



UNIFOR
Local2301

*Kitimat Smelter & Kemano
Power Operations Workers*
www.unifor2301.org

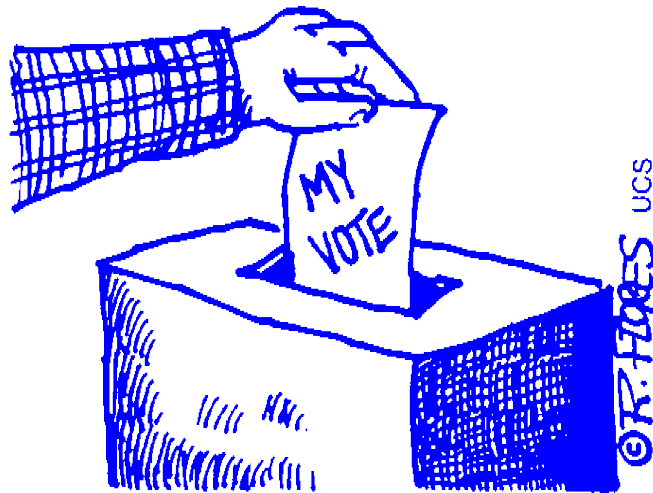


HOTLINE

April 2024 - Special Edition

UNIFOR 2301 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

YOUR VOTE COUNTS



2024 - 2027

NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Trustees (1)

Ed Silveira

Jaeden Silvestre

Joe Slanina

Sergeant at Arms (2)

Mike Duarte

Mike Szmata

Jason Wilson

Guide (1)

Christopher Nuzzo

Val Stonehocker

Unifor Constitutional Convention Delegates *(4 to be elected)*

- Mike Duarte*
- Cliff Madsen*
- Martin McIlwrath*
- Clarence Riggs*
- Mike Szmata*

ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION

President

Martin McIlwrath

Vice President

Trevor Thomschke

Business Agent

Cliff Madsen

Recording Secretary

Kyle Da Silveira

Financial Secretary

Lucas Oke

Trustees

Richard Lindstrom

Clarence Riggs

Full-Time Safety Rep

Marc Young

Trustee (One positions)



**ED SILVEIRA
FOR TRUSTEE**

Hello Brothers and Sisters, my name is Ed Silveira and I'm seeking your support in my election for the position of Trustee.

I was born and raised in Kitimat and have been working for Rio Tinto (Alcan) for nearly 36 years. In that time, I worked in A-Casting, Ingot Finishing, Pot-lining and Lines 1-5 in the old plant. Since the modernization, I've worked at the Wharf and am currently on the Rail Crew.

In that time, I have seen us change from CASAW Local 1, CAW 2301 and to our current Union of Unifor Local 2301. I have served our membership in various positions such as Org 8 Chief Area OHS&E Rep, KKOSH&E Co-Chair, Shop Steward, various sub-committees and currently sit on our Union Grievance Committee.

In 2021 we came out of a strike with the commitment from the Company that things were going to get better. Where we are today is a plant that seems to be run by crisis management. In my view, our members continue to be disrespected and the Company continues to contract out our work, in spite of all the goodwill and promises made at bargaining.

Today, more than ever, we have to remain unified as a membership and push back against what seems to be the Company's agenda.

The Company said they wanted to build a relationship, the part that they left out was that it feels like it was a relationship on their terms only.

Today, more than ever, we must use our collective strength as a Union to challenge violations of our collective agreement. This won't be easy, members will have to be aware of what is going on, step up as representatives on the shop floor and fight to make things right. The Company isn't going to give things to us just because we ask. I'm up for the fight.

Your vote counts!!

I ask for your support in the election to the position of Trustee on our Local Union Executive.

