

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

# HOTLINE



Local 258 I.B.E.W.  
FALL 2005

Working people...

# UNDER ATTACK



# Business Manager, Doug McKay



From left, Charlie Robertson, Chuck Stewart-Burton and Bill Woodworth with IBEW 258 Business Manager Doug McKay in Massett on the Queen Charlotte Islands.

We live in one of the most beautiful areas of the world here in British Columbia, and I had the pleasure of travelling to the northern areas of our province this summer to meet with members of Unit 1 who live and work in

the Queen Charlotte Islands, Prince Rupert, Smithers and Terrace. Together we shared many discussions along with Union President Michelle Laurie and Assistant Business Manager Don McNabb who accompanied me as we listened to our members concerns on the north coast.

After returning from the north, I had the opportunity to reflect on the significance of the results of

our provincial election held last May where British Columbians voted in a good sized opposition and sent a message to the Gordon Campbell Liberals. The strong support shown by many of our members who volunteered their time and efforts in working with many of the NDP candidates who were elected is something to be proud of - but we cannot rest on our success. With the recent events in the southern United States and the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast, it reinforces the importance of our responsibility as citizens that we elect and hold accountable governments

who put the needs of the people first, rather than catering to the demands of the corporate agenda.

And speaking of the corporate agenda, our union brothers and sisters who are members of the Telecommunications Workers (TWU), Canadian Media Guild (CMG) and the Steelworkers (USWA) are all involved in major labour disputes that affect many British Columbian families as this issue of The Hotline goes to press. May I remind each and every one of you that it is important to show solidarity, strength and support our fellow workers by attending their picket lines, rallies and demonstrations. You can find out more about how to show your support in the article about these labour disputes on page 4 of The Hotline.

And finally, this fall has IBEW 258 holding our first provincial Shop Stewards Conference at the end of October. Notices have gone out across the province and the feedback has been great. We look forward to many of you coming to this educational opportunity being held in Surrey that will feature a number of guest speakers and a series of workshops and training sessions. If you are interested in attending, please contact the local union office as space is almost completely filled. ☑

## HOTLINE

Published by Local 258 IBEW

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Michelle Laurie	President
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Larry Byhre	Treasurer
Dale Haines	Recording Secretary

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May 17, 2005

Reprinted with permission. All proceeds to the Vancouver Food Bank.



Standing strong with our union brothers & sisters

# Labour under attack



*More than 3,000 union activists attended this year's Labour Day Rally at "The Boot" on Kingsway in Vancouver in support of locked out and striking union members in British Columbia.*

Across Canada and especially here in British Columbia, it appears that labour is under attack. With the corporate agenda seeming to rule the roost these days, and business friendly governments clearly afraid to enforce the rules, thousands of workers across Canada have been locked out or on strike. What's going on?

## **Telecommunication workers locked out in BC and Alberta**

For five years, the Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU) has been trying to negotiate a collective agreement for the 13,700 members who work for Telus and the company has deliberately blocked the union's efforts every step of the way. In mid-July, Telus went as far as trying to impose a contract that effectively cut jobs and reduces service for Telus customers. Shortly thereafter, Telus locked out it's workers in BC and Alberta.

It wasn't that long ago, in 2003, that Telus cut thousands of jobs resulting in so many complaints from customers to the CRTC that the company was forced to rehire staff so they could improve their levels of customer service.

Due to the hard work of all the Telus employees, the company has enjoyed huge corporate earnings (\$324 million in 2003 and \$658 million in 2004)

and profits (49% growth in earnings, 2003-2004) while their unionized workforce have been under the same expired collective agreement for the past five years. The company claims it's time to "move into the future" and "step into the 21st century", yet the past five years have seen unprecedented growth for the company, with only company executives reaping the benefits.

Telus CEO Darren Entwistle has seen a 54% increase in his wages and benefits and now makes \$6.55 million a year (that's \$3,149 an hour working 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year)! Telus Mobility's CEO, George Cope's salary has skyrocketed to \$6.74 million a year – and Telus workers have seen 0% wage increases for the past five years. Something is clearly wrong here.

The TWU is concerned that Telus will reduce staff even more than it already has and will export thousands of good paying, family supporting jobs out of British Columbia to call centres the company has already purchased in the Philippines. Thousands more jobs are to be contracted out, and the employees who will be left will be forced to work mandatory overtime.

The pressure needs to be put on this corporation by their paying customers, as that is the only thing this



company will listen to. The union is encouraging Telus customers to cancel any special calling features you may subscribe to, such as call waiting, call forwarding, call, voice mail, smart ring, call alert and/or call display.



If you pay your phone bill through automatic deductions, cancel that and request a printed copy of your bill and pay by cheque. Blacken out the serial numbers at the bottom of your Telus invoice and make your cheque out for one cent more than the amount due.



*Folksinger Valdy entertained families and their kids who came out and showed their support for their union brothers and sisters on Labour Day in Vancouver.*

If you have Telus internet or long distance services – change providers. If your contract for cell phone services with Telus Mobility is up for renewal – change providers. Of course, it is important that you go with companies who employ a unionized workforce wherever possible.

If you've experienced poor service or long delays from Telus, contact the CRTC and register an official complaint. Two years ago, when the elimination of thousands of jobs led to poor customer service, it was complaints of thousands of Telus customers like you that forced the CRTC to order Telus to act.

To contact the CRTC, go to their

website at [www.crtc.gov.ca](http://www.crtc.gov.ca) and click on "Complaints and Inquiries" or call them toll free at 1-877-249-2782.

And finally, you can put the pressure on your local Member of Parliament to get this dispute settled now!

### **CBC locks out employees coast to coast to coast**

Many Canadians are outraged at the lockout by CBC of their 5500 employees who keep programming alive at the nation's public broadcaster. The Canadian Media Guild, who represents the locked out workers, has been at the bargaining table since May, 2004, and are acutely aware of the challenges facing them as the corporation manoeuvres and misleads both the public and their workforce.

Issues at stake include contract language, job security, training and skills development and wages. Both sides have returned to the bargaining table and are hammering it out. In the meantime, there is a news website that has been created as a free public service for Canadians, developed by locked out employees of CBC, visit [www.cbconlocked.ca](http://www.cbconlocked.ca).

