

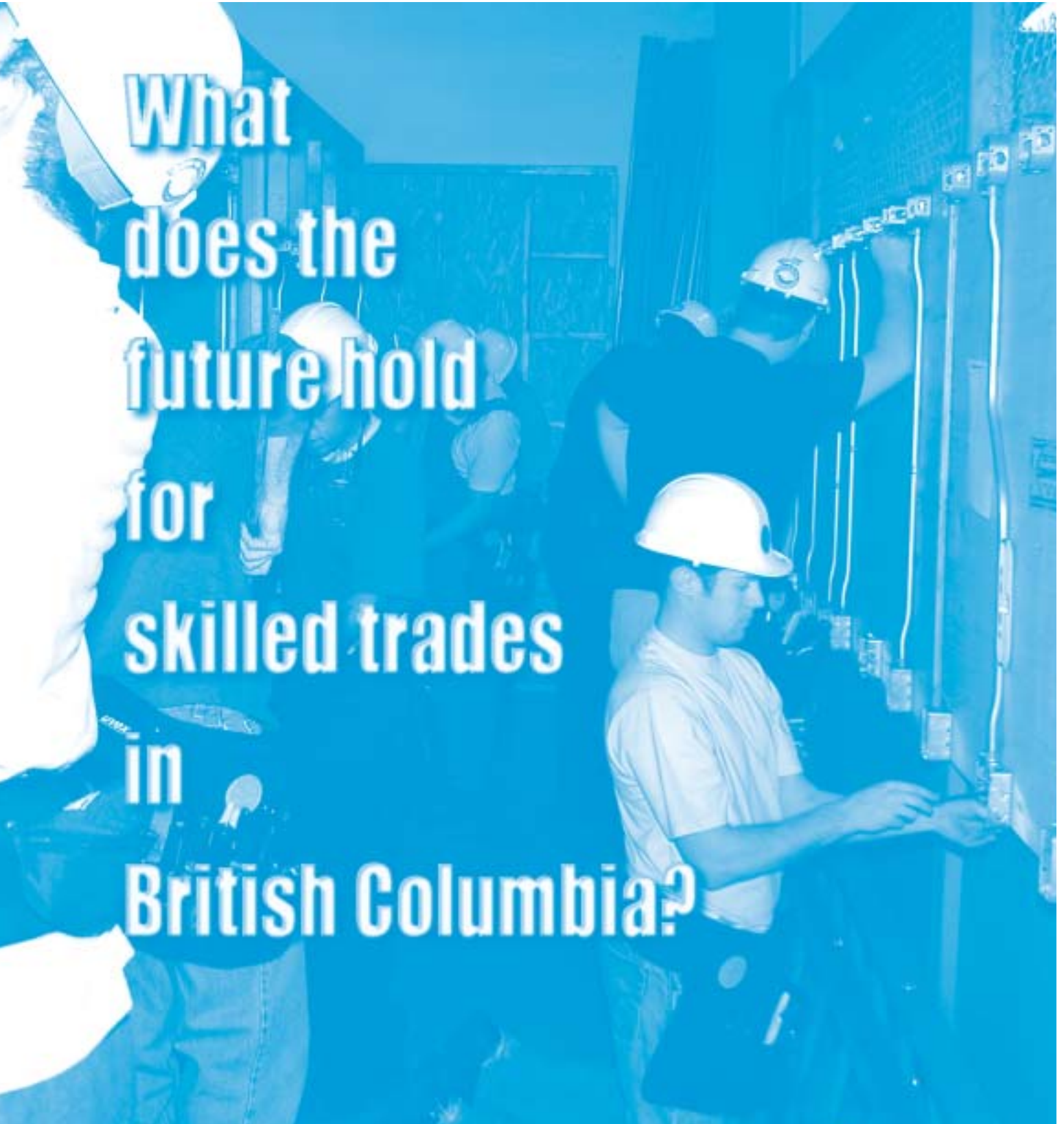
THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

HOTLINE



Local 258 I.B.E.W.
WINTER 2004

What
does the
future hold
for
skilled trades
in
British Columbia?



Business Manager, Doug McKay



**Local 258 IBEW
Business Manager
Doug McKay**

I trust you have all had a satisfying holiday season and hope you enjoyed time with family and friends. With all that is going on in the world today, it is important we keep our loved ones close to us and make sure we make time for them.

Ordinary working people and their unions play a valuable role in our communities and make countless contributions to the betterment of our society. Working people have fought long and hard to achieve a "place at the table" that recognizes our contribution and allows us an equal voice in determining our future and that of our families.

It's no secret to those working in British Columbia's skilled trades industries that there is a looming skills

shortage on the horizon and the outlook is bleak. Rather than bringing all the parties together to deal with the problem, the Gordon Campbell Liberals have set out on a path that has radically changed our system of trades training and have made it more difficult, more expensive and more frustrating for workers to access and achieve full trade qualifications. The challenges ahead of us must be met head on with a collaborative effort that includes working people and their unions. We have included in this issue of The Hotline an overview of the current situation and recommendations from the BC Federation of Labour to address this serious issue. Let's hope the Gordon Campbell Liberals are listening, but I doubt it.

This government is not a friend of working people and the organizations that represent them. Our future success and the future of our families depends on a government that provides an even playing field for all British Columbians – we don't want a government that is only interested in being a friend to global corporations and their agendas. Selling our public services and resources out from underneath us is a tragedy of immense proportions

with serious consequences and ordinary British Columbians are not going to stand by and watch it all fly out the window without even having a voice in determining our destiny and direction.

British Columbians are good, caring people and deserve to be represented by citizens who are elected to public office that have the same qualities. Remember this when you hear the lies and the broken promises of the Campbell Liberals, and remember this when you make your decision at the polling booth in May.

We look forward to connecting with our membership over the next few months as part of the BC Fed's "Count Me In" campaign and discussing the important role that each and every one of us will play in determining the success of our future and that of our families. Best wishes to you all for a happy and prosperous new year.

HOTLINE

Published by Local 258 IBEW

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A House of Labour united and focused



Delegates from IBEW Local 258 attended this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention in Vancouver. From left: Ray Lapointe, Unit 3 Vice-Chair; Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager; Clay Dunsford, Unit 1 Recording Secretary; Bob Palmer, Unit 6 Executive; Don McNabb, Unit 2 Vice-Chair; John Heinrichs, BCH Shop Steward; Karen Porter, BC Hydro Field Service Shop Steward; Doug McKay, Local 258 Business Manager; Michelle Laurie, Local 258 President.

Over eleven hundred delegates traveled to Vancouver's Trade & Exhibition Centre from affiliate unions across the province in early December to participate in a series of democratic discussions, debates and decisions at this year's 48th annual BC Federation of Labour convention. They marched in unison for demonstrations in the street and they rose to occasion on the floor of the convention to voice their concerns and share their experiences. They gathered to meet and enjoy each other's friendship at hospitality events and, after five days, departed the convention with a

feeling of solidarity and a clear plan of action for 2005 - to defeat the Gordon Campbell Liberal government when British Columbians go to the polls on May 17th.

It quickly became clear early in the convention that the proceedings were focusing on the Gordon Campbell government's corporate agenda and the resulting havoc it has wreaked on working people and their families since the Liberals came to power in 2001. "Gordon Campbell's Liberal party has created a province where only the rich and powerful can thrive," said BC Fed president Jim Sinclair at

one of the two street demonstrations held during the convention.

"Salary increases for the CEOs of the top 100 publicly traded companies averaged 51 percent this year. That's shocking to the average worker struggling to get a contract without concessions on job security and wages. Working families are being squeezed; unless you're the head of a major corporation, Gordon Campbell's New Era doesn't include you."

