



# SOC PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2020

Hello All,

Lower than a snakes belly in a wagon rut is a simile I first heard as a child. From time to time, certain events in my life cause that simile to surface in my thoughts. I can't say for certain what has recently sparked this memory, but it is extremely prevalent right now.

Enough about me, let's move on to what is going on right now. With the COVID 19 pandemic upon us, we are in very uncertain times. Obviously we expected layoffs of some nature and were pleased with the Federal Wage Subsidy program announcements. At first glance it looked quite promising to the membership as a whole, however as you are well aware, not everything promising delivers.

For reasons I can't begin to contemplate it appears to me the Company has decided to throw our Collective Agreement out the window, which seems a bit silly because there are a lot of copies.

What the Company is doing right now to its employees is speaking in many more words than I care to put into a newsletter. Before this I knew there were an odd manager or two who looked at us as simply an expendable employee number, but I honestly didn't think members' rights would be thrown out the window along with that old Collective Agreement.

I would like to point out the Company's number two core value, *Caring, We operate from a position of kindness and empathy for those who travel and work with us.* Please note that I have erased an endless amount of comments here. My mother always told me, "If you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all". So with that...

While we continue to battle BCFS's decision not to follow our Collective Agreement, please follow along for up to date information on the [Town Halls](#), the [COVID FAQ](#) and [Union bulletins](#). Additionally, I am concerned for those who have been laid off. While I am very hopeful we will get a resolve, if you feel the employer/employee relationship has been damaged beyond repair there is still a certificate shortage. Marine Atlantic is looking for Chief Officers, Senior Engineers, and certified ERAs despite the COVID situation, if interested click [here](#). There are also jobs on the Dieselduck forum [here](#). We will also post those and any further job links to the Union website.

In Solidarity,

**BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION**

Brother Dan Kimmerly

Ships' Officers' Component President