

In The News

What's happening right now in the BC Formwork industry

Gary Hawkins - BCFA
Vice President

CONCRETE SUPPLY CRISIS

As reported June 21st, 2022, in the Journal of Commerce by Russell Hixson:



Fires, strikes and shipping challenges and more. A major strike impacting the GVRD with nearly 300 union employees on strike or refusing to cross picket lines since late May of this year has impacted the construction industry already. A third of concrete supply in the industry has been halted and for the remaining suppliers, this has caused a difficult situation to take up the demand. Construction sites have been limping along at best.

On top of this strike, a ready-mix plant in the lower mainland caught fire late in May and halted production in June. Extra material was stored but has since run low coupled with a scheduled shut down in Seattle for 40 days has caused a shortage of material not expected as demand is extremely high. To add to this another supplier of raw material has been experiencing transport delays with product into New Westminster with the CN rail signal worker's dispute as of late last week.

To read the full article from the Journal of Commerce written by Russell Hixson, please click below:

<https://canada.constructconnect.com/joc/news/labour/2022/06/concrete-crisis-shortages-cracking-up-b-c-construction>

AS REPORTED IN JOURNAL OF COMMERCE BY CONSTRUCTCONNECT

Author Russell Hixson / credits

STRIKE BY CN RAIL SIGNAL WORKERS CONTINUES AS MEDIATED BARGAINING FAILS TO YIELD SETTLEMENT.

ERIC ATKINS > TRANSPORTATION REPORTER
PUBLISHED YESTERDAY



CN rail trains are shown at the McMillan yard in Vaughn, Ontario on June 20, 2022, as a strike by 750 signal workers across the country continues.

NATHAN DENETTE /THE CANADIAN PRESS

CEMENT LABOUR DISPUTE HAS FAR-REACHING IMPACT ON BC CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



Almost 300 workers - cement truck drivers, plant operations and others - are off the job due to a strike. It's left the three companies that supply a good deal of cement in the Lower Mainland shuttered causing concern for some in the construction business (Ben Nelms/CBC)

Strike Negotiations Resume today

Teamsters Local No 213 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115 and Lehigh Hanson (owned by Germany based Heidelberg Cement) are to resume negotiations today after a week absent from the bargaining table.

Hopes are for a resolution quickly as we are in week no. 5 of the strike. Layoffs across the industry have already started due to this strike and the concrete supply chain disruptions.

The lack of concrete supply is causing damage industry-wide and will soon be felt everywhere - projects being delayed and shut down; historic construction cost escalation; workers being laid off; and increased prices for taxpayers and home buyers,

— Chris Gardner

Independent Contractors and Businesses Association

As reported June 21st, 2022, in the Journal of Commerce by Russell Hixson:

The Independent Contractors and Business Association (ICBA) has called on the provincial officials to use their authority under BC Labour Relations Code to appoint a special mediator to resolve the strike. No reports on whether or not this will be implemented.

"The impact of this labour dispute goes far beyond three companies and two building trades unions," said Chris Gardner, ICBA president.

"The lack of concrete supply is causing damage industry-wide and will soon be felt everywhere - projects being delayed and shut down; historic construction cost escalation; workers being laid off; and increased prices for taxpayers and home buyers. It is not an understatement to say that we haven't seen this kind of supply shock in the industry for decades."

The BCFA will keep you updated with any new information we received and report to our members. The association will be also lending our voice asking provincial authorities to have a mediator appointed to resolve this strike.

- Gary Hawkins, BCFA Vice President