The list of damage done by the Campbell Liberals is long and inclusive and was described by speaker after speaker from the floor of the conven-



A House of Labour united and focused

(cont'd from previous page)

tion and from comprehensive reports read aloud from the stage: tax cuts that have made the divide between rich and poor bigger in BC; cuts to childcare; slashing benefits for the poor; handing over the public trust to American companies through privatization; shipping ferry-building contracts offshore; selling off a third of the publicly owned BC Hydro and getting the rest of the company ready for private hands; selling off BC Rail, a profitable public asset; unprecedented attack on hospital workers with the Campbell government ripping up collective agreements and passing legislation forcing legally striking hospital workers back to work with retroactive wage roll backs; the continuing dismantling of the apprenticeship training program that threatens labour supply and mobility in construction trades; the stripping of the BC Labour Code that makes it harder for workers to join unions; the six buck an hour training wage; and the list goes on. The Gordon Campbell agenda reflects the lack of respect this government has for ordinary British Columbians.

Occupational Health & Safety Gutted

IBEW 258 president Michelle Laurie addressed delegates as the co-chair of the Occupational Health & Safety Committee and began her report with, "There is nothing good to report."

She described the Liberal government's ravaging of occupational health and safety regulations and the decline in enforcement of the regulations that are left. There are fewer inspection reports, fewer written orders and warning letters and a drop in penalties since the Campbell Liberals began their employer-friendly changes to the Workers Compensation Board. More than 500 workers have been fired and WCB offices across the province have closed, including the Rehab Clinic in Richmond. Resources once dedicated to workplace safety and injury prevention have been gutted. As a result,

Sinclair & Schira re-elected to serve another two year term



"Because this government is making it tougher for families to survive, is pushing down wages, firing employees and robbing the poor of minimal assistance. Whether it's tax cuts for the wealthy; pink slips for workers; cuts to childcare; cutting benefits for the poor or trashing the 8-hour day, it's the same old plan. Transfer millions of dollars to your wealthy friends," said BC Fed president Jim Sinclair in his opening address to delegates at this year's 48th annual convention.

workers are much more vulnerable to workplace injury, disease, death and in much greater economic despair when injured. Unfortunately, recent statistics show a marked increase in workplace fatalities and injuries for 2003.

WCB Annual Report Statistics

in 2001:

- 193 workers died on the job
- 4,000 workers were permanently disabled as a result of a workplace injury or disease
- 5 workers aged 15-24 died from a workplace accident

in 2003, these numbers climbed:

- 219 workers died on the job
- 5,200 workers were permanently disabled as a result of a workplace injury
- 9 workers aged 15-24 died from a workplace accident

Sister Laurie informed delegates that the changes being made to the WCB by the Campbell Liberals lean so heavily in favour of the employer and their economic bottom line that it's hard to imagine how much deeper the cuts can go. Compensation benefits to injured workers and their families have

been severely reduced with the most devastating impacts being delivered to those who are receiving lifetime pensions as a result of workplace injuries. Disabled workers used to receive a pension for life. Now, thanks to the Liberals, workers injured after June 30, 2002 only receive a lump sum post-retirement benefit based on five per cent of the monthly compensation benefits they received, plus interest. These changes have resulted in a benefit of \$500 million in savings to BC employers.

The Liberal government has also cut workers' access to benefits they are entitled to by reducing the number of appeals and limiting what is appealable in a claim. It was reported from the floor of the convention that workplace injury claims are actively being suppressed and it is becoming clear BC is a more dangerous place to work than ever before.

Despite the challenges, Sister Laurie concluded the committee's report with some of the successes the BC Fed's OH&S Committee has achieved in this exhausting fight against the Campbell Liberal government, including the creation of the Occupational Health & Safety Education Project aimed at workers across the province. So far, more than 2,000 workers in 37

different communities across BC have received education through the Fed's WCB funded program. There has also been a highly successful high school education program aimed at teaching high school students about their health and safety rights.

Women & Children Targeted

It was acknowledged over and over again during the convention that women appear to be a favourite target for the Campbell Liberals, with agencies and services once devoted to meeting women's, children's and senior's needs being slashed, contracted out or eliminated all together. The removal of fair-paying jobs and legislated wage rollbacks of 15% targeted at women in the health care industry have had disastrous effects on families across British Columbia. Gordon Campbell's Liberals removed funding for Women's Centres and eliminated Legal Aid eligibility for women who experienced violence at the hand of their spouse/partner. Dramatic cuts to childcare funding have made it almost impossible for mothers who work outside the home to find affordable and accredited childcare. Recent polls indicate that 70% of BC women's voters reject the current provincial administration. And delegates were warned -



Federal NDP leader Jack Layton addressed delegates at this year's convention in support of the actions of the BC Fed to defeat the Campbell Liberals.

Building a diverse team



BC NDP leader Carole James spoke with delegates at this year's convention and joined fellow candidates for a photo opportunity. From left, recently elected Surrey-Panorama Ridge MLA Jagrup Brar; newly nominated NDP candidate for Burnaby Edmonds and long time labour activist Raj Chouhan; NDP leader James; and, MLA Jenny Kwan.

don't be fooled by the patronizing and calculated attempts to buy back women's votes as we near election day.

The BC Liberals have turned British Columbia into the most regressive jurisdiction in North America with the removal of over five decades of government protections for children resulting in the revival of child labour in this province. Children as young as 12 years old are now permitted to work up to 35 hours a week in any occupation and at any time of the day or night.


But the Campbell Liberals have gone even further – they have intensified attacks on public schools with funding cuts, increased class sizes, the closure of 113 schools (to date), the elimination of 2,500 teaching positions, skyrocketing tuition fees for post secondary education, the removal of the needs based grant portion of student assistance and the creeping plan for complete privatization of the education system threatens our children's future ability to be successful in a democratic society where we all have equal access to opportunity.

The Future

Working people across British Columbia know that all is not as rosy as the Liberals portray in their recent

ad campaign telling taxpayers that "everything is great" in BC. While the government talks about budget surpluses and a growing economy, the reality is that the tax cuts introduced by the Campbell Liberals have disappeared for most working families and fee increases and service reductions are the order of the day.

"The Liberals and their friends have spent millions of dollars to deceive British Columbians and cover up their broken promises," said Jim Sinclair. "But for most working families in BC – faced with the highest average shelter costs in Canada, high levels of personal debt, rising costs for education, delisting of medical services and increased user fees – the reality is starkly different."

United, acting in solidarity and ready to take action, the BC Federation of Labour announced its political action campaign aimed at defeating the Gordon Campbell Liberal – the "Count Me In" campaign. Now underway across the province, the grassroots "Count Me In" campaign is aimed at union members speaking with union members about political issues. And with that agenda, the delegates left the convention united in their future goal. 

We Got Mail!



Dear Michelle Laurie;
Thank you so much for your contribution to my trip to Scotland with the Canadian Junior Golf Association. It was very much appreciated.
Thank you
Chelsey Lollar



To the Officers and Members of IBEW Local 258;
Your sympathy and thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.
Warmest regards,
Valerie, Kimberly and Kelly
PS. Dennis M. McKeeman will always be a very special part of our lives.



Dear IBEW 258;
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the card and for everything you have done for Arnie and myself. He will truly be missed by everyone.
Thank you,
Val Martin



Dear IBEW Local 258;
There are those who make the world a better place, one filled with love and caring.
Thank you for helping Owen with his rent. Please find enclosed the necessary information to file for the IBEW benefit.
Thanks for helping,
Ruby Kassinen



Dear IBEW;
Many thanks for you sympathy and thoughtfulness. It will always be remembered.
Margaret Beck



Dear IBEW 258;
Thank you very much for the IBEW shirt, the plaque and the knife I received for my retirement. It is very much appreciated.
Allan Trafton

Dear Sister Laurie,
I'm writing to thank you and the membership of Local 258 IBEW on behalf of our Board of Directors and our many supporters. Your cheque in the amount of \$25,000.00 will assist us greatly in fighting to protect BC Hydro.

