



Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

COVID-19 UPDATE

April 27th, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since the start of this COVID-19 outbreak, we have all been facing daily challenges. We all feel the need for our lives to be normal again and get back to work, life and socializing. However, the primary concern is for health, safety and the mental wellbeing of all Local 128 members and their families. While I know it has not been easy, we all have to do our part and I trust that you have been able to make use of any down time in a positive way.

Please know that we are here for you. A special thanks to all our Reps, Staff, Officers and to you, the membership for the incredible job everyone is doing representing Local 128 and our trade during these difficult times.

MONTHLY UNION DUES

Your monthly Union dues is an important factor in keeping Local 128 in operation. However, during this time and due to the financial uncertainty many are feeling, I will ensure sure that no Local 128 member will be suspended for late or non-payment of dues and that you will be eligible for dispatch, provided you have the required CORE and qualifications for the job. This is a temporary measure and will be re-evaluated in the coming months. If you have any concerns about your Union dues, please feel free to contact me.

DISPATCH AND WORK REPORTS

All area work reports have been updated for the week of April 20th and can be found on the web site under the Dispatch tab. If you get laid off and need to put your name back on an out-of-work list, please speak personally to your local area representative. Check the web site weekly for updated reports.

MONTHLY UNION MEETING

Be advised that the May 13th monthly Union meeting is **cancelled** due to the ongoing physical gathering protocol of the Government due to COVID-19.

WELD SHOP

The Weld Shop will open on an 'as required' basis for company / contractor testing **only**. Of course, strict protocol with regards to physical distancing and safety will be adhered to. Please review the safety measures on the web site under the COVID-19 resources.

CORE Training

There is no CORE Training scheduled at this time. However, training will be available to you in order to be dispatch ready. This is by appointment only. Email Eddie Wall, Dave Maddison or Kim Quinn if you know that you require training in order to be dispatched.

WORKING AT HEIGHTS – On a temporary basis, any member who has completed an approved *Working at Heights* training program between February 28, 2017 and August 31, 2017 will have their validity date extended to four (4) years from the date of successful completion of the training program. Amended regulation can be read at: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r20096>

IEC CONFINED SPACE – There will be a six (6) month extension if your Confined Space expires after April 1, 2020.

FIT TEST - There is **NO** extension for fit test. The CSA is the governing body for ensuring tests are conducted according to a specific method and protocol. They will not provide an extension to expiration dates. The Boilermaker National Health and Safety Department is an administrator of a program ONLY. Therefore, we are not authorized to extend the expiration date.

WHMIS - Can be done on line and your Training Dept. will e-mail/text a copy and send a hard copy to you by mail.

If you require any clarification you can reach our Trainers by email at the following:
Eddie Wall: ewall@ibblocal128.org, Dave Maddison: dmaddison@ibblocal128.org or
Kim Quinn: kquinn@ibblocal128.org

BOILERMAKER HEALTH BENEFIT EXTENSION

The National Boilermaker Benefit plan is a strong and well funded plan that has seen positive growth since 1970. Never has the plan been through a Pandemic. However, during this COVID-19 crisis, the following extensions will be available.

Extended Benefit Plan - There is a short-term relief plan of an additional 2 months, to address critical coverage on an emergency basis for active members using their dollar bank and termination of their benefits ends either April 30th, 2020 or May 31st, 2020. You will automatically be enrolled in the CV-19 extended benefit plan at no additional cost to you.

Extended Pay Direct – Continuing Pay Direct for some, past 12 months for a 2-month period. This is designed to continue critical coverage, short-term on an emergency basis.

Dollar Bank Credit Program – Providing members with dollar bank credits equal to the value of the 2-month extended period of coverage granted above.

Please ensure you read and understand all the rules regarding these extensions. If you are not clear please address your questions to: covid19@boilermakersbenefits.ca

Webinars on each of the above extension programs are available and it is in your best interest to watch by going to: <https://boilermakersbenefits.ca/covid19>

SCHOLARSHIP EXTENSION

The IBB Local 128 Scholarship Competition submission date has been extended until May 15th, 2020. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Pauline Fitzgerald at pauline@ibblocal128.org.

