



Name: **Nick Howard**

Local Number/USW District #: **Local 7284, District 3**

Employer, Job Title: **Teck Resources (Coal Mountain Operations)**

Years as USW Member: **Since February 2014**

Hometown: **Fernie, British Columbia**

What is unusual about your hometown, place of work or job?

One unusual thing is that we are subject to the random drug testing policy that is anything but random. This program must be eliminated. It's a complete invasion of our privacy and degrading for all parties involved in the actual testing procedure.

What does this year's theme, "A Union That Works" mean to you?

"A Union that Works" is a great theme. If the union isn't working at any given level, the union will fail. There are a many groups out there that want to see us fail and they have large financial backing. We need to get our members more involved at all levels to combat this attack on the working class.

What issues will be important when your Local's contract expires?

A lot of my senior members are asking us to look into what we can do to improve our pension plan. We want to look at so that they aren't just kicked to the curb on their day of retirement. I also want to see some union hours for both general business and for training as well.

What is the most "political" thing you have done?

Being fairly new to the union leadership scene, I have just begun to get my feet wet with politics. I have always made sure I voted and I try to educate as many people as I can to get out and Vote. Meeting John Horgan and hearing him speak about working with the working class to turn around what the right wing has put in motion is very uplifting for a guy living in a resource based community that is largely affected by the government decisions.

What career option do you think Christie Clark and/or Rob Ford should pursue?

I think that Christie Clark and Rob Ford could give David Copperfield a run for his money in the illusion community. They show you all sorts of promises and then when you're not looking the right hand is outsourcing our jobs and putting our natural resources like BC Hydro in the hands of private corporations.

Who would you prefer to have dinner with, and why: Hilary Clinton, Lady Gaga, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Will Smith, Richard Trumka or Jennifer Lawrence?

I would have to say Will Smith. Look how far he's come. From Fresh Prince of Bel-Air with DJ Jazzy to blockbuster movies such as Independence Day, I Robot, Ali. He's a family man and works with kids.

What's the best thing about the Convention so far?

The best thing about the Convention so far is the speech that Reverend William Barber gave. He just blew my mind. He unifies the church, workers, young, old, and everything in between.

What things do you hope to do while you're here?

I would really like to spend a few minutes talking to Leo and try to harvest a few pearls of wisdom that I can take back to my Local. This is the first time I've been to Vegas so I'm getting a tattoo so I have something that doesn't stay in Vegas.

Have you yet decided how you will put the convention to work when you return home?

I will be using some of the Convention video and speeches to engage and motivate my members. I will use my public speaking skills that I will fine-tune to engage and inspire.

