



## TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION No. 31

AFFILIATED WITH TEAMSTERS CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS  
#1 GROSVENOR SQUARE, DELTA, BC V3M 5S1

# Teamsters Joint Council No. 36 Hosts Inaugural Teamsters Education Week 2023

October 31, 2023

**New Westminster, BC:** Teamsters Joint Council No. 36 hosted its first-ever Teamsters Education Week 2023, a historic gathering that brought together members from the four Teamsters local unions in British Columbia and Yukon Territory. The event, held at the Inn at the Quay Hotel in New Westminster, BC, spanned four days from October 24 to October 27, 2023. The event was a resounding success, featuring intensive learning sessions and engaging activities that energized union attendees.

Joint Council 36 President Stan Hennessy extolled the virtues of the Teamsters Union, stating that it upholds the values of justice, dignity, and respect, all of which are essential in the modern workplace. According to Hennessy, Education Week 2023 has played a pivotal role in empowering the Union's shop stewards to serve their brothers and sisters better, strengthening the union. "We take pride in our members standing up for these values," he said. "Our shop stewards have become even more steadfast in representing our sisters and brothers in the workplace, making the Teamsters Union a force of strength and power."

Teamster Shop Stewards from across British Columbia, including Vancouver Island, Metro Vancouver, the Fraser Valley, the northern regions of the province, the Interior, the Kootenay, and even the Yukon, made the journey to attend a recent event. The gathering united members from Local 31, Local 155, Local 213, and Local 464, representing a wide range of professions. The union's membership comprises individuals employed in school districts, construction, the film industry, dairy and bakery sectors, police departments, trucking and warehousing, waste disposal, parcel and package services, juice and soda production, manufacturing, and various other fields.

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One of the standout moments of the educational week was the instruction provided by Fazal Bhimji, the BC Labour Relations Officer. Mr. Bhimji, an expert in collective bargaining and mediation, shared his knowledge with participants, providing them with essential insights into these critical aspects of labour relations. His teachings were invaluable in promoting a harmonious workplace environment.

The event also featured distinguished lawyers Tamara Ramusovic and Melissa Vander Houwen from British Columbia's leading labour law firm Moore Edgar Lyster LLP, who conducted sessions on Grievance Handling and Investigations, Duty to Accommodate and Respectful Workplace policies, as well as Privacy Law. These topics hold immense significance in ensuring the rights and well-being of workers are upheld.

The recently concluded Teamsters Education Week 2023 has served as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Teamsters Joint Council No. 36 to empower its members and equip them with the necessary tools to navigate the challenges of the modern workplace. The event, which marked its inaugural edition, has laid a strong foundation for future educational initiatives that will continue to foster solidarity and enhance the capabilities of the Teamsters' members in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Indeed, Teamsters Education Week 2023 is a symbolic representation of the union's dedication to its members' professional development and growth, and it is expected to serve as a valuable platform for the Teamsters members to strengthen their unity and improve their skills in the years to come.

Teamsters Local Union No. 31 proudly represents more than 8,300 hard-working members in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, including general truck drivers, courier, public sector, warehouse and grocery workers, transit, coach, school bus drivers and monitors, lumber, pulp and paper workers and limousine chauffeurs, since 1936.

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