



Vancouver Island

BUILDING TRADES

Community Benefit Agreements Raise Standards of Living

In response to the ICBA's recent op-ed piece in your newspaper. The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association (ICBA) dates back to 1975, making it the self-proclaimed elder statesman of BC's non-union construction employer's representative. The ICBA was formed and continues to operate as an organization that is inherently anti-union, it is dynamically opposed to the Building Trades union construction marketplace.

The fact is that unions are not only good for workers, they are also good for the middle class and BC's economy. Unions raise wages of the employees they represent allowing for extra money to be circulated throughout their community, they increase the retirement, medical, dental and extended health-care benefits of those same employees, creating pensioners with spending money. Unions reduce income inequality and even increase the pay of nonunion workers by creating a standard; reduce employee turnover and therefore increase the retention of the highest skilled tradesmen and women.

BC's construction unions facilitate the majority of completed apprenticeship training. It is for these key reasons that the BC NDP government established the Community Benefits Agreement.

"Community benefit agreements ensure projects will be on time, on budget, fair wages are paid to everyone and importantly that legacy of new workers for the future," Premier John Horgan.

So, it's absolutely ludicrous for the ICBA to purport to know what constitutes as "fairness" for working families.

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