*In solidarity,
Ed Silveira*



**JAEDEN SILVESTRE
FOR TRUSTEE**

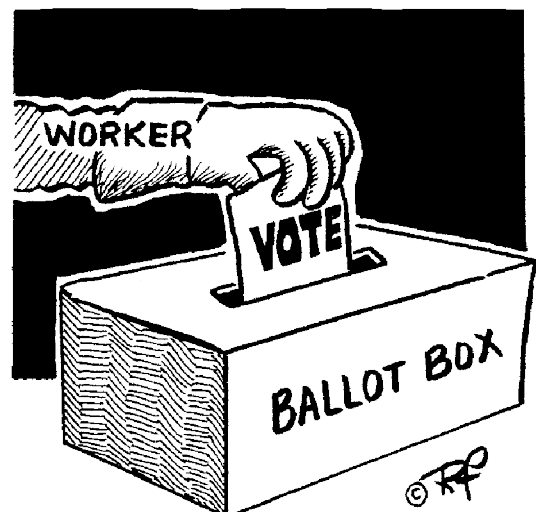
My name is Jaeden Silvestre and I am running for the position of Trustee

I started working at Rio Tinto in 2022 as a temp in Pot Startup and have since become a full time operator at APP as well as becoming an OHS&E rep. I'm still new to the industry but I'm eager to contribute and learn along the way.

I'm very grateful to everyone who has helped me find my footing as both an operator and a rep. I have been doing my best to identify and address issues in my area and there is definitely more to be done. I plan to keep working hard with everyone in order to keep making a difference.

Best of luck to everyone who put their names in and please make sure to come down and vote!

*Thank you,
Jaeden Silvestre*



Trustee (One positions)



**JOE SLANINA
FOR TRUSTEE**

My name is Joe N. Slanina, and I have been a member of Unifor Local 2301 for approximately 9 years.

I started off in the original potlines in May of 2015 and worked in Lines 3 to 5 as a temporary Transition worker. From there, I moved to C-Casting in October 2015 and that is where I remain as of today. I gained full time status after the Collective Labour Agreement of 2017. I became a Safety Representative in 2018 at the encouragement of coworkers. Last year I replaced the outgoing dayshift casting area safety rep on an interim basis as I was the Casting Alternate. In October of last year, I took over as the union co-chair for the Joint Medical Placement Committee. More recently I stepped up to help out as a member of the Human Rights committee.

When I started out at Rio Tinto, I had no desire to be involved with anything more than just a worker in my area. However, through encouragement, I stepped up as a Safety Rep. I have seen some positive results as a Safety Rep and want to see more. I know quite often it feels like one step forward and two back. Our Union Executive needs new people to step up as there is a turnover starting to take place. We need new younger people to help with the transition as the older work force start to retire.

I am campaigning to become one of the Trustees. I am trying to learn the ways of the Union Executive so I can help you now and better in the future. Put your Trust in me and I will try to help us transition into the future. You bring the Trust and I'll bring the 'EE' to the trustee position.

Thank you for your consideration and I encourage more union members to step up at the same time as it is needed now and in the future.

Joe Slanina

Sergeant-at-Arms (Two positions)

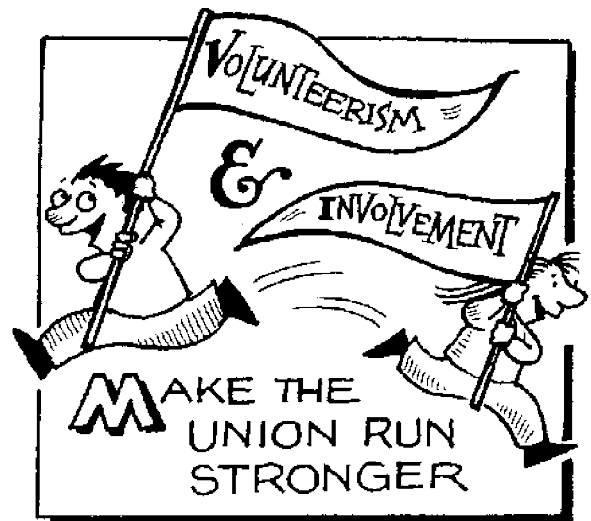


**MIKE DUARTE
FOR
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Mike Duarte. I have worked for Alcan/Rio Tinto since June 2000.

Through the years I have been involved with the Local Union for around 22 years, starting out as a Shop Steward, then a Chief Shop Steward. Currently I sit on the Executive as Sergeant-at-Arms and have done so for the last six years. I was also on the last set of bargaining to help ensure that all our members, new and old, can retire with a livable pension at the end of our careers at Rio. My current role in the plant is Full-time Shop Steward for the plant along with Brothers Trevor, Jason and Val. I am again running for another term as Sergeant-at-Arms and Constitutional Convention Delegate in this election and hope to continue to serve the membership as best as I can going into the next set of bargaining and beyond. Thank you for your support and good luck to all those who are running.