Members of Local 258 IBEW are part of a huge movement of British Columbians who oppose privatization and deregulation of BC Hydro. It is a struggle shared with over 75,000 British Columbians, 90 municipalities, seniors, consumer groups, environmentalists, and other union brothers and sisters who have all spoken out against plans to dismantle our public utility. I am proud to work along side such dedicated British Columbians.

Once again, thank you for your support.
In solidarity,
Mark Veerkamp
Executive Director
BC Citizens for Public Power



Dear Michelle Laurie,
On behalf of the members of the BC Hydro Power Pioneers Golf Club, I would like to thank you for the two golf shirts and two hats that you donated through Mike O'Connor to our annual closing tournament and banquet. Your generosity to the Club is very much appreciated as we are all retired and Club is self-supporting.

IBEW Local 258 was acknowledged during the presentation made at the Banquet.
Sincerely,
Malvine Dotto
Secretary/Treasurer
BC Power Pioneers Golf Club



Dear Brother McKay,
First of all, I want to thank you for all you have done in assisting Bill during his illness and visiting him in the hospital.

Doug, if there is an IBEW newsletter or magazine, would you be so kind as to have the following message from Bill's family inserted therein;

"William Roger Hunchak: Bill's sisters and brothers along with their families thank the officers and members of Local 258 for their friendship and support extended to Bill during his hospital stay. Also, many thanks for the friendship and support extended to Bill during his hospital stay. Also, many thanks for your condolences. He was very fortunate to have all of you as his friends."

As I don't know who all visited him, I thought this would be a good way to ensure everyone is thanked.

Again, Doug, thanks for everything.
Sincerely,
Florence Zayac (Bill's sister)



Dear Friends at IBEW Local 258;

I write on behalf of the Right to Privacy Campaign to thank you very much for forwarding us the signed copies of the "Petition against contracting out of the administration of Medicare and Pharmacare and against the Maximus deal" you collected. Your dedication to active involvement and the exercise of your rights as fully engaged citizens is commendable, and very greatly appreciated.

It is expected the BC Privacy Commissioner will shortly release his findings with regard to these matters, and these findings may prove decisive in convincing the provincial government to abandon this and other "outsourcing" deals. But perhaps not; it is at least equally likely that the matter will continue to be one of political struggle, and so the petition signatures you have collected will be of great importance.

Regardless, you may be certain the Right to Privacy Campaign will take the steps necessary to ensure the petition signatures you have collected will indeed be presented in the provincial Legislative Assembly.

Thank you again for your admirable efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Ross Harvey

for the Right to Privacy Steering Committee



Dear Rob Abernethy and Mark Davison, Unit 5 & 6 Chairs;

On behalf of the Pacific Power Pioneers we want to thank you for inviting us to your picnic September 26th.

We had plenty of good food, games for the kids and a lot of prizes. All was made possible by Hydro's hard working crew.

Thank you for a very enjoyable day.

Sincerely

R.A. Scott

Provincial Director, Power Pioneers



Dear Supporter;

I am writing to thank you for your support of the 2004 Camp Jubilee Campership Fund. Thanks to your generous support, Camp Jubilee was able to offer four, week long summer camps for children, aged 7 – 16.

Camp Jubilee has really taken off in the last three and we are proud to say that Camp Jubilee has become a year round camp serving thousands of families.

In total, over \$43,000 was raised from 56 different

unions and other organizations. These funds ensured that families unable to financially afford to send their children to camp were able to have their children participate. In total, 247 children attended Camp Jubilee in 2004; over 60% of these campers received partial or full funding support through the Camp Jubilee Campership Fund.

Camp Jubilee will be hosting a volunteer work weekend Friday, March 18 to Monday, March 21, 2005. A number of work tasks will be completed during this weekend to help prepare Camp for the 2005 season. We are hopeful that we will have about 30 volunteers representing union locals, parents, staff and other supporters. Please call our office if your organization can help.

Sincerely

Dave Duckworth

Camp Director, Camp Jubilee

www.campjubilee.ca



Dear Friend of the Child Development Centre;

Thank you for your past donation. I want you to know how important your support is and as that you consider donating again this year.

I would like to share with you what your support means to one of the children that receives therapy services at the Child Development Centre:

"Max was born 3 1/2 years ago with a complex heart condition and several other abnormalities. After 5 months in the hospital Max was able to go home thanks to the Child Development Centre. Our therapists were instrumental in providing moral support at a very difficult time, connecting us with government programs, assisting us with equipment and supplies needed to care for Max at home, as well as providing individualized therapy. Three years later, the Child Development Centre continues to play an important part in the life and development of Max." Signed, Max's father, Jean Marc.

The Child Development Centre is a registered non-profit society that has been providing services for children and families for 37 years. On behalf of children, families, Board of Directors and our dedicated volunteers at the Child Development Centre, we wish you a happy holiday season.

Yours truly

Valerie Massy

Executive Director

Child Development Centre,

Nanaimo, BC

www.nanaimocdc.com



HEU thanks IBEW 258 for assistance and support

In correspondence recently received on behalf of the membership and Provincial Executive of the Hospital Employees Union, IBEW Local 258 was acknowledged and thanked for our recent financial support for our union brothers and sisters at HEU. We donated \$50000 to assist with payment of the \$150,000.00 contempt of court fine levied on HEU as a result of job action last May.

HEU President Fred Muzin wrote, "As you know, our membership has been under attack by the BC Liberal government since they came into power. Bill 29 was passed on January 28, 2002, to legislate away our member's employment security and pave the way for massive privatization and contracting out.

"When we commenced bargaining in the Spring of 2004, it was our first opportunity to re-negotiate the rights the government had stripped away. Yet just four (4) days after commencing job action to support our negotiating committee, the government again intruded into the free collective bargaining process and imposed Bill 37.

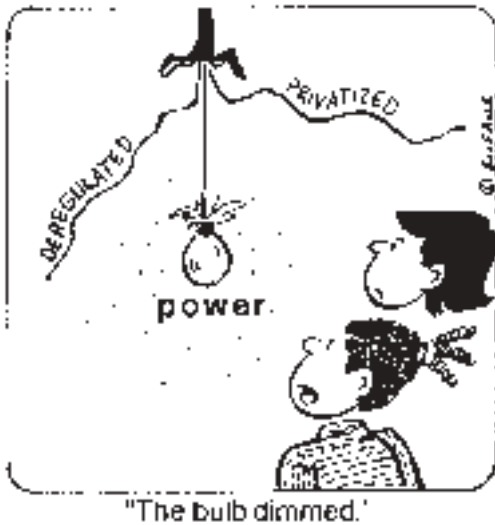
"The immediate response from unions such as CUPE and the IBEW was a tremendous boost to HEU's membership which determinedly maintained the lines. We were rewarded with the incredible solidarity of members from other unions and the general

public. The contempt of court fine was a consequence of this stand, and we very much appreciate your assistance with it."

Mary LaPlante, Financial Secretary of HEU corresponded in a letter and described, "The BC Liberal government is viciously attacking the women in our Union. The HEU membership is comprised of 85% women and the Campbell Liberals don't care whom they hurt in their attempt to support their friends in the large multi-national companies.

"With your generous support we will be able to continue with our fight back. Once again, thank you for your support."

The struggle continues.



Humour

Pavlov's monkeys

Internet/CALM

At the top of a large cage, hang a banana and place a set of stairs underneath.

