



# WVMEA NEWS BULLETIN

## December 18, 2024



"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." —Elf

### WORD FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hello WVMEA Members, and Happiest of Holidays to you all! It's been another great year for the Association, and I hope it's been great for you too!

Although it's been a great year there are always bumps in the road that we have to deal with, and the flood that happened in late October was one of those. Our office only ended up with a few inches of water throughout, but the building's two level parkade filled up completely. Unfortunately the building's electrical vault is in the parkade and was inundated for a few days before they could pump the water out. All commercial and residential owners had to evacuate the building. We've moved everything out of the office into storage, and our office staff have since been working from home, except for meetings which they are taking in person. Updates from the building are optimistic but it will be at least a few months until we're able to return to the Dundarave office.

On a bargaining note, the Collective Agreement with West Vancouver Schools ends June 30th of this upcoming year and a new Collective Agreement will be negotiated, so that means it's time to start thinking about proposals. If you or one of your colleagues have something in mind you can send it to the office email [info@wvmea.com](mailto:info@wvmea.com) or alternatively you can send it to our Business Agent Phyllis Van Rhyn at [pvanrhyn@wvmea.com](mailto:pvanrhyn@wvmea.com) or our Business Manager Catalin Fota at [cfota@wvmea.com](mailto:cfota@wvmea.com). Additionally, all School members will receive proposal forms in the New Year. We would appreciate if you could send the forms back to us with your individual or group proposals for negotiations. This feedback will be very helpful for the bargaining committee when we get to the point to set our negotiations list and select our priorities for this round of bargaining.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holidays with some time for family and friends and of course some well deserved rest and relaxation!

*Connor Payne - WVMEA President*

### A WORD FROM YOUR UNION

Another holiday season has snuck up on us once again. The transition from the warm summer days to the crisp autumn mornings, to our dark soggy winter seemed to happen in an instant; 2024 has been a fast and eventful year.

Our Executive Board was elected for another 3-year term, we continued to have growing attendance at our membership meetings, we revamped the WVMEA Scholarship program, made great strides on our database project and welcomed the WVCC Personal Trainers to our union.

On a less positive note, it remains unknown when we will be able to return to our office after the flooding. Any important updates will be shared with members. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the district workers for their quick response and tireless efforts to minimize the damage caused by atmospheric river event this past October.

As we project to 2025, we will continue our commitment to supporting our members and work towards more member engagement. Cheers to a joyful present, a well-remembered past, and a prosperous year ahead. Holiday greetings to you and the ones you spend it with! May this time of year shine light on your blessings and bring new ones in the year to come.

### MUNICIPAL WAGE INCREASE

In the last round of bargaining we had negotiated the higher wage increase of either 3%, or the same as the first four identical Metro Vancouver wage settlements. **We are happy to announce that Municipal, Library and Police members will receive a 3.5% wage increase effective January 1, 2025.** This brings the total wage increase from the 2023-2024 agreement to 12%, a much higher percentage than recent agreements.

### FOREST OF MIRACLES

Make sure to visit the Forest of Miracles, open now through January 7, 2025. Over 140 beautiful Christmas trees line the West Vancouver Waterfront from Ambleside to Dundarave. Look for our WVMEA tree located close to the concession at Dundarave Beach.

The "miracle" in the Forest of Miracles is the determination to leave no one out in the cold. Since 2008, the Forest community has raised \$1 million in charitable support for the work of the [Lookout Foundation](#) right here on the North Shore. The WVMEA has set up a [Giving Group](#) for anyone interested in donating to this special cause.



### CHRISTMAS PRIZE DRAW!



Enter [here](#) for your chance to win a special Holiday Bundle! It includes a chocolate survival kit, a Purdy's stocking stuffer and a \$50 Save-on foods gift card! All WVMEA members are eligible to win. Entries will be accepted until noon on Monday, December 23, 2024, and a winner will be selected at random.

### HOLIDAY SEASON CLOSURE

The WVMEA will be closed for the holidays from Monday, December 23, 2024 through Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

**We look forward to connecting with our members when we reopen on Thursday, Jan 2, 2025.**

Although the office will be closed, we understand that an emergency may come up. Should you have a matter that requires immediate attention, please contact our Business Manager, Catalin Fota at [cfota@wvmea.com](mailto:cfota@wvmea.com).

### UPCOMING GM MEETING

Our **last General Membership meeting** for the 2024-2025 meeting year is scheduled for **Monday, February 3, 2025**. It will be held online at **5:00pm** via **Zoom**. Click on the links below to access the meeting Agenda and registration link:

- [GM Meeting Agenda](#)
- [GM Meeting Registration](#)



We would like to remind all members that the **Assessment Fee** is in effect; per **Article 1.2** of the [Constitution & Bylaws](#), members who do not attend a minimum of one General Meeting per year (April to March) will be required to pay an assessment of \$25. New members initiated September 1, 2024 or later, are given seven-month grace period to the attendance requirement. Please contact the office should you have any questions about attendance or assessments.