*In Solidarity,
Mike Duarte*



Sergeant-at-Arms (Two positions)



**MIKE SZMATA
FOR
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Brothers and Sisters, my name is Mike Szmata and I'm looking for your support as I run for re-election for Sergeant-at-Arms on our Local Executive.

I would also like your support as a Constitutional Convention delegate.

I have worked at Rio Tinto/Alcan for 32 years. Thirty of those years I have been a strong & dedicated union activist servicing our membership. Presently, I hold a few different positions within our Union. I am one of your Sergeant-at-Arms on the current Executive, the Chief Health & Safety Representative for Org. 8, the Union Chair of the EFAP Committee and I'm still active in my role as an OHS&E Rep and Shop Steward at the Wharf.

My previous Union experience has consisted of being on the Union Executive in 2009 and 2012 as the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Transition Committee during the Modernization Project, and I was on the 2021 Bargaining Committee.

If re-elected to the Union Executive there are a few things that I would like us as a Union to work on.

- 1) I would like to find ways to get our membership, especially the young and new generation of workers, more engaged and involved in our Union. We need to educate newer members on how Unionism works and build representation and solidarity for years to come.
- 2) I would like to see our Union have better communication with the shop floor.
- 3) Our Union to become more visible and present in our communities.

We have a lot of work ahead of us when dealing with RTA. After we came back from our labour dispute, we all held out hope that our relationship with the company was going to be better, and for the first year after being back to work, it seemed like we were headed in that direction, but that was short lived, and the company has returned to many of their old ways. Health & Safety,



**JASON WILSON
FOR
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS**

Brothers and Sisters, my name is Jason Wilson and I am running for the Union Position of Sergeant-at-Arms.

If elected, I intend to be fully committed to ensuring the standards of the CLA and maintaining order while providing security to all brothers and sisters.

I have been a member of the Union in good standing now for 28 years. Currently my role is with the dayshift Shop Steward Team as many of you know.

I stood proud and loyal working as a picket captain with our brothers and sisters during the interruption and I also am a volunteer at Union functions.

In conclusion, I promise to do my best among my peers at the hall, while still providing assistance, care and seeing to all our members needs on a regular basis.

*In solidarity,
Jason Wilson*

Contracting Out and Manpower issues are major items that are a constant fight. I will continue to fight hard to resolve these workplace issues. We also have bargaining coming up next year, which will prove interesting once again.

In closing, I have the knowledge and experience to carry out the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms on the Executive and with your vote I will get the opportunity to continue being a leader within our Union and will represent all of the membership at the Executive Committee level.

Best of luck to all who are running for positions in this years Executive Committee Elections.

Leadership, Experience, Integrity, Commitment ...
Vote Mike Szmata for Sergeant-at-Arms!

*In solidarity,
Mike Szmata*

Guide (One position)



**CHRIS NUZZO
FOR GUIDE**

Hello everyone, my name is Christopher Nuzzo and as you may have seen I have applied for the Guide position on the Executive Committee.

Just a little bit about myself; I started at Rio Tinto in 2017 in the Reduction department and seven years has been an experience for sure inside Reduction, but now I'm looking to gain further experience on the union side of things with the Guide position, to help myself but also others.

Thank you and I hope that I get your vote!

Chris Nuzzo



**VAL STONEHOCKER
FOR GUIDE**

Brothers and Sisters, my name is Val Stonehocker and I am running for the position of Guide.

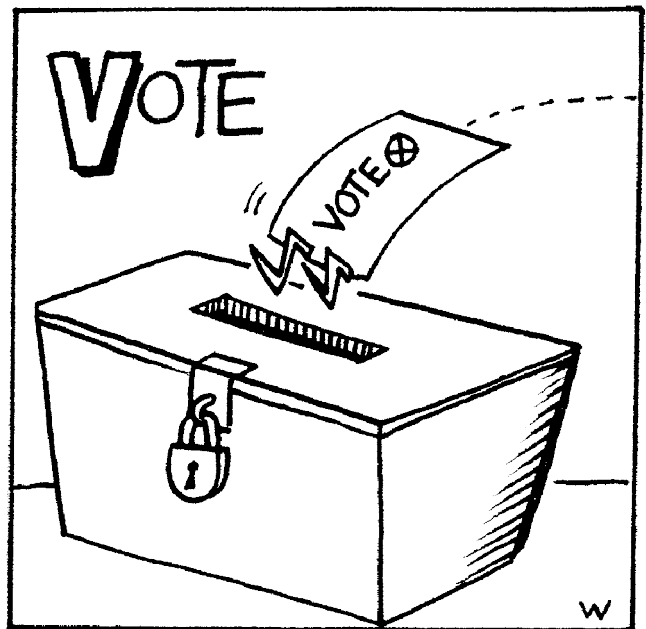
I have been with the Union for 15 years, ten of those were spent as a Shop Steward, five as a Safety Rep and the past two as a Chief Shop Steward in Reduction.