Put five monkeys in the cage.

When a monkey starts to climb the stairs to get the banana, spray the other four monkeys with water.

After a while, you'll see that if a monkey tries to climb the stairs, the other monkeys will attack it.

Put away the water.

Replace one monkey.

The new monkey will start to climb the stairs to get the banana. To his surprise, all the other monkeys will attack him. He soon realizes that if he tries to climb the stairs, he'll be attacked.

Continue removing and replacing monkeys until all the original monkeys have been replaced.

The banana is still there, but no monkey will go close to the stairs.

The five monkeys in the cage have no idea why they can't climb the stairs to get the banana or why they attacked the newest monkey.

Why? Because, as far as they know, that's the way it's always been.

That's how company policy begins.

Apprentices a big help



Four apprentices were a big help assisting the Quesnel line crew in 46 span tear down. From left Sean Quinn, Anthony Harvey, Brent Fawcett and Tyler Thompson. Sorry for the questionable quality of the photo, but we try to do the best we can!


Unions: A force for fairness

Economy/GLC/CALM

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Employment Outlook (2004) uses new evidence to confirm that countries with high levels of union density or collective bargaining coverage are much more equal than countries with low union density, but perform no worse in terms of creating jobs.

The finding, which is in line with a recent major review of the evidence by the World Bank and a previous OECD study in the Employment Outlook for 1997, shows unions are still a force for greater fairness and do not undermine economic performance.

The OECD found that gaps between higher paid and lower paid workers are lowest where union density is high and bargaining is either centralized or closely coordinated. For example, the top 10 per cent of male full-time workers earn at least 4.6 times as much as the bottom 10 per cent in the U.S. compared to 3.7 times as much in Canada, 2.9 times as much in Germany and just 2.3 times as much in Sweden.

High union density also narrows pay gaps between women and men and between younger and older workers. By narrowing pay gaps, unions counter poverty and make family incomes much more equal than would otherwise be the case. 

Welcome to our newest 258 members



Congratulations and welcome to Local 258 for our newest members at Crews Control Flagging Ltd. in Trail, BC. From left, John Pelletier, Yvonne Bernard, Maureen Crantz, Deb Evans, Tammy Farewell, Tanya Gardner, Alana Goncalves, Cindy Roscoe and Mike Rudkoski.



A Safety Reminder

Cleaning, Storing and Maintaining Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Insulated Tools

It is essential to maintain maximum electrical integrity of tools and equipment. This can be done by keeping them clean and free of damage. Tools are to be maintained regularly, at intervals of one to six months, depending on use.

The fiberglass surfaces on tools must be kept clean with a high gloss finish. Proper waxing ensures any moisture on the surface will bead water.

It is important that insulated tools and equipment must be treated with care. They should be kept as clean and dry as possible. Tools should be stored in a manner as to allow air circulation around the tool. When not in use, tools should be stored and transported in a manner that limits wear to the tool.

Live line tools and equipment that are damaged must be withdrawn from service.

Maintaining and using tools is the end user's responsibility. By paying attention to some simple maintenance practices, we can ensure a safer work environment and that workers can return to their families after a hard day's work.

Safety is an attitude.

This safety reminder is brought to you by your brothers at B & T Line Equipment Testers Ltd., Nanaimo, BC

A union shop and a member of the Line Contractors Association.



EITI works with IBEW Local 213 on Construction Electrician Entry Level Program



Local 213's Electrician 1st Pre-Apprenticeship class, from left: Instructor John Pesa, Instructor Joe Jordan, Sean Bolster, Jeff Rogers, Doug Watson, Mike Donaldson, Dan Zanella, Matthew Gray, Kyle Lamarre, Dan Dymneson, Sean McGregor, Shaun Joslin, Dwayne Gray, Jason Gandevia, Mike Milne, Andrew Peters. On the ladder, left, Donald Remingio, right, Matt Little.



IBEW 213 is housing their first ever Entry Level Trades Training course for construction electricians at EITI. The course is full with 16 participants. This entry level course is designed for individuals who are seeking employment as a construction electrician. In the class, the stu-

dents cover all of the year 01 curriculum, as well as participating in a variety of very practical training, from bending pipe to terminating residential services. After the 35 months of classroom and practical training, successful candidates will then be put to work with IBEW 213 contractors for three months.

Andy Cleven, the new director of Local 213's Joint Training Committee is very pleased with the progress of this first class to date, and is looking to run others in the future.

The training has fit well with other training being done at EITI. However, with the volume of training increasing,

space is at a premium. EITI has purchased six electrical training benches, built by Ellworthy Electric, that are used by the students to learn basic electrical theory. Partnering with IBEW 213 on this project has been very rewarding, and we look forward to more cooperation in the future.

Phil C. Davis

EITI Director

Phone: (604) 590-8908

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Photo Op at EITI



Students attending their third year of classes are from left: Instructor John Zucco; Todd Hutchison; Brent Wasylenko; Tyson Unruh; Chad Corsi; Rob Hill; Max Berard; Adam Renner; Tim Smith; Instructor Roy O'Hara; Richard McGrath; visitor Michelle Laurie, president IBEW 258.



Allteck's Robotic Arm was recently demonstrated at EITI, with students and instructors on hand to observe.



The Robotic Arm allows for safe and efficient repair and replacement of any transmission or distribution system.



Once energized conductors are secured and moved out of the work zone using the remote controlled Robotic Arm, work can safely proceed to perform any maintenance that is required.



The Robotic Arm has the ability to adapt to all wire configurations and is available in four different weight capacities and sizes. It can be controlled from the ground or from an elevated position remotely while maintaining safe limits of approach while conductors are moved into the required position.

UNIT REPORTS

Unit 6

by Robert Abernethy, Unit 6 Chair

A toast to another year! The older I get the faster each year goes. I don't have a whole lot to say this time around, but I would like to thank all of the people who helped put on the Unit 5 & 6 Social at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club in September. Just like the year before, we had another blue bird day as we were fortunate it was a good guess for what the weather would be at this time of year.



The youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the sack races at the 2004 Social at Semiahmoo.

The bucket truck rides along and the face-painter balloon-maker lady were a great hit. I always like watching



Woops-a-Daisy the Clown Lady finishing a balloon character.

the expressions on people's faces as they go for a first time ride in the bucket truck. When watching the children getting their faces painted, you would think they were getting real tattoos! I would like to acknowledge the effort of the main cook, Patricia, who while in the process of leaping fences in a single bound, broke her foot. In true Patricia style, she showed up at the social ready to do battle with the barbecues.

More than 100 people came out to join in the fun and festivities, but we would like to see a whole lot more. If you haven't had a chance to join in on the festivi-



ties, you really should plan on doing so next year. It may seem like a long distance away, but it's only 10 minutes south of Cloverdale and when you get there you can see why **this is the spot**. Open fields, a creek running through the property, the sturgeon and steelhead in the fish hatchery pond, and a nature walk. The lady who does the

Unit 6 Chair
Robert
Abernethy



face painting is terrific with the kids and she also creates balloon characters for them (and the adults too if they want one done!). Then there are the bucket truck rides and the 50/50 draw.



Patricia wearing stylish footwear, battling the barbecues.

And did I mention the prizes? When you sign the guest book to register, everyone in your party gets a door prize ticket, including the kids. We had union shirts and hats to give away. There were door prizes for the children and then the main door prize which,

by the way, was won by a youngster this year. She won items to share with her parents as well as goodies for herself and her siblings. Then how about all the food - HOT DOGS - HAM-BURGERS - ICE CREAM CUPS - POP - TEA - COFFEE - BAKED BEANS - CHIPS - DORITOS - NATCHOS!