If you miss the CBC, take a moment to write a letter to your MP. The more pressure we place on our elected federal officials to settle this dispute, the quicker (hopefully) it will be resolved. For more information on how to contact your MP, please visit the website, [www.cbcontheline.ca/whatyoucando.html](http://www.cbcontheline.ca/whatyoucando.html).

### **More than 1200 on picket line at Teck Cominco**

One of Trail BC's major employers, the giant Teck Cominco, shut down it's smelter when more than 1200 USWA members from Locals 480 and 9705 served strike notice in mid-July of this year after mediated talks broke down. Picket lines have been



*IBEW Local 258 members attended the Vancouver Labour Day rally. From left, Union President Michelle Laurie, Business Manager Doug McKay, Gord Caslor, Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell, Unit 5 Chair Mark Davison and Cathy Tagseth.*

up at the plant since then.

Workers are seeking a share of the record profits of the Trail facility that showed earnings of \$135 million on total revenues exceeding \$1 billion with record production levels having been achieved, but the company is demanding concessions. The contract expired on May 31, 2005.

Since the strike began, Teck Cominco has begun exporting private power to the United States. Local 9705 President Rick Georgetti states the company is abusing the province's resources and that the Waneta Dam that was originally built to provide hydro power for the lead/zinc smelter in Trail is now providing huge profits for the smelter. Union members are outraged at the company's hydro exports to the US and have written to the Premier asking for a meeting, but Gordon Campbell's office has so far refused to meet with the union.

The local communities of Trail, Castlegar, Rossland and Fruitvale are also very concerned the Campbell government is allowing Teck Cominco to sell private power from Canadian resources on the open market and are submitting their concerns to the Union of BC Municipalities. ☑

# We Got Mail!



Dear Local 258,  
I would like to thank Don McNabb, Doug McKay and Local 258 for the plaque and the very nice IBEW Local 258 jacket that was presented to me at my Retirement BBQ on June 23rd. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Brother Mike King

BTW: I plan on working with the Line Contractors for a few years yet!



To all of my Brothers & Sisters at the IBEW 258  
THANK YOU!

“You’ve been so nice that words can’t say,

The many thanks this brings your way.”

I have enjoyed the fruit basket.

Thanks,

Ken Duchak



Dear friends at IBEW Local 258,  
Thank you for your donation to Phil’s favourite charity – the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia.  
Judy Clattenburg



Dear Hotline,  
Sincere thanks to everyone who attended my retirement luncheon. The handmade gifts from the CBU Shops and NIA were beautiful. Jim Greenwell presented me with an IBEW jacket and two pins, retirement and 30 year. My gift certificates from everyone for Lordco were just perfect for my Hot Rod hobby. A big thanks to everyone for all the help and cooperation over the years. The laughs and jokes will be missed, as will all of you.

Doug Esau



*Brother Doug Esau with his wife Lana at his retirement luncheon.*

Dear IBEW 258,  
Thank you for your care and concern. It is very much appreciated. I would like to say a special thank you to Bob Abernethy as well.  
Bryan Boyd



“The Union of Hearts & Minds”

Dear Michelle Laurie,

On Tuesday this week, I received your letter and donation for the Breast Cancer Research Run that my neighbour, Connie Herriot, wants to participate in. I really do not know where to begin or how to express my surprise and gratitude for the generosity. It is one of those times where I felt overwhelmed and that very seldom happens to me. All I can do is relate to you and the Executive Board and the effect it had on Connie.

I called Connie over to my home and explained to her that being as she was neither a union member nor related to one, we had been fortunate to receive a donation and I just passed the envelope to her. This is the part that tells it all.

If you can imagine Christmas time and your kids are opening their gifts and all of a sudden their jaws drop open and they just burst out with that overwhelming surprise at what drops out. You know, those very rare occasions when you hit the mother load of total happiness! Well, that was Connie Herriot’s reaction, and it made me feel very proud that IBEW had done that.

Your donation gave her enough sponsorship to qualify for being a participant in the walk. She is very grateful and genuinely struck by so much generosity from people she does not even know. Our brothers on the Wahleach overhaul also donated quite generously. It really is nice to see people step up and say, “Ya, sure, put me in for that.”

This has really struck a cord with someone who is not a union worker but has been moved by the willingness of IBEW Local 258 to participate in this part of her life. She is one of those tireless unsung hero types of people working in the background constantly doing volunteer work and she really deserves the assistance. Thank you.  
Joe Burns

*Dear Michelle Laurie and IBEW 258,  
It has truly touched my heart how Joe Burns, his colleagues and now your union have come together to help me on my journey.*

*I will never forget your generosity and kindness. I will remember you in my thoughts and prayers on August 20-21 when I walk the 60 km for Breast Cancer Research. Thank you for being a partner with me in the weekend to end breast cancer.*

*Sincerely  
Connie Herriot*



A Big Thank You!

Thanks for kindly donating to our Golf Tournament. It was greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all the participants, many thanks.  
Gerald Pove,  
BC Hydro and Moberly Lake Golf Club



Dear IBEW Local 258,  
Thank you very much for your generous donation to the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life on behalf of Bully's Bullets. Our team raised \$15,000.  
Sincerely,  
Ed Mullin



Dear IBEW Local 258,  
Many thanks for the fruit basket. I really appreciated your visit. I am slowly getting better and more mobile.  
Randy Lane



To everybody at 258,  
I want to thank you for the delicious fruit basket. It was very thoughtful of you on your part, and appreciated by myself. I am progressing well, my new knee getting stronger by the day. I have to fight for every degree of motion that comes my way.  
Lindsay Partridge



Dear Members of IBEW 258,  
Thank you for your kind donation to the Revelstoke Community Foundation in memory of Ron March.

As you probably know, the intent is that these donations will go to endow a bursary in Ron's name – a bursary to be awarded annually to a student pursuing Ron's trade of machinist. With the shortage of skilled trades people that is evolving, bursaries supporting the trades are most appropriate. The details of the bursary will be worked out in accordance with the wishes of Ron's widow Marie and the family. Ron took great pride in being a hands-on "technical guy". The bursary will be managed in such a way that it will be sustainable and indexed – thereby creating a permanent memorial to him.

Ron had many interests and enjoyed a wide circle of friends, many of whom, like you, have willingly and generously donated toward this bursary.

