



In August we will celebrate our 75th anniversary as an organization that has endured through economic booms and busts, favourable and unfavourable governments, technological advances, increasing awareness of environmental impact, and everything else that affects our industry. Looking ahead, it's good to reflect on where we've been, where we are now, and where we want to be going forward. Our future is bright, but it's not going to come without obstacles. We have a track record of turning obstacles into opportunities which has helped strengthen our organization as a whole, and has put us in positions where we have major influence on strategies and policies that will not only benefit us and our families, but society in general.

I am extremely proud of how our local union positively impacts our communities. Our membership has donated to many worthy causes and volunteered many hours to help ease the burden of those in need. The Surrey Food Bank, the Push For Change Campaign, Fort McMurray Fire Relief, the Leukemia Society, the Variety Boat For Hope, Children's Make-A-Wish, Multiple Sclerosis Society, MADD Canada, BCICA Mesothelioma, Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Whistler Health Care Foundation, along with members that experienced life-threatening, life-changing, and even life-ending tragedies; the Local has stepped up with support because it's the right thing to do. Over the past 3 years alone, we have provided approximately \$100,000 in support. That is something to truly be proud of.

Our members continue to become more involved, not only at our monthly membership meetings, but also on committees and as part of initiatives designed to promote the values we hold. Increasing turnout at our membership meetings is impressive. The demographic is a great mix of seasoned journeymen and eager apprentices that are coming out regularly to engage with their elected leadership, have their voices heard, and learn from other members. In this age of advancements in how we communicate with each other, face to face interaction often provides an atmosphere where understanding can flourish, as opposed to what we see in the most negative uses of social media. Our Executive Board continues to represent the membership well, as do our members involved in Build Together (www.buildtogether.ca) and our new Social Committee. I am excited to see the initiatives they come up with for the future.

Over the past months, I have focussed a lot of my efforts on the Education and Leadership Project. This innovative, pro-active project has already resulted in new and improved relations within our industry that are addressing the real concerns of our contractors and our own local union.

Organizing remains a top priority, not only on a local level, but especially on a national and North American level. We have done it right, and people are noticing. After demanding a clear, refined definition of what the UA National Organizing Program was going to be, we got results. There was no way I was going to present a proposal to you to send your money to fund something that wasn't clearly defined and that we didn't have influence over. As you know, we now have our President, Bryan Harris, playing a key role on the Western Canadian Organizing team.

Organizing on a membership level has been impactful too. The pamphlets we designed and distribute have provided a simple opportunity for those outside of the union to compare their wages and benefits in a non-threatening way. They can clearly see if they are in fact receiving comparable compensation for the work they do. We need only to provide the info; the numbers speak for themselves. In each of the last 3 years, we have had fewer members leaving to go to the non-union sector and have reinitiated fewer "in & out" members. Our hours have increased dramatically each year, and we still continue to have manpower shortages.



In October, I was appointed to the Strategic Planning Committee for UA Canada. There are only 7 representatives that make up the planning committee for 40 Canadian locals. As the first ever Business Manager appointed from a HVAC/R local, it is a great honour to have a voice on a committee that, as the title suggests, strategically plans the outlook for the entire UA across Canada. Being on this committee ensures that we will never be overlooked just because we are a straight-line refrigeration local. It's another testament to the fact that we are doing it right.

In February, I was appointed by General President Mark McManus to serve as a Hearing Officer for the United Association. This committee plays a major role that affects locals all across North America. Earlier this year I attended a formal training session in Annapolis, Maryland. General President McManus continues to demonstrate that he wants the locals that are successful to be the ones instrumental in aiding other local unions to achieve similar success.

Other positions I have been elected or appointed to include:

- Financial-Secretary Treasurer for the Western Canadian Pipe Trades.
- Vice President for the International Pipe Trades Joint Training Committee Bookstore Corporation.
- Member of the National HVAC Advisory Board.
- Member of the UCC-UA Joint Labour Relations Committee.

In accepting these additional roles and responsibilities, I still look to represent our membership first, while being able to contribute on a national and international level within the UA and industry committees. We are well-positioned for whatever comes next and will continue to be pro-active within our local industry and the United Association.

Our Health & Welfare Plan continues to run well. We have good trustees, administration, and advisors that keep their finger on the pulse of the health care industry, government regulations and requirements, and the needs of our members and their families. The plan will continue to evolve with the needs of our membership and with possible upcoming changes to or elimination of MSP. Rest assured that your best interests are the top priority.

With over \$140 million in assets, the Refrigeration Workers Group Retirement Accumulation Plan provides members with the opportunity to transition into retirement comfortably.

I hope everyone enjoyed Canada Day, marking 150 years of this amazing country.

As we near our Local's 75th anniversary, our perspective is clear: our foundation is solid, our resolve remains the same, and our outlook is bright.

Fraternally yours,

Jason Amesbury
Business Manager
UA Local 516