Make a plan for next year to bring the whole family, including Grandma and Grandpa, the grandchildren, the nieces, the nephews. Just come out and enjoy the day with us. We'll be working on ways during this next year to increase attendance and will be asking for suggestions. There could be prizes for the best ideas!

This year Unit 6 decided to raise some money for Multiple Sclerosis, so we did an "experiment". There are a few fellows in Unit 6 who are into the car racing scene, so for the first prize we raffled a pair of aluminum racing heads for a small block Chevy. Second prize was a \$100 gift certificate and third prize was a \$50 certificate. (We would like to thank Best Buy Performance Ltd. for giving us a steal of a deal on the racing heads.)

This venture became quite a learning experience. First, we had to get a license from the gaming commission, then we found we had started too late



Al Cross, right, and Paul Schulz, left, sold tickets for the fundraising raffle draw for specialized auto parts from Best Buy Performance. All proceeds were donated to the MS Society.



Congratulations to raffle winner Barb Schulz who won the first prize, Hi Performance aluminum racing heads from Best Buy.

in the year for some of these auto events that take place in the valley. One has to book a year in advance to

get a space, so it became a real struggle. For a while we were afraid we weren't going to break even. The saving grace goes to Al Cross and Paul Schulz who worked their behinds off going to different auto events to sell the tickets. The draw was held during the IBEW 258 Social on September 26th. After the smoke cleared, we raised \$22857, which Unit 6 matched dollar for dollar, so \$45714 went to the MS Society. At least we didn't lose any money on this venture and we'll chalk that one up to experience.

Before I go, how about some input from you members on some subjects pertaining to union matters or union politics or even politics of the province? I know there are a good number of articulate people out there who can put a good pen to paper - a lot better than me.

The next six months will be interesting from the stand point of our collective agreement. The contract is up and then there are the Provincial Elections!

My wish to the membership is for the very best of health to you and your family in 2005.
WORK SAFELY!!!! ☞

Unit 5

by Mark Davison, Unit 5 Chair

On behalf of the Unit 5 executive, Mark Davison, Burke Lundy, Cathy Tagseth, Karen Porter and Ross White, we would like to wish all the members of IBEW 258 a very rewarding and safe Holiday Season.

I have spent the last couple months visiting retired "A" members. As IBEW pensioners, many of them are active members and continue to accumulate years of service long after they retire. It is the most fulfilling duty that I have

as a Unit Chair and it has been a real pleasure and a personal honour visiting our respected retirees.

Many of these members started their working careers in the 1930s and received 50, 55 or 60 years of service awards. They have seen many hard fought issues won and lost for the Labour Movement. I wish every member had the opportunity to gain from meeting these people. If I could impress one thing upon the members of Local 258 it would be to make time in your busy schedules to listen to the stories of our elders. It is a wonderful wealth of insights. ☞



IBEW 258 brothers showed their support for striking Norampac workers from CEP Local 1129. The dispute has now ended and members returned to work in early December. From left: Mark Davison; Jim Greenwell; Mike Pelletier; Derick Lee; and, Neil MacDonnell.

British Columbia's looming skilled trades shortage

"British Columbia has embarked on an ambitious overhaul of apprenticeship and trade certification. It aims to develop "competencies" as well as comprehensive trades, on the theory that somebody who wires a house doesn't really need to be a full spectrum electrician. This approach, unfortunately, smacks more of an attempt to cut labour costs quicker than a long term plan for boosting the overall level of skills."

Globe & Mail, September 1, 2003

"I only worked non-union for a few months, but there was an extreme difference compared to a union worksite. They (non-union) employer rushed us and forced us to cut corners. I've seen lots of stuff that shouldn't have gone on... Sometimes we had to start before the 'Safety' (trained first aid worker) arrived."

IBEW 4th year apprentice – West Kootenay

The provincial government under the Gordon Campbell Liberals is taking this province in the wrong direction again, this time with its short sighted response to the looming skills shortage and its questionable approach to trades training. Setting the standards and certifying journey-level tradespeople is the responsibility of a provincial government, but the radical changes made by the Campbell Liberals to trades training have made it more difficult, more expensive and more frustrating for workers to access and achieve full trade qualifications.

To acquire full trade qualification as a journey person, an individual first becomes an apprentice, learning a specific trade through a system of supervised employment and training. Practical skills are acquired through working with journeypersons already skilled in the trade, and complemented with classroom-style technical training generally delivered by qualified instructors at public post-secondary institutes and colleges. Most apprenticeships involve about 80 percent on the job (practical) training and 20 percent classroom training. A 'ticket' is not issued until an individual successfully completes the required accredited hours of both practical and in-school training as well as a written exam; the hours required vary by trade, but typically total about 6–8,000 hours.

Over the years, pressure from corporate boardrooms and their associated political circles have forced tax cuts and de-regulation at both federal and provincial levels that have undermined opportunities to improve trades training.

There has been a gradual decline in emphasis on trades education at the public school level, starting with the closure of many of the "school shops" or "Industrial Arts" programs due to "lack of funding". At the same time, a greater emphasis has been placed on academic pro-

grams that lead to a university education. These factors have contributed to the state we find ourselves in today – a looming skills shortage with not enough new trades people currently being trained to fill the jobs that are coming not only from new construction and other projects, but from the huge workforce that will begin to seek their retirements in the next decade or so.

Rather than bringing together all the stakeholders in a collaborative effort to solve these problems, the Gordon Campbell Liberal government has chosen to cut out the voice of labour altogether and have embarked on a radical redesign of trades training.

They started with scrapping the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission (ITAC) Act, which, although not perfect, did provide a comprehensive mechanism with strong representation from all the stakeholders, including labour, that coordinated all levels of government to ensure that the level and quality of trades training in BC was advanced. ITAC also ensured that curriculum kept pace with the demands of a changing trade through the Trades Advisory Committees (TACs).

ITAC was replaced with a deregulated model for trades training known as ITA – the Industry Training Authority. And more than "apprentice-

The Campbell government has eliminated compulsory certification in eleven designated trades:

- *automotive service technician*
 - *automotive collision technician*
 - *automotive painter*
 - *electrician*
 - *plumber*
 - *pipe fitter/steam fitter*
 - *sheet metal worker*
 - *power line technician*
 - *roofer*
 - *sprinkler system installer*
 - *refrigerator/air conditioning mechanics*
-

ship” was eliminated from the title. Staff was cut from 130 to 18 employees and the system has lost a valuable resource of trained counsellors who ensured that apprentices were paid correctly, received regular wage increases, assisted with post-secondary education scheduling, monitored on the job safety and training requirements, helped to find apprenticeship placements and gave input with respect to needs from curriculum to financial assistance for apprentices. This is all now gone. The ITA model has left students on their own to navigate the system.

Unions with extensive experience in training and on-the-job education have been marginalized from input while this new governing body composed of “business” representatives have pursued an agenda that has left this province in disarray with respect to skilled trades.

ITA has eliminated compulsory certification in eleven designated trades: automotive service technician; automotive collision technician; automotive painter; electrician; plumber; pipe fitter/steam fitter; sheet metal worker; power line technician; roofer; sprinkler system installer; refrigerator/air conditioning mechanics. And plans are in place to deregulate qualifications for elevator, gas and boiler and pressure vessels work as well.

The result of this change has been deteriorating standards, reductions in the number of apprentices and the deskilling of the workforce. There is no plan – there is no government supervised apprenticeship registration, education or accreditation system. Trades are being

destroyed – fragmented into modules with watered down qualifications and wages.