Thank you again,  
Geoff Battersby  
Vice Chair and Chair of Fund Development  
Revelstoke Community Foundation

Dear Michelle Laurie and IBEW 258,  
On your behalf, American Income Life has recently delivered a large food donation to our organization.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul depends on the generosity of others to continue our help to everyone we serve in the Prince George community. It is benefactors like you and your organization who make a difference in the lives of those who utilize our facilities.

Thank you so very much,

Sincerely  
Bernie Goold  
President, Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Open letter and update to Terry's friends,  
As some of you who are aware, in early March of this year I sent out a note to be circulated amongst the friends and acquaintances of Terry and Kelly Willis for assistance to help with Terry's wife Vicki's cancer treatments. These treatments were not funded by the medical plan or the extended medical coverage at BC Hydro. Unfortunately, continued treatment costs were creating extreme financial hardship and stress on the family. To say the least, the response and generosity was truly exceptional. It was a heartfelt and genuine response of caring and sharing.

The unselfish out-pouring by 62 co-workers, old friends and new friends connected through a bond to make things better even for the moment generated a gross donation of approximately \$23,000.00. This yielded a donation to Terry and Vicki of approximately \$13,000.00 after taxes were paid.

It was with great pleasure I was able to present the cheque to Terry on behalf of his friends both new and old through our entire organization. For the record, there was not a dry eye in the place, not even mine that morning in the LMS line room.

In closing I would like to quote the thank you card that Vicki and Terry have sent to thank all of you.

*"Your thoughtfulness will always be remembered and there are no words to express how grateful Terry and I are for your very generous gifts. I will put these gifts to the best possible use toward the quality and quantity of my future health."*

*Thankfully yours  
Terry & Vicki Willis"*

Thank you for all your assistance to the Willis family.  
Pete Tennent



# EITI's First Trade Exposition



On June 11, brothers and sisters from across the trade groups represented by the IBEW got together at EITI to show off their skills and encourage up-and-coming workers to take up an electrical trade. Employers and suppliers joined in as well, displaying the latest equipment and technology utilised in electrical and power line work. EITI staff were on hand to explain the unique courses and programs available through our union school.

The event was a great success, with hundreds

of members of the general public stopping by, talking to members, instructors and employers, and developing a sense of our jobs, our union, our school, and most importantly, our pride in our specialized skill sets.

Members and others from Asplundh, Davey Tree, Allteck Line Contractors, BC Hydro, Locals 258 and 213 IBEW, and of course EITI came out and gave their time to demonstrate skills and encourage people to consider an electrical trade career. ⚡





On behalf of all of the members of Local 258, EITI and the union would like to take this opportunity to thank each of the following brothers for the time they gave up and their genuine display of pride in their skills and their union:

- Clayton Keys
- Alan Laurie
- Brody Dyck
- Doug Laity
- Stu Poppy
- Tim Smith
- Sam Rae
- Ted Pannel
- Marty Lundy
- Mike Land
- Al Raven

- Bob Palmer
- Brandon Baker
- David Wells
- Denis Levesque
- Glen Welsh
- Jag Hothi
- Mike McMinn
- Renzo Infanti
- Scott Gwilliam
- Shawn Greenwell
- Gord Sawka
- Russell Hodgson
- Bernie Layton
- Jason Somerville
- Kevin Dykstra
- Troy Hudson
- Joel Batch
- Roger Bruder
- Brady Prentice
- Rob Batch



# 2005 United Way/Labour campaign underway



The partnership between Labour and United Way has its roots in the common goals of the two organizations - to help people in their daily lives. Labour and United Way share a vision of building a society which offers a wide range of social and public services which are accessible, universal and of the highest quality.

Brother Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), in a recent address to the United Way of Canada said:

“Labour stands for fairness, for equality, and for social and economic justice - both in the workplace and in the community. Labour and United Way-Centraide are partners in the business of community building. We share the same goals, the same views of collective responsibility. More and

more, we find ourselves on the same page in confronting social and economic ills, in fighting for a better quality of life for all our fellow citizens.”

The CLC took the lead in developing an ongoing relationship with United Way. The flagship program arising out of this partnership is the **CLC/United Way Union Counselling Program**. This is a prevention-based program, with a goal of helping union members in the workplace. The Labour Department of the United Way provides training for Union Counsellors to help them help their colleagues deal with problems of personal impact and refer them to programs in their community that can provide direct support. These training courses are offered at District Labour Council schools, and at the Regional CLC Schools.

United Way supports the social service needs of our communities by investing in programs and services that help people, improve their lives and contribute to a strong and caring community.

• United Way **identifies the need** by conducting research.

• United Way brings community partners together to pinpoint the issues and challenges in each community, define the most critical needs, and determine how the partners can work together to best meet these needs.

• Through the annual campaign, United Way **raises money and awareness** to support what matters most to people in our communities.

• United Way **invests resources** in programs and services focused on prevention and early intervention, where they will have the greatest impact. Then **measures the effectiveness** of the programs receiving funding and provides success reports back to donors.

Support your community by participating in your workplace United Way campaign. If there is no active campaign in your workplace, contact the Union Office and we will help you get started. ☑

## IBEW 258 supports fundraiser for CNIB

IBEW 258 is a big supporter of the annual Ruffers and Duffers Golf Tournament with proceeds going to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Thanks to Doug Maxwell for sharing this photo with us of some the “creatures responsible for the success” of this year’s Tourney!

Back row, left to right: Deb Weiss; Bill Baker; Al Pineau; Linda Williams; front row: Harry Dorward presenting the cheque for \$7,500 to Albert Ruel of CNIB Victoria.

Since the fundraising event began, a total of \$20,000.00 has now been donated to the CNIB. ☑



## Diesel Training Grads



After receiving classroom instruction and hands on training for the Detroit Diesel Training on V71 Series at the Lytton Diesel Station, IBEW members graduated the class with big smiles. From left, Chad France, Apprentice Mechanic at the John Hurt Generating Station; Brian Durand from the Vernon Mechanical Department; Steven Jewel, Apprentice Mechanic at the Revelstoke Generating Station; Howard Giesbrecht, Detroit Diesel Training Instructor; and, Mike Angrignon, Apprentice Mechanic at the Mica Creek generating Station. Missing from this photo is Ray Lapointe of the Vernon Mechanical Department.

## Water fight needs you to win!

Pressure is mounting on the British Columbia government as the battle for one of BC's most precious public assets continues.

