



The IAM Connection

A publication for members of IAM Local 2797

Summer 2026 Edition

Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Convention 2026

The Canadian Labour Congress Convention was held from May 10 to May 15 in Winnipeg. The convention brought together more than 2,000 union activists from across Canada to discuss and vote on key resolutions that will help guide the CLC's work in supporting Canadian workers and protecting their rights.

Among those in attendance was a large delegation from the IAM, including Local 2797 members Melissa Marsman and Sarah Covey, along with International Representative Matt Barnable.

From coast to coast to coast, workers stood together in solidarity to fight for fairness, dignity, and a better future for all working people.

We were thousands strong in Winnipeg for the rally.



Canadian Staff Conference 2026

The Canadian Staff Conference was held in Halifax from June 3-4, 2026. This year's theme, "Making Waves Together," reflects the power of solidarity and the impact we can achieve when we work together toward a common goal. Just as a wave begins with a single movement and grows stronger as it moves forward, each of us plays a role in creating positive change.

While one person alone can make a difference, it is through our collective strength, unity, and shared commitment that we truly make waves and move things forward for our members across Canada.

More than 80 staff members from across Canada, representatives from the International Office, and members of the Executive Council came together for learning, collaboration, and engagement.



Member Profile

Bhupinder “Pinder” Singh

Commercial Service Technician 2 for Kal Tire; Pinder has worked for Kal Tire for 4 years and has been at the Dartmouth location for 2 years.

Involvement in local:

- Shop Steward
- Member-at-Large

Where are you from: Pinder is originally from Punjab, India; he moved to Canada in 2021.

Hobbies: Pinder is passionate about cars and enjoys going on long drives whenever he gets the chance. Most weekends he likes to explore new places and spends his time learning more about vehicle maintenance and improving his car repair skills.

Fun fact: He loves spending time with animals, especially his dog. Most of his free time is spent with his dog, whether out for a walk, playing or just relaxing together.



IAM Member Benefits



Members of IAM are eligible for discounts from numerous businesses within Canada and the US. There is a wide range of services offered for home, automotive and/or health and wellness. To view the full list of organizations offering benefits, please visit: <https://www.unionplus.org/>

PRIDE 2026

June is the beginning of pride celebrations across the province. It is a time to celebrate our diversity and show support for our friends, coworkers and community members who are members of the pride community.

The IAM Local 2797 Human Rights Committee invites you to join us as we walk in pride parades in Truro and Halifax.

Truro Pride Parade—June 27

Halifax Pride Parade— July 18



Knowledge is Power!



THE BACKBONE OF WORKPLACE FAIRNESS!

A collective agreement is a written contract between the union and the employer.

It outlines the terms and conditions of employment, including:

- Wages and benefits
- Working hours
- Job security
- Health & safety standards
- Procedures for resolving workplace disputes



IAM Members in Your Community

IAM Members volunteered on Sunday, June 14 with the Halifax Brain Tumour Walk which took place in Bedford, Nova Scotia. IAM Local 2797 members were able to engage with the community while working alongside volunteers from other organizations within HRM. We had a lot of fun and the organizers were very pleased with the turnout and the efforts of our members.





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

School Supply Drive

Local 2797 **Human Rights & Women's Committees** are asking for donations of school supplies to donate to Dr. T.L Sullivan school in Florence, NS for their Caring Closet initiative, which provides necessities for learning to students in their community and beyond. For a list of items, please see a member of either committee. Committee members will also be selling 50/50 tickets to support this initiative. The first draw will take place at the September local meeting.



Chairs, Cynthia Black—cindyblack2009@gmail.com and Stephanie Swikehardt—stephanieswikhardt@gmail.com

Coat Donations



Local 2797 **Community Services Committee** is collecting gently used, clean coats. All coats collected are donated by the committee to local charity organizations. Please bring your coats to a local meeting or contact a member of the committee to make other arrangements for drop off.

Chair, Deedee Slye—dslye@nsgeu.ca

NSFL and CLC Campaigns

Local 2797 **Political Action Committee** is supporting several NSFL campaigns: EI Must Be Fixed Now!; Stop Violence in the Workplace; Anti-Scab Legislation Now!; and Stop! Misuse of Non-Disclosure Agreements. For more information on these campaigns, please visit: <https://nslabour.ca/take-action/> The PAC Committee also supports the following CLC initiatives: Strengthen the Safety Net; Protect Every Worker; and Make Homes Affordable.



Chair, Kelly Ritcey—kelritcey@gmail.com

Winter Wear Donations



The IAM Local 2797 **Human Rights Committee** is seeking donations of new or gently used hats, scarves and mitts that will be donated to a local shelter during the winter months. Please bring items to a local meeting or drop off to a member of the committee.

Chair, Cynthia Black—cindyblack2009@gmail.com



IAMAW ★ WILLIAM W. WINPISINGER
**Education AND
Technology Center**

2026 Programs

To view a full list of programs offered for 2026, please visit the W3 website at: <https://w3iam.org/2026-programs/>

Virtual Training

JUNE 2026

Getting Ready for Contract Negotiations.

[Wednesday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, June 20, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

JULY 2026

Microsoft Excel I (Basic).

[Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, July 23, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, July 25, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

AUGUST 2026

Preserving Your Local's History.

[Wednesday, August 19, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, August 20, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, August 22, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

SEPTEMBER 2026

Microsoft Word II (Intermediate).

[Wednesday, September 23, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. ET](#) / [Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ET](#) / [Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m. to noon. ET](#)

Please visit <https://w3iam.org/programs/virtual-training/> to register.

Get Involved

If you are interested in being active in your Local there are many opportunities to get involved. We are happy to have members take an active role—we are stronger together! You can be more involved by attending your local meetings, being a representative on a committee, or by volunteering your time and/or special abilities to the local when needed. For more information please contact the Committee Chair or a member of your Executive Board.



Cook It Up

Gazpacho!

Ingredients

- Tomatoes
- Cucumber; peeled and seeded
- Green bell pepper
- Red onion
- Garlic
- Olive oil
- Sherry vinegar
- Ground cumin
- Sea salt & black pepper

Directions

1. **Puree the soup:** Combine all of your gazpacho ingredients in a blender or food processor, and puree for 1 minute or until the gazpacho reaches your desired consistency.
2. **Chill:** Transfer the soup to a sealed container and refrigerate for 4 hours or until completely chilled.
3. **Serve:** Then serve the soup nice and cold, garnished with your favorite toppings.



Trivia Answers

1. B) The Cyrus Cylinder – Discovered in 1879, this ancient Persian artifact recorded King Cyrus the Great's decrees, including racial equality, freedom of religion, and the abolition of slavery.
2. C) 1948 – Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris, the UDHR was the first global document to outline fundamental human rights.
3. B) The Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA) – Passed in 1977, it applies to federally regulated activities, whereas provincial codes (like the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act) handle provincial or municipal matters.
4. [B] False – The Charter applies strictly to actions by the government, whereas private workplace disputes are handled by human rights commissions and tribunals.
5. A) Nelson Mandela – This quote was spoken by the South African leader at an address in 1993.

The intent of this newsletter is to keep the members of IAM Local 2797 informed on current events within your Local. Submissions can be made by emailing: cindyblack2009@gmail.com or any member of your Executive.