The Campbell government has also made significant changes to the Safety Standards Act and Regulations that have reduced the regulatory requirements for compulsory trades in BC, allowing workers without a skilled trades certification to perform work previously done by certified trades people. Not only have they remove requirements and protections for workers on the job, but they have compromised public safety as a result. These “designer” workforces made up of “task trained” workers without the competence of a background knowledge in basic math, physics and computer science are a short sighted industry creation that will have disastrous consequences. Poorly paid and thrust into conditions with inadequate training, these workers will be at increased risk of workplace accidents, and the quality of the finished product will be at serious risk and of questionable quality. Resulting damages will be passed along to the community and the consumer with either costly repairs or substantial increased risks of health, safety and environmental concerns such as fires and pollution.

High quality skills training has an enormous impact on safety. Whether it’s safety concerns about construction or ensuring that vehicles are repaired by qualified mechanics, safety and training are closely linked. When government moves to deregulate safety and training, it abandons it’s duty of care to the citizens of BC, a move that threatens us all. ❏

“One of the most damaging things was the doing away of the counsellors to oversee the apprentices – proper training, safety, pay and the logging of hours.

“We’ve had a mindset for a couple of generations that you have to go to university to get a good job... We have to take away the stigma of working with your hands. The secondary school system is skewed toward the 20 percent or so who go on to university. When we do have interested trades students, apprenticeship openings are almost non-existent – we need incentives for business to take on apprentices and unions to open up positions.”

Paul Bascariol,
High School
Instructor,
Nelson, BC

An equal voice and greater commitment are important starting points to putting trades training in BC back on track and ensuring we solve the looming skills shortage. The BC Federation of Labour’s proposal for change includes reforms in six critical areas:

- 1. A governance structure for trades training that makes labour a full and equal partner in the development of training policies and priorities.**
- 2. Better access to trades training by making it more affordable and more inclusive.**
- 3. New measures to fund real improvements in trades training with emphasis on incentives that reward employers who take their commitments to training seriously.**
- 4. Move BC back into line with provinces like Alberta and Quebec where compulsory trades certification is well established and properly enforced.**
- 5. Build a strong connection between training priorities and collective bargaining.**
- 6. Strengthen our commitment to the principle of labour mobility by working with the federal and provincial governments to expand the Red Seal program.**

The above article was summarized in part from a discussion paper presented by the BC Federation of Labour entitled “Our Skills Our Future; Solving BC’s Looming Skills Shortage.” The paper is available on the Fed’s website at www.bcfed.com.

Year End Tax Planning

by Steve Watson MA, CFP, FMA

Working Enterprises Tax Services Ltd.

Tax planning is a year round activity. One that can have great benefits if you spend a little time before the end of the year to put things in order for yourself. Too often, it's April before we start to think of what we need to do and by then, as we all know, it's too late.

In order to minimize the taxes you pay you must structure your tax and financial matters so that you can benefit from the tax rules.

Outlined below are a few common strategies to increase your tax refund.

Invest in an RRSP

There are many good reasons to use RRSPs. First, you get an immediate tax deduction, which pays back the tax on the money you contribute. Second, and more importantly, the income generated within the RRSP continues to grow without attracting taxes. This tax free compounding will make a huge difference in the value of your RRSP over time.

Consider investments that provide significant tax benefits

One popular investment vehicle is Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporations. The LSVCC provides investors with a 15% federal tax credit and an additional 15% provincial tax credit. LSVCCs also have the benefit of being an eligible investment for RRSP purposes. As a result, a \$5,000 LSVCC investment, put into your RRSP, can cost you as little as \$2,000 after all the tax credits and deductions are factored in.

You can also take advantage of the LSVCC tax credits by purchasing LSVCCs from within your RRSP. You would not get a new credit for the RRSP (as it is already in the RRSP) but, you still get the combined 30% federal and provincial tax credits. With this strategy, by transferring \$5,000 of existing RRSPs into an LSVCC you get \$1,500 in tax credits.

Make use of your child's tuition and education credits

Students can provide valuable tax credits for supporting parents. Too often, the tuition and education credits are not efficiently claimed between the supporting parent and the student. To maximize the tax benefits, students must file an income tax return, taking into account scholarship and moving expense deductions. Up to \$5,000 can then be transferred from the student to a parent.

Make charitable donations by December 31

This one has the benefit of helping a good cause of your choice and saving tax at the same time. It's a two-tier credit. Your first \$200 of charitable donations qualifies for approximately 22% in tax credits. After \$200, you get

combined benefits of about 44%. If you and your spouse donate separately, combine your receipts and claim all donations on one return to maximize the benefit.

Get money for nothing

If you have kids who are over the age of 19, make certain they file a tax return. They may be eligible for the basic GST credit and the provincial sales tax credit.

Deduct all interest possible

This one is often missed by individual tax filers. Interest is deductible when money has been borrowed for business or investment purposes. For example, interest charged on Canada Savings Bond payroll purchase plans is fully deductible.

Claim medical expenses on the lower-income return

You are entitled to claim medical expenses over a certain threshold, which is 3% of net income, or \$1,755 for the tax year 2003, whichever is less. By claiming the expenses on the return of the lower-income spouse, the credit available will be increased.

Working Enterprises Tax Services Ltd. provides personal income tax preparation and independent financial services for members. Steve Watson can be reached at (604) 408-1153 or 1-800-845-1181, or by email at tax@wegroup.ca.

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Unit 5 Luncheon to recognize years of service in IBEW



Receiving awards from the international in honour of their years of service, Unit 5 retired members on International Pension gathered for a luncheon at the Hilton Metrotown Vancouver Hotel in Burnaby, BC in November. Back row, from left: Fred Forch, Bud Wotten, Harold Steenson, Ray Smith, Burke Lundy, Unit 5 Recording Secretary and Norm Tuddenham. Front row, left to right: Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison, Joseph Belmas, Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Executive member and Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell.

Welding Course Graduates at Mica Dam



Back row, left to right: Carey Miggins, Wayne Murphy, Giuliano Nichele, Bob Marshall, Barry Sopol, Jonathan Dale, Ian Greene, Chad France, Les Wiebe, Instructor. Kneeling in front, left to right are: Colin Kinney, Keith Alexander, Gerald Shulte.

The Chetwynd Line Crew



Left to right: Dan Klassen, Tom Soloshy, Apprentice, Andy Anderson, Travis Koehn, Glenn Bianowsky and Larry Nichol.

Congratulation



The Unit 6 meeting held in Surrey in November saw Unit Chair Bob Abernethy awarding Bruce Brynell his 25 year service pin. Congratulations Brother Brynell.



Burke Lundy, left, receives his prize from the watch draw from Mark Davison, Unit 5 Chair.



Congratulations to Al Bruder who was recently awarded his 30 year service pin by Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison.



Shop Steward Frank Nassachuk recently presented a 35 year service pin award to Steve Harding at Malaspina Substation. Also in attendance is Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison, left.



Congratulations to long time member Bill Utterback from Gibsons who was awarded for 65 years of service.



Bill Dodds received his fifty year member award from Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Robert Nelles received his 55 years of service award plaque from Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison.

s IBEW members!



Brother Al Brooks was the star attraction at his recent retirement luncheon.



Congratulations to Robert Merrison on receipt of his 55 years of service award, presented by Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison.



Brother Leon Arishenkoff, Unit 3 Chair, congratulates Russ Jervis, left, on receipt of his long term service award.



Brother Ken Taylor was recently awarded his 50 years of service plaque.

From the archives...



For this issue of The Hotline, From the Archives features a story that appeared in The Nanaimo News on Vancouver Island in August 1950. For your enjoyment, the story appears in full on the following page. If there are any IBEW members who remember this event, we'd love to hear from you. Write us at The Hotline, 7535 Sixth Street, Burnaby, BC, V3N 3M2.



The "From the Archives" photo in last issue of the Hotline features, from left, Ron Morton, Bob Merrison, Jim Hinds and Brian Haugen. We'll try to find the date and occasion of the photo for the next issue of The Hotline.