"Alcan continues to sell off BC's water resources for windfall profits for them and no benefit to British Columbians," says Kitimat Mayor Rick Wozney.

The District of Kitimat has filed a lawsuit against the BC Government for allowing Alcan to breach their 1950 agreement, selling off hydro-electric power to the US instead of using it to power jobs and industry here in BC.

For the past few years, Alcan has been cutting jobs and selling more and more of the power it generates from the Nechako river system rather than using it to manufacture aluminum at its Kitimat smelter. This is breaking the terms of the contract Alcan signed with British Columbians, which gave the company access to the most valuable

public water resource in the province in exchange for an aluminum smelter and jobs – and the economic development that came with it. This sets a dangerous precedent in BC as other multinationals who want to exploit our resources take note.

"The solution is simple," says Wozney. "British Columbians who care about who benefits from our natural resources need to raise their voices loud and clear so that the Provincial Government starts enforcing the contract with Alcan."

Make your voice heard and help turn the tide. On the internet, go to [www.dontsellusout.com](http://www.dontsellusout.com) and join our coalition. Most importantly, send an e-mail to the Premier telling him what you think of this resource giveaway. ☑

## Words of wisdom

Internet/CALM

I wonder how much deeper the ocean would be without sponges.

Honk if you love peace and quiet.

Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how living remains so popular?

How can a cemetery raise its burial costs and blame it on the high cost of living?

Just remember, if the world didn't suck, we'd all fall off.

You can't have everything. Where would you put it?

Survey shows that three out of four people make up 75 per cent of the world's population.

If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.

The things that come to those who wait could be the same things left behind by those who got there first.





Another successful Unit 5 & 6 event!

# Family & friends have fun at Summer Social



*A million thanks to the great volunteers who helped make this year's Family Social another successful and fun event! Back row, from left to right are Cathy Tagseth, Allan Tagseth, Fran Abernathy, Jag Hothi, Bob Abernathy, Dale Haynes, Shane Holmgren and Mike McMinn. Front row left to right are Patricia Patterson, Karen Porter, Mark Davison and Ann Marie Davison.*

Once again we owe great thanks to Brothers Bob Abernathy and Mark Davison, Unit Chairs from Unit 6 and 5 respectively, and their Executive members, who worked volunteer overtime to ensure that this annual picnic was a resounding success. Each year, active and retired members and their families come together for a day of camaraderie, games, yarn-swapping, sunshine and the finest Union-made hotdogs and hamburgers in the west!

This year, our linemen brothers and sister from BC Hydro volunteered not only to give the kids bucket truck rides and cook the lunch, but also helped out the staff at the Semiahmoo Fish and Game Club (our gracious hosts for the event) with pressure washing the buildings. Other volunteer members, retirees and of course family members, helped out with the registration, prize draws,

and the highly competitive races, crib tournament and tug-of-war.

Mother Nature always shines on this event, and brought us nothing but sunshine and warmth again this year, ensuring that the grass was dry for good purchase for the competing athletes, and great lounging for the spectators. Brother Abernathy graciously slowed down so others could win the sack and egg races, but let loose in the tug of war, ensuring victory for his team!

Thanks to all for coming out and making this day a success! 🍷



*The crib tournament winners were Marg Johnstone and Bud Scot with the second place team being Burke Lundy and Marta Zahorecz.*





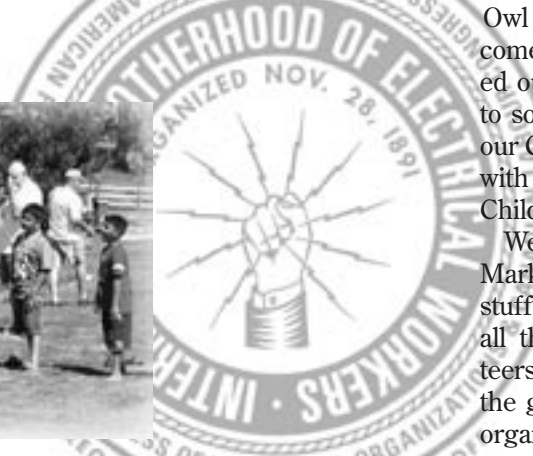
“We are writing to express our gratitude to Local 258 for inviting all us Retired Pacific Power Pioneers to come and join you at Semihamoo Fish Hatchery for the annual Family Picnic! It is a great time for us to get to re-visit old times at BC Hydro, and to renew acquaintances and meet old friends and their families.

We enjoyed setting up our Wise-Owl booth, and hope that some good comes from the information we handed out. You might also look forward to some delicious dishes made from our Cook Book! We sold seven books with proceeds to going to the B.C. Children’s Hospital!

We appreciate how hard Bob and Mark worked to put on all the “fun stuff” for the kids. We also appreciate all the work the rest of the volunteers did in preparing and serving the great food. We recognize all the organization and expense it takes to put on a successful function such as this, and are thankful to be part of it.

On behalf of the Pacific group of retirees, thanks so much, and if we can be of service again with our Wise-Owl display, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

Yours in fellowship,  
Ralph Legge (President)  
Bud Scott (Pacific Provincial Director)  
Reg Ahern (Vice President)”





# BC Hydro Safety Practices Committee

The BC Hydro Safety Practices Committee (SPC) was established in the 1960's and its basic mandate is outlined in Article 30 of the BC Hydro/IBEW Local 258 Collective Agreement. We review the Safety Practice Regulations which are the basic rules for working on the BC Hydro electric utility system.

