



TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION No. 31

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

A Major Victory for Injured Truck Drivers

The WCAT recognized that the gear shifting performed by the worker in the course of his work was repetitive, awkward and forceful and accepted the worker's claim as an occupational disease.

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June 8, 2020 - Teamsters Local Union 31 recently won an important victory for injured workers, especially truck drivers.

Thanks to this important decision, it is now recognized that the repetitive speed changes that truckers make in the course of their work can cause repeated injuries and occupational disease.

The case involved a member of Teamsters Local Union 31 (Vancouver) who worked for 40 years as a long-haul truck driver. When he bought a new truck, the worker noticed that he was gradually developing a disability in his right arm, which forced him to stop working. He filed a complaint with the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to have it recognized that his injury was due to repetitive gear changes with his right arm.

The WCB initially denied his claim, stating that the gear change required in his work was not repetitive, intrusive or forceful enough to cause epicondylitis.

Local Union 31 took the case to the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal (WCAT) and won.

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The WCAT recognized that the gear shifting performed by the worker in the course of his work was repetitive, awkward and forceful and accepted the worker's claim as an occupational disease. He will now receive retroactive wage loss benefits, medical coverage and, if the condition is permanent, a pension from the WCB.

“I am please that our legal counsel was able to win this case,” said Stan Hennessy, President of Teamsters Local Union 31. “I believe that this victory can serve as a reference for all truckers who are injured in the same way.”



Proud Teamsters Union truck drivers benefit greatly from the Teamsters, Local 31, Legal Services Department

The Teamsters Union represents the interests of 125,000 members in Canada. They are affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which has 1.4 million members in North America. Teamsters, Local Union No. 31 proudly represents more than 8,200 hard-working men and women in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory including general truck drivers, courier, public services, warehouse and grocery workers, transit and school bus drivers and monitors, lumber, pulp and paper workers and limousine chauffeurs, since 1936.

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