Flirt with death

Nanaimo Thrill: 60,000 Volt Live Circuit Handled

Three men took their lives in their hands in Nanaimo today. They did it literally as they toyed with high power electric cables carrying 60,000 volts.

They wore rubber gloves and boots, but they performed an operation on live wires which normally would have been carefully preceded by shutting off the current. To do so would have blacked out the Duncan district.

The trio consisted of O.G. "Andy" Anderson of North Carolina, professional demonstrator for the A.R. Chance Electric Co. of California, assisted by Blair McMinn, son of Alderman J.B. McMinn, and George McPherson, two regular linemen of the BC Power Commission. The locale of the demonstration was Harewood Road, near the Army Camp.

Secret of the ability to handle high voltage power lines while they were still "live" was in the use of specially-prepared "sticks" or "poles". In various sizes, the poles were used to uncouple the wire binding the cables to the insulators, and to spread the wires about eight feet or so on either side of the poles so that they would not be accidentally touched by the workers while they unscrewed the insulators and replaced them with new ones.

Intently watching the operation was a group of about 50, mostly employees of the BC Power Commission, managers and superintendents from all districts controlled in this region.

The spectators also included representatives of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Thomas Baird, manager of the Power Commission operations in North Okanagan, Don McCarter, provincial inspector of electrical energy for Nanaimo, A.D. McGillivray, district manager for the

Alberni Valley and J.N. Olsen, district manager for the Comox Valley.

District Manager C.W. Nash was in charge of the demonstration. He introduced the demonstrator, Andy Anderson, and R.A. Benson, representing the Canadian Wire and Cable Company.

Not Permitted Here

It was explained that the handling of live 60,000-volt circuits is not permitted here, but is in general practice in the United States.

Handling was done by special poles. They are made from straight-grained spruce, thoroughly dried and coated thickly with varnish. The secret of the safety lies in the fact that the poles are bone dry. Before Mr. Anderson went aloft he made quite sure each pole was wiped free of all moisture.

Mr. Nash had explained that Commission workers handle 2300 volts wearing only rubber gloves. This was demonstrated by McMinn and McPherson when they climbed the pole first and wrapped rubber guards around two wires carrying that voltage so that there would be no danger in climbing past them, and in handing up and down the tools to be used.

When Mr. Anderson went aloft and had the first pole sent up to him, he hooked it into the first 60,000-volt wire and a loud sizzling noise could be heard. The wire was attached to a big insulator weighing 30 or 40 pounds which had apparently been the target for boys with a .22 rifle or for expert stone throwers.

The poles had several hooks, rings and screws. Mr. Anderson first hooked on to the wire, then had it held taut when the pole was fixed to the carrying pole at the other end. A wire was

then untwisted by a special gadget on the pole, releasing the high-voltage cable from the insulator. The spreading process required a second, lighter pole, one pulling and the other pushing so that the wire was held firmly in place well clear of the workmen.

Nonchalant Trio

The nonchalant manner in which the three high-level operators carried out their work, actually handling sudden death by the poles, was commented upon by even those spectators who were themselves accustomed to working with high voltages. Besides the ever-present danger of a safety belt snapping or a spike slipping, there was always the danger of contact with a live wire.

To Mr. Anderson, someone said it was a risk he had been taking daily for 12 years while demonstrating for the Chance Co.

Mr. Anderson explained that the heavier poles could take a 400-pound strain of the wires safely, and had been known to handle twice that load. First indication of danger, he said, would be that the poles would bend, not snap.

After lunch at the Plaza, the group returned for another demonstration in handling "dead ends" on the No. 3 line to Duncan without de-energizing the circuit.

To the professional electrical expert, it was an interesting demonstration; to the layman it revealed the indifference born of familiarity and of having the "know-how". But it was clearly evident to all the advantage such a system would be when wires of any voltage could be handled without the necessity of shutting off the juice and tying up industry or domestic lighting.

Ruminations of a Retiree

by Ken McEwen,
Editor, **HOTLINE**

As I write this column from sunny southern California, it is raining. Well, actually it's not even taking time to rain, it's just sort of falling from the sky. The reason I mention the rain is that it's kind of a phenomenon around here. Rain even makes the "Late Breaking News" programs. With the ground in this valley not being used to rain, drainage is minimal so the street intersections are usually under water for a while. The good thing about rain here is that you know it is going to stop soon. Not like New Westminster where it can cloud up in October and rain 'til April. But then we've already discussed rain in the desert so you've heard all that before. Anyway, it makes for a good day to write something for the Hotline.

One thing I could mention that made me happy this morning is that when I was getting ready to take Sesame for the first walk of the day I dug out a pair of old long pants to wear and they weren't too small. It has been my experience of late that when I dig out a pair of old pants to wear they have somehow shrunk in size, especially around the waist. Pants that fit are so much more comfortable than the ones that have shrunk. I don't know if you've noticed, but there are two things about closets that are mystifying. One is that pants left there for a period of time shrink and the other is that clothes hangers multiply. Not only do the hangers multiply, they seem to inextricably wind themselves together so that you can never grab just one. I've ruminated on that occurrence from time to time.

On our way to the desert this time we wandered along the west coast of North America from the state of



Washington to the state of California. Do you recall that I discussed the straight prairie roads last time? Well, the west coast of North America has all the curves, bends and corners anyone could ask for. There's a fair amount of ups and downs as well. Everybody says it's a slow route, but when you're a retiree there's no hurry.

Anyway, in select places along the coast there are signs that say "Tsunami Hazard Area" or something like that. You know, signs like the ones we have at home about falling rock or avalanches. I've seen the falling rock and I've seen the aftermath of avalanches. But how often do you reckon these tsunami things happen? Enough that they have to put up signs about them? Even though the signs warned that we had to be on constant alert for tsunamis, we had a very enjoyable trip down.

That's kind of another thing. Do you ever wonder why we say "down" when we talk about travel to sunny southern California and "up" when we talk about return to beautiful British

Columbia? I guess it just sort of feels right to say it that way.

The next thing on the horizon for us is our annual trek to San Diego for Thanksgiving. We go to visit friends there, eat turkey and walk on the beach. We visit and eat turkey in any weather; we only walk on the beach if it's not raining. That's one advantage to our lifestyle. Two sets of Thanksgiving, one at home in October with family before we flee south and one here in November with our US American friends. Then, right after the US American Thanksgiving, preparations start for Christmas. I'm sure that Catherine Dear will require, at a minimum, one day of my time to festoon our park model trailer with those hang down strings of lights. Even in the desert sunshine, Christmas must look "Christmassy". Then there will be more turkey. It's kind of a bad time of year for the turkeys.

I wanted to talk a bit about my ruminations on retiree gatherings and how, from time to time, the conversation turns to aging and the resultant aches and pains. And how, it is reported, drinking Certo will alleviate those aches and pains. I think I'll leave that until next time as I seem to be running out of space. Perhaps I'll just mention now that aches, pains and aging seem preferable to the alternative. Also, I'll try to be prepared to describe my ruminations on more weighty matters like the NHL lockout, the Olympics and Mad Cow Disease.