## Responding to Field Personnel

We have received feedback from field personnel over the past few years that we should be communicating more frequently regarding the purpose of the committee and how it functions regarding any safe work-related changes. As a result we are upgrading and changing our commu-

nications. This does not necessarily mean creating more communication, but analyzing and improving what is currently created, and how it can better meet your needs. Success for the SPC will occur when employees understand:

- the role of the SPC and the services offered
- the expectations placed on employees with regard to Safety Practices, and
- our long-term Safety objectives and the role every employee in meeting those objectives

**Safety Practice Regulations**  
The Safety Practice Regulations Book was re-issued in April 2004, the last revision prior to that was



*Safety Practices Committee members (L to R): Gordon Burr, Lori MacLean, Jan Kehl, Randy Bourne, Bob Hirschfield, Terry Receveur and Neil Sharpe.*

## Who We Are

Currently the committee consists of the following Field Services personnel:

- Randy Bourne, Chairperson, General Manager, CBU Surrey (4-5301)
- Bob Hirschfield, Secretary, Trades Training Instructor, Qualicum (2-8007)
- Gordon Burr, Subforeman Electrician, LMS (4-4105)
- Jan Kehl, Electrician, Ashton Creek (5-6442)
- Terry Receveur, Manager Field Services Distribution, P. Geo (6-4814)
- Neil Sharpe, General Manager Distribution, LMS (4-4158)
- Lori MacLean, Administrative Assistant to VP FS, E06 (7-2869)

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## Safety Practice Regulations

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## Meetings

Historically, we have held day-long meetings 6 times per year, but have been experimenting with scheduling two-day meeting every quarter. This has helped the committee reduce travel time and expenses for members while allowing opportunities to complete agenda items during a single meeting rather than extending them over multiple meetings. The committee has also scheduled meetings at various locations throughout the Province. June's SPC meeting was held in Terrace. The reason behind the decision to hold meetings outside

the Lower Mainland is to provide better visibility to employees and gain more insight into their safety concerns.

A common question is how do you contact the SPC? Note that it is the intention of BC Hydro and IBEW 258 that most safety issues be resolved at the local level. Unresolved items from safety committees are automatically referred to the SPC. In addition, concerned individuals from the field may be referred to the SPC Secretary (B. Hirschfield) from either the IBEW Business Manager or a Management representative who is a direct report to a Vice President.

We look forward to receiving any suggestions you have to improve safety at BC Hydro. ☑





# Double loss for union office



Long time local union office staff passed away this summer, above left, Gwen Saunders and on right, Ann Cusson.

Loss is something we all become familiar with and have to deal with during the course of our day to day living. This summer, LU 258 experienced a double loss. Two long term employees and friends are no longer with us. Gwen Saunders and Ann Cusson passed away.

Gwen Saunders started working in the business office of LU 258 in 1975 and followed the Local through moves from Victoria Drive to Commercial Drive in Vancouver, Carnarvon Street in New Westminster and Sixth Street in Burnaby. During these travels with the Local Gwen worked with six of the seven Business Managers in the Local's history. Since 1982 Gwen's primary area of responsibility in the office was Dues Administration. Many members will remember Gwen as the "Dues Lady". Gwen Saunders

died on July 16, 2005.

Ann Cusson started with the IBEW, working in the business office of LU 264, in 1974 and came to LU 258 when the Locals merged in 1990. At LU 258 Ann was assigned responsibility for Health and Welfare Administration and became well known to our Construction and Temporary work forces. In later years Ann moved to the reception desk and greeted members and callers on the telephone and at the counter. Ann Cusson died on August 7, 2005.

Both Gwen and Ann were taken from us far too early and will be greatly missed by Officers, Members and Staff of IBEW Local Union 258. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families. ☒



# Tsunami relief funds raised



In a letter sent to IBEW 258 Business Manager

Doug McKay, Canada First District International Vice-President Phil Flemming thanked Local Union members for the compassion they have demonstrated with their overwhelming support of the IBEW First District Tsunami Relief Fund.

A total of \$27,306.62 was collected

from IBEW brothers and sisters in Locals across Canada and sent to the Canadian Red Cross where it was needed for the humanitarian needs of the people affected by this terrible disaster.

Many thanks go to those who donated funds, and as Brother Flemming wrote, "You have demonstrated that solidarity reaches out beyond our Union and beyond our border in a tangible manner." ☒

# Gulf coast hurricane disaster IBEW members respond to Katrina

Responding to one of the most catastrophic natural disasters to hit the southern United States in recent history, members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are responding in a number of ways to the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina that hit the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in late August.

Many IBEW utility workers, linemen, tree trimmers and other members of the outside branch have already been deployed from across North America to restore power and other services to the Gulf Coast. The union has also started a fundraising effort to assist in providing relief to help all those affected by the storm and it's aftermath.

A number of IBEW members living in New Orleans, Mobile, Alabama and Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi have lost their homes and personal belongings and have been forced to relocate to other areas. The devastation of buildings and other structures have also caused job losses, compounding the problem by denying our members the financial means to feed, clothe and to shelter themselves and their families.

As well, the Bush administration has now suspended the **Davis-Bacon Act** that provides critical wage protections for taxpayer-financed reconstruction through preserving local area wages and labour standards for federal construction work. As a result, it is feared that contractors will greatly benefit from huge profits through FEMA reconstruction and workers will again be left out in the cold. ☒

## The BC Hydro Employees' Community Services Fund (HYDRECS)

# 2006 HYDRECS Campaign

September 27 to November 30, 2005

Each year BC Hydro employees launch a campaign to raise funds for registered charities across British Columbia through the BC Hydro Employees' Community Services Fund (HYDRECS). Annually, HYDRECS runs a fundraising campaign for all BC Hydro and Powerex employees and retirees providing them a way to donate to charity by payroll or time bank deductions, or by cheque.

HYDRECS' 2006 Campaign will be running in BC Hydro offices across the province between September 27th to November 30th, 2005. For

members at BC Hydro, your campaign materials will be sent to your work location.

What makes the HYDRECS campaign unique is the pre-selected package of Special Project charities chosen by a 19 member, volunteer employee/retiree committee. The Special Project package includes one provincial and four regional agencies that are featured during the campaign. Employees and retirees can also make a donation to the charity of their choice.

HYDRECS 2006 Special Projects are:

*"I donate to the HYDRECS fund every year as I enjoy the convenience of a payroll deduction and receiving the tax receipt on my T4. I usually divide my donation between a charity of my choice and the HYDRECS Special Project. I like donating to the HYDRECS Special Project for several reasons; the charities are pre-screened by the HYDRECS committee which gives me confidence that the money will be well spent.*

*Some of the charities chosen provide specific needs to their particular region of BC while others serve the whole province. There is a good balance for all. Many of these charities address needs for services that I did not know about."*

*Guy Poulin,*


*BC Hydro Communications Protection & Control Technician, Coquitlam*

## 2005 Tom Forkin Scholarships awarded

The 2005 Tom Forkin Scholarship winners are now in receipt of their scholarship awards for continuing education studies after having been selected this spring for their essays on the topic of "Apprenticeships".

The Tom Forkin Scholarship was created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President, Brother Tom Forkin, and is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258. Up to three individual scholarships of \$1,000.00 each are awarded each year.

