially acute in the logging sector, but is also true for other industries.

We, at the CEU, were glad to hear a week or so ago that about 17 additional officers will be hired. This announcement came following forest industry fatalities, which, once again, put the media spotlight on the industry and the Board.

But, the announcement of 17 additional officers is not enough. More officers are needed to prevent the deaths occurring in logging, and many other industries.

And, in the same way that it takes more than a carpenter to build a house, it takes more than health and safety inspectors to build and maintain an effective enforcement strategy and health and safety system in B.C.

Since 2001, we have seen redundancies at the Board in many areas that affect prevention and enforcement activities. What this means is that more and more work has been heaped on officers. And an officer can't possibly be an expert on every aspect of health and safety. I'll give you a few examples of what I'm talking about:

- ▶ We used to have ergonomists in every region in the province, in the same department as the officers. Now, we only have four positions for the entire province, located in Richmond.

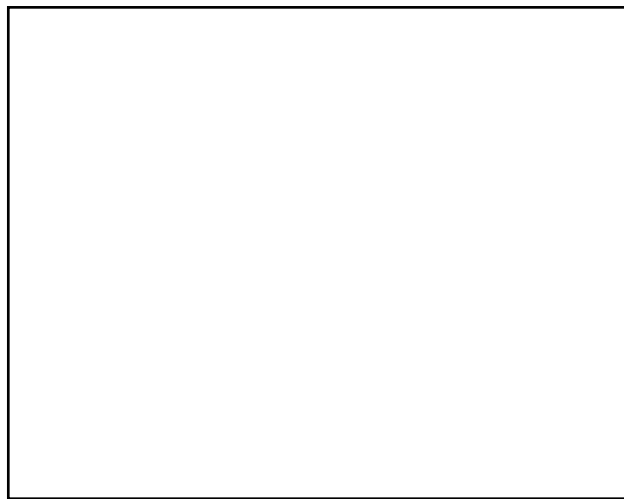
And they are not in the same department as the inspectors, so they are not readily available to officers.

- ▶ We used to have about five occupational audiologists

province. And what do people tell us? Some employers and worker representatives use the old regulation to help them. Services are needed on site.

So, to sum up: Yes, we need more officers; we need more monitoring and enforcement; we need to stop eroding our regulatory requirements; and, we need to restore the capacity that has been lost from our system. The capacity that supported officers and provided services to workers and employers in the province."

David Farrell also spoke in favour of the resolution. Although injury rates and deaths are increasing in forestry, the 2002 changes to the Workers Compensation Act generally the costs of claims have increased. Employers pay for the costs of claims and WCB assessments. Over the last few



*Jane Player*

## Making a difference

This past holiday season, the CEU supported a family in need. The family, a grandmother, was facing a difficult holiday season.

On December 23, 2005, Bethany delivered the holiday "goodies" to the sweetest little things". The grandmother shed tears. In Leanne's words:

"The grandma was so very, very happy. Christmas would be for the kids and we said good-bye and told the Grandma and a small angel. The card reads: To