I stood with my brothers and sisters during the interruption on the front lines as a strike captain.

I will do my best as a Guide, while still looking after our members in my current role and in the years to come.

Thank you for your support.

*In solidarity,
Val Stonehocker*



ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION



**MARTIN MCILWRATH
PRESIDENT**

Hello Sisters and Brothers, my name is Martin McIlwrath.

We have a lot of new Members over the last few years. So, for those of you that I haven't met yet, I am the President of the Union. I was elected to my position by acclamation for this upcoming term and I would like to thank the Membership for their confidence in me to perform my duties for the next three years. I take my position in our Union very seriously and always put our Union first in every decision that I make. I will continue to work hard on all our Member's behalf and ensure that we provide the highest service levels possible.

I am also running as a delegate for the Unifor Constitutional Convention and would appreciate your vote. The Unifor Constitutional Convention is a very important event in our National Union. This convention is where we decide who the leadership of our National Union will be. This is also where, amongst other things, we vote on resolutions that dictate the direction our Union will take, whether it be in the form of policies or possible changes to our constitution that shape our Union. Our Local has a history of being very active at these events to help guide our National Union in a direction that benefits our Members, communities and our country as a whole. I think it is important for the President of our Local to attend these events and continue to build relationships that bring value back to our Local.

I want to thank the outgoing Executive for all the hard work that they put in. It was a pleasure to work with you all. Congratulations to the other the nominees that were elected to their positions by acclamation. I also want to thank everyone that put their name forward for consideration on our Executive Board and as a Constitutional Convention delegate and wish them good luck in their election. I am looking forward to working with our new Executive.

As you're aware, our collective agreement expires in July of 2025. Our focus will soon shift to preparing for negotiations. In fact, in September we will start the process of selecting our Union's Bargaining Committee. Bargaining is always a great opportunity to improve our lives at work and at home and I am looking forward to a positive outcome for our Membership.

*In solidarity,
Martin McIlwrath*



**CLIFF MADSEN
BUSINESS AGENT**

Brothers and Sisters, just a short note to thank you for this opportunity to continue as your Business Agent for one more term.

My plans were to have retired by now but with the ever-increasing demand for services on the Union and the challenges finding members who want to step up into different positions I decided to put my name in the hat again. We have looked at the situation moving forward and have ideas about succession planning which should help to ensure younger activists are developed and confident enough to take on new more demanding roles within the Union.

As far as my position and responsibilities go, you have my continued commitment to high levels of servicing, prompt attention to the issues raised to me and most important are resolutions to those same issues. Since returning from being on strike in 2021, we have given 100% efforts towards returning everyone to work, creating a path to full production, actioning the issues of our membership, resolving all the legacy issues from prior to the strike and building a better relationship with the employer. These efforts haven't all been for not, however, many remain unresolved due to the employer's focus on their business at the expense of our relationship. We'll continue to work on these issues, however, our priorities will be changing before long as negotiations are just around the corner in 2025.

My message to you is that negotiations are never easy and always contentious. Whether you already understand or you're new and don't, the collective strength of our Union lies in the solidarity of our members standing together as one. Our retirees and active members have many issues that we must correct at negotiations. When we fight we win.

*In solidarity,
Cliff Madsen*



ELECTION DATES

Advance Poll Tuesday April 23rd
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Union hall

Regular Poll Wednesday May 1st
6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Union hall

Advance Poll

For those members not able to cast their ballot on election day **due to vacation, etc.**, an advance poll will be held on April 23rd.

All members are requested to provide proof of identification – i.e., Unifor card or Alcan I.D., Drivers Licence, etc.

VOTE
IT'S YOUR RIGHT!