The union is proud to have sent scholarships this year to Leanne Rogan, who is continuing her nursing studies at the Okanagan University College; Mike Hogman who will be attending Malaspina University-College this fall; and, Mischa Fisher of Saltspring Island who will be attending the University of Victoria.

The full transcript of their winning essays can be viewed on the union's website, [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca). 

### Provincial Project

*Vancouver General Hospital & University of BC Hospital Foundation - \$100,000*

Purchase of two specialized pieces of equipment: Raman Spectroscopy System & Optical Parametric Oscillator for the provincial Skin Cancer/Skin Care Centre.

### Lower Mainland

*Salvation Army Belkin House - \$27,000; Project: Kitchen equipment.* The Food Services Pre-Employment Program helps to equip students who are homeless or at risk of homelessness to be immediately employable upon completion of the industry recognized training program.

### Vancouver Island

*BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities - \$10,000; Project: Construction of a "SNOEZELEN Sensory Room" at Camp Shawnigan.* This room provides a sensory "calm" to children with disabilities while attending camp.


### Canadian Cancer Society - Northern - \$10,000

*Project: Cops for Cancer fundraising initiative - replacement of seven bicycles.*

Members to raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society's Emergency Aid Program (assisting people from Northern BC communities with travel and accommodation costs during their cancer treatment in Vancouver, Victoria, Kelowna or Prince George).

### South Interior Region

*Canadian National Institute for the Blind - CNIB South Interior - \$10,000; Project: Purchase of a closed circuit TV reader and laptop computer.*

As part of the JAWS Mobile Low Vision Unit, this outreach method will provide the ability for clients living in remote areas the same access to information as those living in more urban communities. 

# Changing trends in unionization

## On the Level/CUBC/CALM

From 1981 to 2004, trends in unionization rates have changed dramatically across different groups of workers.

According to a study from Statistics Canada, the unionization rate of men aged 25 to 34 fell by almost 20 percentage points, dropping from 43 per cent in 1981 to 24 per cent in 2004. In contrast, the number women aged 45 to 64 who are unionized rose by eight points (from 32 to 40 per cent) during the same period.

Roughly one-third of the decline in young men's union coverage was due to their growing concentration in industries that typically have low union coverage.

About 40 per cent of the increase in the union coverage of women aged 45 to 64 was associated with their growing tendency to be employed in high-coverage industries such as public services.

The decline in union coverage of young males has affected their pay rates. It accounts for about one-fifth of the 10 per cent drop in hourly wages young men experienced between 1981 and 1998.

The study is based on data from three household surveys covering the same labour force population

over the study period. "Unionization rate" is defined as the percentage of employees belonging to a union and does not include those who are covered by a collective agreement but do not belong to a union.

In 2004, about 31 per cent of Canadian workers belonged to a union, down from 38 per cent in 1981. Most of the decline occurred between 1989 and 1998, after which the rate became quite stable.

Unionization in Canada has become more polarized by age, the study found. Younger workers, particularly those under 35, experienced more pronounced declines in union membership than older workers.

Trends in union membership also varied from industry to industry. A sharp decline in the commercial sector was responsible for an overall decline in union membership between 1981 and 2004.

Unionization has been historically low in some industries such as consumer services, business services, agriculture, and fishing and trapping. Yet goods-producing and distributing industries, where the union presence has traditionally been higher, also experienced large declines.

Forestry and mining saw the largest decline in unionization for both sexes, falling from 46.0 per cent in 1981 to 26.3 per cent in 1998. Construction and manufacturing came next with declines of nearly 13 per cent each.

Blue collar workers, especially those earning between \$15.00 and \$19.99 per hour, experienced the largest declines in union membership. This is consistent with falling numbers in the goods-producing and distribution sectors.

Declines were also larger among men who had not completed a university degree than among those who had.

Union membership dropped in all provinces between 1981 and 2004. Saskatchewan and Manitoba saw the smallest declines and were still above the national average in 2004.

Rates fell the most in New Brunswick and British Columbia, where particularly large declines occurred in the commercial sector. In New Brunswick, for example, unionization fell by almost half, from 29 to 16 per cent. ❏

## Congratulations on your retirement Brother Bolton!



*"To all the management and staff brothers and sisters of the IBEW Local 258 on my retirement from BC Hydro and IBEW Local 258: thanks for the jacket, hat, plaque and pins and the kind words from Doug McKay at my retirement lunch. And thanks for the support of the best union of all," Brother JP Bolton (above left), 35 year member.*

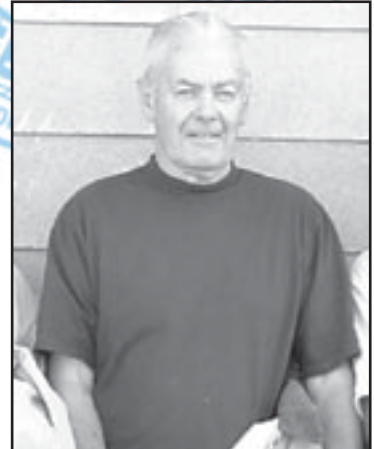


# IBEW Photo Opportunity

## 50 years of union membership



*Congratulations to Brother Pete Dimion of Salmon Arm who received his 50 year service award plaque from Brother Russ Calvert.*



*Congratulations to recently retired IBEW 258 member John McMillian.*



*Congratulations to Garth Jorde on his recent retirement.*



*With more than 130 years of service in the union, from left, long term members, Mike King, 38 years; Ken Brandsen, 54 years; and, Wayne McCarthy, 41 years.*



*Brothers Mike Ferrier and Frank McGowan with IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay in Queen Charlotte City.*



*Congratulations to recently retired Unit 3 members Greg Humphreys and Wayne Swanson.*



*Union members Bill Woodworth and Chuck Stewart-Burton at the Massett Diesel Station chatting with Assistant Business Manager Don McNabb.*



*Brother Charlie Robertson is busy at work at the Massett Diesel Station in the Queen Charlotte Islands.*

## **Brother Mike King's co-workers & friends gather on his retirement from BC Hydro in Fort St. John**



*Back row, Sam Kosolowsky, Hubert Kelly, Ed Shuster, Tim Stiemer, Clark Lavallee, Nels Londen, Ralph Steffensen, Mo Rowland, Terry Sheck, in front, Emil Richter, Greg Lamothe, Mike King.*



