



The BCGEU's new executive committee (l-r): Anthony Dodds, Lorene Oikawa, Darryl Walker, Mike Clarke, Judi Filion and Colleen Jones.

Walker heads up new team

Darryl Walker has been elected today as the new president of the 69,000-member B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union at the union's convention in Vancouver.

Walker, an activity worker from the B.C. Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, won on the second ballot in the five-candidate contest. He takes over BCGEU's top position from retiring leader George Heyman.

Walker has served as BCGEU vice-president since 1999. He has a long history of activism in the union, the labour movement and the broader community. He also chairs

the union's environment committee and has a keen interest in global warming issues and workplace health and safety. He coaches youth soccer in South Surrey where he lives.

"I'm truly honoured that delegates have chosen me to be their leader for the next three years," says Walker. He says clear priorities are upcoming elections at the municipal and provincial levels along with bargaining in 2010, in which most BCGEU members will be negotiating new contracts.

Delegates also re-elected Judi Filion as treasurer. Filion—who hails

from Okanagan College in Kelowna—was first elected in 2005 and oversees the union's \$42 million annual budget.

The convention also elected four vice-presidents. Re-elected are incumbents Mike Clarke, from Maple Ridge, Colleen Jones from Trail, and Surrey's Lorene Oikawa. Newly elected is Anthony Dodds from Kelowna.

In all, a record 17 candidates

ran for the six top elected positions in the union. "It's a sign that BCGEU is a vibrant union," says Walker.

BCGEU members work in the direct provincial public service, the broader public sector in health care, community social services and post-secondary education, and the private sector.

Ferry workers, brewery employees and staff at WorkSafeBC are also affiliated to the union.

Summary of resolutions – Sunday, June 8

Finance Committee

RESOLUTION A-1: Delegates supported the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence on a resolution that the union will fund each local chair with five HQ paid days leave to support workplace leaders.

RESOLUTION A-2: Delegates supported the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence on the resolution calling for overtime pay to be excluded from dues deductions.

RESOLUTION A-12: Delegates supported the committee's recommendation of non-concurrence on this resolution call on the BCGEU to provide resources to

BCGEU elected labour council delegates.

SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION A-11: Delegates passed a resolution supporting a review of the operation of the union's leave policy, known as G3.

RESOLUTION A-19: Delegates supported a resolution that dues remain the same.

Constitution and Structure Committee

RESOLUTION B-30 AMENDED: Delegates passed a resolution to no longer have a policy convention between constitutional conventions.

Resolutions continued on next page.

Environment a 'huge' issue for labour

Larry Brown, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Union of Public and General Employees, addressed delegates on Sunday morning, bringing a national perspective to the convention floor.

"The environment is a huge issue for all of us," said Brown. "It was placed on the national agenda in part because George brought it forward."

"We've got the B.C. government leading the charge on climate change. But their carbon tax is inequitable and it won't add a single dollar to fight against climate change."

On the issue of free trade, Brown focused on Canada's recent free trade agreement with Colombia – telling delegates that he was "disgusted, and embarrassed that our government signed a trade deal with a government that has killed more trade unionists and activists than anywhere in the world."

He also zeroed in on the B.C. government's efforts to mislead citizens

on health care costs – pointing out that "one minister says that health care costs will go from 44 to 50 per cent in five years. Another says it will go from 50 to 70 per cent in the next five years, according to figures from two different ministers in the same government."

It's not rocket science, said Brown. "When you cut the budget of all other ministries in government, then health care takes a bigger portion of the budget."

Brown also thanked George Heyman for his service to the union movement. "You gave us inspiration and courage to go on, through your example. Thank you George."



Larry Brown.

RESOLUTION B-36 AMENDED:

Delegates passed a resolution to temporarily amend the constitution to elect in each of the 12 areas, an equity delegate from among the membership of the equity network, to attend the 2011 constitutional convention. The equity resolution will be discussed in the upcoming structural review.

Resolutions Committee

COMPOSITE RESOLUTION 10:

Delegates supported a resolution to review the resources for activists, local officers and staff required to fulfill our OHS mandate.

COMPOSITE RESOLUTION 14:

Delegates passed a resolution to continue to develop interpretation manuals for all collective agreements and make them available online and to area offices.

RESOLUTION D-144:

Delegates passed a resolution to continue to promote young workers' participation in the union.

RESOLUTION 121 AMENDED:

Delegates passed a resolution to create a web site link with information on illnesses, injury leave, long-term disability and other OHS information.

RESOLUTION D-113 AMENDED:

Delegates passed a resolution that the union seek out activists, stewards, local and component executives for the training and development of temporary staff representatives.

RESOLUTION E-148:

Delegates passed a resolution that the union provide resources to run a campaign to

raise public awareness on the current risks facing members in Corrections.

RESOLUTION C-61:

Delegates passed a resolution that the union lobby the provincial government and the Vancouver Island Health Authority to restore and enhance funding to the Lodge at Broadmead.

RESOLUTION C-53:

Delegates passed a resolution that the union call upon the federal and provincial governments to return to BC persons charged with serious offences arrested outside of the province and that those individuals who are arrested on inter-provincial warrants in BC are brought before the justice system.

RESOLUTION D-134:

Delegates passed a resolution urging the CLC to take over as a national noticeboard about strikes and lockouts, the web site "onstrike.ca".

RESOLUTION C-91:

Delegates passed a resolution that the union lobby the provincial government to stop removing forest lands from publicly-controlled Tree Farm Licences.

RESOLUTION C-41:

Delegates passed a resolution calling for a public inquiry into rail safety in BC.

The Convention passed a motion that all outstanding resolutions be referred to the provincial executive.

Convention Education Draw Winners:

Katrina McGee, Vancouver, Local 303

Lorraine Logan, New Westminster, Retired member was Local 1203

Fred Planidin, Castlegar, Local 1009

Craig Sowinski, Victoria, Local 601

Kevin Telfer, Nanaimo, Local 2002

Harbant Dhaliwal, Mission, Local 304

Leona Birchard, Burnaby, 1203

Check the the BCGEU web site for web cast of the major speeches to convention. Just go to www.bcgeu.ca and click on the "Convention '08" campaign graphic.

Friday, June 6

- *Keynote* - George Heyman, BCGEU President
- *Guest* - Maria Hla Tin, Action Committee for a Free Burma
- *Guest* - Scott Lunny, Union Steel Workers of America

Saturday, June 7

- *Keynote* - Jim Sinclair, BC Fed President
- *Guest* - Carole James, BC NDP Leader
- George Heyman Tribute

Sunday, June 8

- *Keynote* - Larry Brown, Sec. Treas. of NUPGE



Democracy in action!



Judy Steele of Component 17



Dan Bradford and Stephanie Seaman.



Newly elected president Darryl Walker.



Former BCGEU president John Shields (centre) and Diane Wood, former secretary-treasurer, take in the convention.