



BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

2018 CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

April 10 – 12, 2018

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Vancouver, BC

Young Workers Committee Report to Convention 2018

This term's Young Workers Committee had their first meeting in January of 2016, with just three Committee members being able to attend. I can safely say that the Committee has come a long way since our first meeting. We now have a full Committee, with active members from the Ships' Officers' and Deas Dock Components participating in meetings and events.

There are approximately 1060 Young Workers in the fleet, with eleven Young Workers sitting on their Local Executives; both Young Worker affiliate seats filled for the term; one Young Worker sitting on her local Labour Council Executive; and we have three Young Workers who are consistently attending rallies and events. We look forward to seeing these numbers increase in the years to come.

A large focus for the Young Workers Committee this year was education and engagement, both internally and externally. The largest Young Workers event every year is Camp Jubilee. Camp Jubilee is a labour education sleepaway camp organized by the BC Federation of Labour, (BCFed) for Young Workers from affiliated unions across the province. In the past three years, the Young Workers Committee has seen a steadily increasing popularity with Camp Jubilee and we have been able to send 47 Young Workers to camp. Last year, we had the most applications to camp yet, and we look forward to seeing those numbers continue to grow. 21 Young Workers have attended Harrison Winter School this term, ranging in courses from Young Workers in Action, Women in Leadership, Facing Management, to Membership Engagement – Member Action. I also took an eight-week online course through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) called Taking Charge of Change, with 20 other Young Workers from across Canada.

The BCGEU held their first ever Young Workers Conference in 2016 and eight of our Young Workers attended. The CLC held the first ever Young Workers Summit in 2016. It was to be a fantastic educational opportunity that was so popular they had to expand the Conference, so they could include as many of the Young Workers that wanted to attend. Our Committee had a discussion and looked at our budget and we unanimously decided that we all wanted to attend; all of us used our vacation time so in solidarity we could all attend together. Six members attended the Young Workers Summit with two of us able to go early and attend the Rise Up! Human Rights and Equity Conference, through another Committee and an affiliate.

The first BCFMWU Women's Conference was held in Nanaimo last year and two of our Young Workers were asked to co-facilitate the course material. BCFed held a Renewal Conference in October of 2017 and four Young Workers attended and I was invited to facilitate. Young Workers have also been involved with new member orientation and look forward to welcoming new members into our Union.

BCFed has two different educational programs that Young Workers facilitate to high school students across the province. We have six Young Workers who facilitate the Alive After Five program about Health and Safety and one Young Worker who facilitates their Labour Education program about Employment Standards.

We had Young Workers attending multiple conventions in the last term. Four attended the BCFed Convention 2016, where I was able to speak in favour of the BCFed Young Workers Committee report, which had the most speakers in favour of it than any report delivered at Convention. I was able to attend the CLC Convention 2017 through my Labour Council and join our delegation and represent us in various activities. A Young Worker attended the BCGEU Convention 2017 and two attended the ILWU Convention in 2015. Through all of this, we have been able to build and strengthen our relationships with many Young Workers in many unions in BC and across the country.

As we all know, Pride is a very busy season for our float, the Spirit of Solidarity and I'm happy to report that many Young Workers came out to Pride events in Nanaimo, Victoria, Campbell River, Vancouver, Powell River and Salt Spring Island. The Young Workers have also sent members to participate in the annual Seafest in Prince Rupert in 2016 and 2017 as well.

The Young Workers have also participated in Day of Action events in Victoria and Vancouver, as well as fundraising BBQ's for members in need, participated in strike support on several lines across the province, as well as participating in Grant's Law sit-ins in both Victoria and Vancouver. It has been through this engagement that we have built many lasting relationships with other Young Worker activists across the labour movement.

I am proud of what the Young Workers have accomplished in the past three years and I'm very excited to see what will come next, and the many things that the Young Workers across the fleet will accomplish in the years to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

In Solidarity,
Jenn MacPherson
Chair, Young Workers Committee