*Back row from left, Dan Taylor, Trevor Beason, Rick Roth, Bob Sebastiana, Ed Shuster, Kevin McNabb. Front row from left: Don McNabb, Mary Pinatore, Diane Mahood, Diane Standiss, Mike King, Fay McQuarrie.*

# Current Disputes

## Strikes and Lockouts

Canadian Media Guild (CMG) – VS – Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) (National)

Major Issues: Contracting-Out, Employment Security

Commenced: August 14, 2005

\*\*\*\*

United Steelworkers (USW) Locals 480 & 9705 - VS - Teck Cominco (Trail)

Major Issues: Early Retirement

Commenced: July 19, 2005

\*\*\*\*

Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU) - VS - Telus (BC and Alberta)

Major Issues: Contracting Out, Working Conditions, Wages, Benefits

Commenced: July 13, 2005

\*\*\*\*

Construction and Specialized Workers' Union, Local 1611 - VS - Wescon Enterprises Ltd. (Armstrong)

Major Issues: Seniority, Benefits, Concessions

Commenced: July 25, 2001

\*\*\*\*

Starbucks Unstrike

National Automobile, Aerospace, Transportation and General Workers Union of Canada (CAW), Local 3000 - VS - Starbucks

Major Issues: Job Security, Concessions, Seniority

Commenced: May 13, 2002

*CAW members are continuing to work while disregarding Starbuck's dress code and are leafleting customers at their own and non-union locations to spread the word about their dispute. CAW is asking for your help to Send*

*Starbucks A Message. For more information about the CAW STARBUCKS UNSTRIKE FOR JUSTICE AND DIGNITY check out the CAW Canada website at [www.caw.ca](http://www.caw.ca) and Send Starbucks A Message using the Starbucks "hot button" or via "Campaigns and Issues".*

Please patronize the following Vancouver and one Westbank Starbucks locations:

2531 E Hastings St, East of Nanaimo

3451 Kingsway, West of Joyce at Tyne

1702 Robson St, East of Denman

1095 Howe St, at Helmecken

811 Hornby St, across Vancouver Courts

1641 David St, East of Denman

Royal Centre Mall, Dunsmuir Entrance

1395 Main St, at the Skytrain

1752 Commercial Dr, at 2nd Ave

3492 Cambie St, at 19th Ave

1015 Denman St, at Nelson

22-3645 Gossett Rd, at Westbank Centre

## Hot Edicts

Construction and Specialized Workers' Union, Local 1611 - VS - Wescon Enterprises Ltd. (Armstrong)

\*\*\*\*

Telecommunications Workers Union (TWU) - VS - Telus (BC and Alberta)

The Hot Edict applies to Telus print ads.

## Boycotts

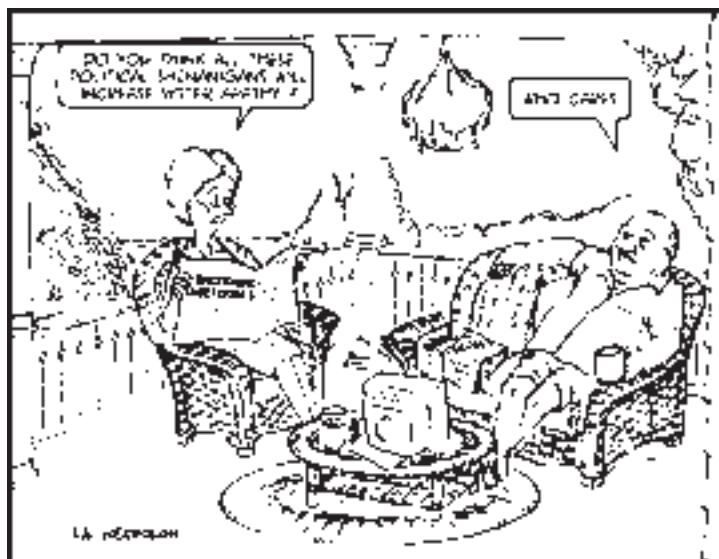
Non-Union Postal Outlets - CLC/BCFL - CUPW

Philips Electronic Products, Quebec - CLC - USWA 7812

Essex Kent Mushroom, Essex Continental Dist. Inc.

or Unionville Farms, Kingsville, Ontario - CLC/BCFL

- UFCW National





# Ruminations of a Retiree...

by Ken McEwen,  
Editor, **HOTLINE**



So here we are in the middle of summer. Well, by the time you get this it'll probably be late summer. I sort of remember that summer officially ends on September 20, or somewhere around there. I was thinking, the other day, that if I was a school kid I would be kind of cranky right about now. Like, as soon as BC Day is finished, all the stores and TV ads start talking about back to school. That kind of thing could sure ruin the rest of summer for you if you were a school kid. That's one thing about being a Retiree, no more real significance to "back to school" ads. Well, that's not entirely true. We kind of wait for "back to school" so the roads and campsites will be emptier for our wanders in the camper.

Earlier this summer, well actually late spring before the school kids were out, Catherine Dear, Sesame the Dog and I went on a drive in our camper to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. For the second year in a row. The difference this time being that we had a reason to go there. We attended a PleasureWay rally. No, it's not what some of you may be thinking. See, PleasureWay is the make of our camper. The factory is in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and every two years PleasureWay Industries hosts a rally. As Catherine Dear, Sesame the Dog or I had never attended a rally before, we decided to go. We didn't know if we would like it or not because there would be a lot of other people there. But we went and had a good time. Sometimes it was difficult to find our way home to our camper as there were 110 PleasureWay vans there and they all look pretty much the same. In fact, the people all looked pretty much the same too since 98% of the PleasureWay drivers there were Retirees. I haven't had time yet to ruminate on what all that means, if anything. I'll try to get around to it later.

One certain result from traveling to

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan two years in a row is that I will never again suffer in silence while those from East of the Rockies taunt us West Coasters about our rainy weather. For those two consecutive years, whilst East of the Rockies, to and from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, it rained almost every day. Not just a gentle coastal mist but a good old thundering down make everything wet rain. One memorable night even gave me reason to review my life insurance policies, if any. I never did really subscribe to the prospect of being worth more dead than alive, but that's for another column. Anyway, on this particular night the sky was full of rain and lightning and I had waited about as long as possible to take Sesame the Dog out for her nightly necessity. As I was leaving the camper, Catherine Dear handed me an umbrella and said, "Here, use this". Why, I pondered, does Catherine Dear want me to wander around on the prairie with the sky full of lightning holding an antenna over my head? Happily, discussion revealed that life insurance was not a consideration, as I have none, and that it was a desire on Catherine Dear's part to keep me

dry that prompted the offer of an antenna.