DAY OF MOURNING

April 28th is the National Day of Mourning. It is not only a day to memorialize our fallen brothers and sisters who have died on the job in Canada, but an important day to commemorate all workers who suffered a workplace injury, occupational hazard or exposure while at work. Let's also thank our front line and essential workers, including our Boilermaker brothers and sisters still working on work sites that are deemed essential.

ONCE AGAIN – COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Protecting yourself, your co-workers and your family is important!

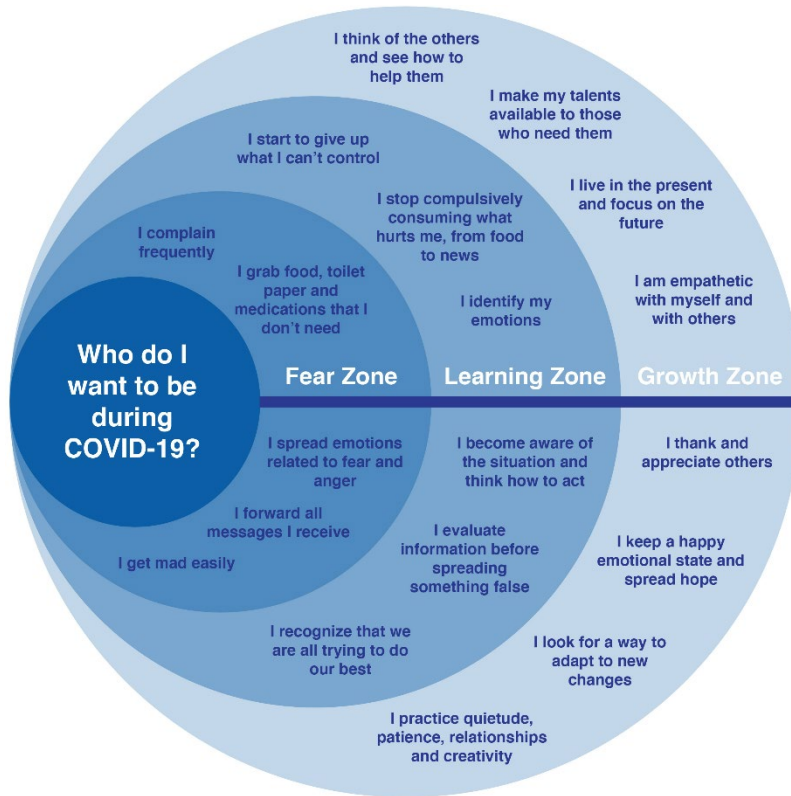
The COVID-19 virus is spread through close contact. To help prevent the spread, the following is a reminder. Please be diligent and follow the guidelines:

- Hand washing is the best practice, so do it often and with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if hand washing is not possible.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve.
- If you use a tissue, discard immediately and wash your hands afterward.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid all contact with people who are sick.
- STAY HOME if you are sick!
- Avoid high-touch areas, where possible, or ensure you clean your hands after.
- Where possible, wear gloves when interacting with high-touch areas. Do not touch your face with gloved hands. Take care when removing gloves. Ensure you wash your hands after removing gloves.
- Wash your clothes as soon as you get home and shower.
- If you are ill: notify your supervisor and steward/rep immediately, complete the self-assessment and follow the instructions you get from the assessment.
<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>

Keeping your Mental Health in Check

Yes, Boilermakers are tough, but COVID-19 is not about being tough. During this gruelling ordeal, we need to make sure we take the necessary steps to keep our mental health in check. As you know FSEAP, the Boilermaker counselling and referral service is also here. If you or a family member is experiencing anxiety, grief, depression or anger, or perhaps just feel like you are having trouble coping and need someone else, outside your immediate circle to talk to, FSEAP can help.

Who do I want to be during COVID-19



Brothers and sisters, if you need assistance in anyway, please don't hesitate to reach out. Keep an eye on our website for updates and resources on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Even in the face of this adversity, it is imperative to remember that we will get through this together. We are a strong and viable organization. We can and will get through this and be better for it in the long run.

In solidarity. I am fraternally yours,

ROY GRILLS
 Business Manager / Secretary Treasurer
 Boilermakers Local 128 Ontario

RG/pff