So, that's it for now. Catherine Dear, Sesame and I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday season. Please continue to work and play safely because retirement is better than the alternative. ☞

IBEW LOCAL 258 UNIT MEETING SCHEDULES, 2005

Unit 1 Meeting Schedule

* Note: *Smithers meeting starts at 5:30 pm, all others start at 4:30 pm.*

Masset (Linerroom)Feb. 10; Oct. 13, 2005
Prince Rupert (Linerroom).....Feb. 9; June 8; Oct. 12, 2005
Queen Charlotte City (Linerroom) June 9, 2005
Smithers (Hilltop Inn)Jan. 10; Mar. 7; May 16; July 12; Sept. 12; Nov. 7; Dec. 14, 2005
Terrace (Legion)Feb. 8; Apr. 20; June 7; Aug. 9; Oct. 11; Dec. 13, 2005

Unit 2 Meeting Schedule

* Note: *Quesnel, Hudson's Hope & Williams Lake meetings start at 4:30 pm, all others start at 7:00 pm.*

Dawson Creek (Labour Temple)Feb. 15; Apr. 12; June 14; Aug. 16; Nov. 10; Dec. 13, 2005
Fort St. John (Northern Grand)Jan. 12; Apr. 14; Sept. 14; Oct. 18, 2005
Fort Nelson (TBA)May 12; Oct. 19, 2005
Hudson's Hope (Sportsman Inn)....Apr. 13; Nov. 9, 2005
Prince George (Legion).....Jan. 11; Mar. 8; May 10; July 12; Sept. 13; Nov. 8, 2005
Quesnel (Line Room)Jan. 19; Mar. 09; July 13; Sept. 21, 2005
Williams Lake (Elks Hall)Jan. 18; Sept. 20, 2005

Unit 3 Meeting Schedule

*Meetings in **BOLD** are the official meetings.*

Bridge River (Lunch Room B2)**Jan. 11**; May 10; Sept. 13; Nov. 8, 2005 - MTGS. START AT 5:30 PM.
Castlegar (Fireside Inn).....**Feb. 8**; Apr. 12; June 7; **Aug. 9**; Oct. 11, 2005 -
MTGS. START AT 7:00 PM.
Cranbrook (Labour Temple)Feb. 9; **Apr. 13**; June 8; **Oct. 12**, 2005 - MTGS. START AT 4:30 PM
Invermere (Legion)Feb. 10; Apr. 14; **June 9**; Oct. 13, 2005 - MTGS. START AT 4:30 PM
Kamloops (IBEW 993 Hall)Jan. 12; **May 11**; Sept. 14; Nov. 9, 2005 - MTGS. START AT 7:00 PM
Mica (Curling Rink)Jan. 17; May 16; **Sept. 19**; Nov. 14, 2005 - MTGS. START AT 6:00 PM
Vernon (Army & Navy)Jan. 13; **Mar. 10**; May 12; **July 14**; Sept. 15; **Nov. 10**, Dec. 15, 2005 -
MTGS. START AT 7:00 PM (2500 - 46th Avenue, Vernon)



IBEW LOCAL 258 UNIT MEETING SCHEDULES, 2005

Unit 4 Meeting Schedule

* Note: Meetings with an asterisk start at 4:00 pm; all others start at 7:00 pm, except Nanaimo's February and October meetings start at 6:30 pm. **Meetings in BOLD are the official meetings.**

Campbell River (Haida Inn)**Mar. 8**; June 8; **Sept. 13**; Nov. 8, 2005
Courtenay (Line Room)***Mar. 8**; ***June 8**; *Sept. 13; *Nov. 8, 2005
Duncan (Cowichan Valley Inn).....Jan. 11; May 10; ***Aug 9**; **Oct. 11**, 2005
Ganges (Line Room)*Feb. 8; *May 10; *Oct. 12, 2005
Nanaimo (Howard Johnson).....**Feb. 8**; ***May 11**; **Oct. 12**; ***Dec. 13, 2005**
Port Alberni(Clutesi Valley Inn)Mar. 9; June 9; ***Nov. 9**, 2005
Port Hardy (Line Room).....*May 9; *Sept. 12, 2005
Qualicum (Line Room)*Mar. 9; *June 9; ***Sept. 14**, 2005
Victoria (Line Room)***Jan. 11**; ***Apr. 12**; ***July 12**; ***Oct. 11**, 2005

Unit 5 Meeting Schedule

Note: Meetings with an asterisk start at 5:00 pm, all others start at 7:00 pm. **Meetings in BOLD are the official meetings.**

Burnaby (Union Hall).....***Jan. 13**; Feb. 10; ***Mar. 10**; ***Apr. 14**; May 12; **June 9**; ***July 14**;
Aug. 11; *Sept. 15; **Oct. 13**; ***Nov. 10**; **Dec. 15**, 2005
Sechelt (Seaside Centre)***Feb. 15**; ***May 17**; ***Sept. 20**, 2005

Unit 6 Meeting Schedule

Note: All meetings start at 7:00 pm. Millwright's Hall is located at #202 - 14625 108th Ave., 2nd Floor, Surrey, BC. The OAP hall in Abbotsford is located at 2631 Cyril St., and the Best Western in Chilliwack is located at 43971 Industrial Way. All meetings start at 7:00 pm. **Meetings in BOLD are the official meetings.**

Abbotsford (OAP Hall).....Jan. 12; Mar. 9; May 11; **Sept. 14**; **Nov. 9**, 2005
Chilliwack (Best Western)**Mar. 9**; **Apr. 13**; **June 8**; Oct. 12; Dec. 14, 2005
Surrey (Millwright's Hall)**Jan. 11**; Feb. 8; **Mar. 8**; Apr. 12; **May 10**; June 7; **July 12**; Sept. 13;
.....**Oct. 11**; Nov. 8; **Dec. 13**, 2005



From the Back Corner...

2005!! Another year gone by already – my brain is too full to learn any more complex equations, but I'm pretty sure that there is some sort of extrapolation that can be undertaken to prove that time marches on at an exponentially increasing rate the older we get!

Reflecting on the past year, there have been both negatives and positives for our local, and for the labour movement in general. In this issue, we've touched on the changes to our apprenticeship system and it's potential to damage our structure of passing trades skills on to our new workers. Fortunately, through the foresight of both our members and many of our employers, we have been able (so far) to protect our qualifications, and to heighten awareness within our industries of the importance of those qualifications.

This year we have seen effects of last year's changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and appeal structure, and many of our own members are now suffering financial and physical losses because the system was so radically cut. On the positive side, we have had more members showing a keen interest in safety committee training, and in participating in safety issues in their workplace.

That leads me to reflect on one of the most important things I have learned about our membership - we walk the walk when it comes to caring about the communities we live and work in. Every month, the Executive Board receives letters from members involved in a wide range of community support activities, from coaching minor sports teams, to riding cross-country for medical research, to gathering funds and supplies for daycare centres and food banks, to standing side by side with other workers and assisting them in labour disputes. Our members truly do understand what the word "brotherhood" in our name means, and that spirit of working for a common good makes us all proud of who we are.

Last April and May was an

excellent example of our members standing up on the front lines to support their brothers and sisters in the healthcare sector and to say that we won't tolerate the kind of abuse our provincial government was enacting. Please continue with that protest by becoming involved in your community politically this year, so that our voice will be heard where it can effect legislative change.

Through the summer, fall and early winter, many of you became involved in another important form of community action, through the United Way campaigns around the province, and through the Hydrecs campaign for BC Hydro employees. Because of you, and others like you, those campaigns exceeded their fundraising targets this year, meaning that a hand up can go out to so many in all of our communities. Both United Way and Hydrecs support community growth, and fund special projects that will help to sustain healthy communities, giving people the resources to become stronger, more independent and more active participants in their communities as well. While we all have our complaints against our employers, our working conditions (and, yes, even our union executive), we still understand that there are many around us who have bigger concerns, and we reach out to assist.

My hope is that in the coming year, we will be able to say that 100% of Local 258 members have volunteered and donated to community based fundraising, because we do understand what brotherhood and support are. Please contact the union office if you are looking for information on how you can get involved. I wish all of you a healthy, safe and happy 2005, and hope that your holidays were a time of peace and enjoyment.



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