Speaking of discussion, I have found that it is critical to understanding what is happening around us. See, in day to day communications with Catherine Dear, I sometimes become confused and have to rely on further discussion for clarification. Now, this didn't happen in a flash, like lightning, but evolved over many years of not being really aware of what is supposed to take place. Consider the word "next" for example. It took me a long time and much discussion to learn that when, on a Monday, Catherine Dear says, "Next Friday we're going to go visit my sister", she doesn't really mean the Friday that comes next, but the Friday after that. It has been revealed to me, through discussion, that the next Friday to happen is really "this" Friday and "next" Friday is more than a week away. I have tried to explain my view that "next" means just that, the next one to come along. However, in our house, next Friday is still this Friday and the real next Friday will happen next week. There now, I've just gone and confused myself again. It's much easier to just get up in the morning and ask, "What's happening today?" At least I know that "today" is a constant.

In speaking of a constant, I am just about to run out of one. Space. I seem to have got to rambling and don't have enough space left to share my ruminations about inconstant things like gas prices, government policies and the weather. I will try to remember to do that next time. By "next" I mean the one after this.

So, with that explanation for the lack of in-depth ruminations, that's it for this time. Please continue to work, drive and play safely because, although it may not be next Friday or next week or next year, retirement is worth getting to. ☑

# News from around the Labour World

## HEU issues 72 hour strike notice against Sodexho

Citing poverty-level wages as the key issue, the union representing BC employees of a massive French hospital contractor issued 72-hour strike notice on September 12, 2005.

As a result, about 1,100 workers who provide cleaning, dietary and other health support services at a number of hospitals and care facilities in the Lower Mainland, on the Sunshine Coast and on Vancouver Island will be in a position to take strike action on September 14.

The Hospital Employees' Union has been negotiating for this group of workers for a first contract since March. And while most language issues have been resolved, no agreement has been reached on wages.

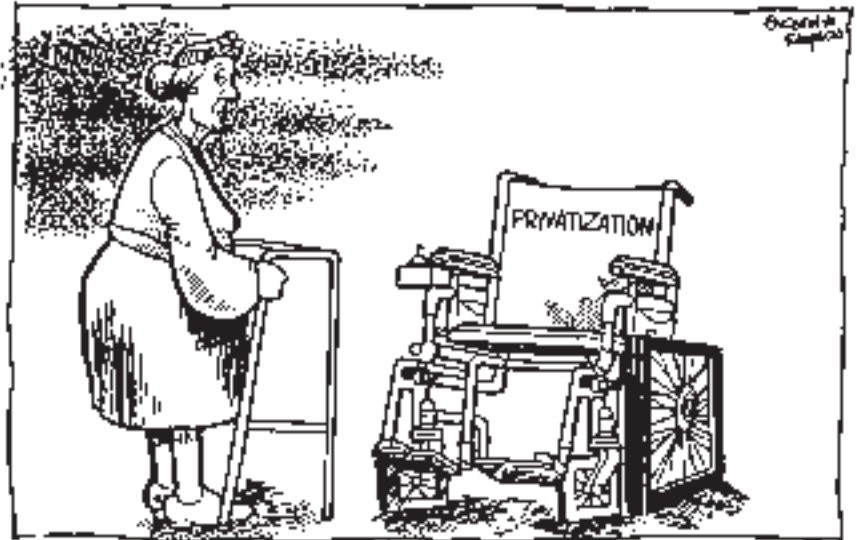
"In this dispute, Sodexho has clearly put its own foreign shareholders ahead of its responsibility to BC patients and taxpayers," says HEU secretary-business manager Judy Darcy.

"The results of this corporation's greed are clear: the lowest wages for hospital support work in the entire country and levels of staff turnover approaching 50 per cent annually."

In the two years since Sodexho won major privatization contracts in BC's health care system, the company's performance has been the centre of a number of critical media stories. In a recent cleaning audit, the company failed to achieve a passing grade at half of the hospitals it cleans for the Fraser Health Authority.

Sodexho pays \$10.15 an hour to 90 per cent of its workers – most of them women. The union has proposed bringing wage levels to about \$12.90 an hour to start and rising to \$14.90 an hour over four years.

Under BC's labour laws, HEU's Sodexho members will provide essential services staffing levels during strike action in order to ensure public safety.



*Wanna take a spin?*

Sodexho's largest contract in BC is a massive ten-year food services deal inked with VCHA in 2003 worth \$330 million. The company's five-year cleaning contract with the Fraser Health Authority is worth more than \$70 million.

Sodexho took in more than \$17 billion in global revenues last year. And its Paris-based CEO, Michel Landel, pocketed \$1.4 million in salary and benefits.

## Young workers paid 25 per cent less than 30 years ago

CLC/CALM – "You're a young Canadian with your whole future in front of you..." meant a lot more a generation ago than it does today.

Today, being a Canadian under 25 means even though you're better educated, you'll be paid less and be less likely to find a job compared to your parents in the 1970s and 80s according to a new report released by the Canadian Labour Congress to mark the United Nations' International Youth Day (August 12).

"Better Educated, Badly Paid and Under-employed: A Statistical Picture of Young Workers in Canada" says young working men, aged 15 to 24, earn 25 per cent less than young men

of the same age group did a generation ago (in real terms, adjusted for inflation). Young women seem to do a bit better, earning 20 per cent below what was paid to young women in the workforce 30 years ago.

The study also points out how, compared to all other workers of the same age group, young workers of colour experience higher unemployment, longer unemployment, lower salaries and fewer promotions—even when they are Canadian born.

## Health minister admits private clinics hurt health care

CUPE/CALM – Federal Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh told a Vancouver radio station in June that "when you have a lot of private clinics you will have all of the energy and all of the assets and all of the personnel drained from the public system, and the public system would be far worse that it is today."

Dosanjh also stated for-profit, private clinics are "absolutely not a panacea" for long wait times, and he admitted they are "not any more efficient or less expensive" than public health services. ☒

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# IBEW wear available from your union

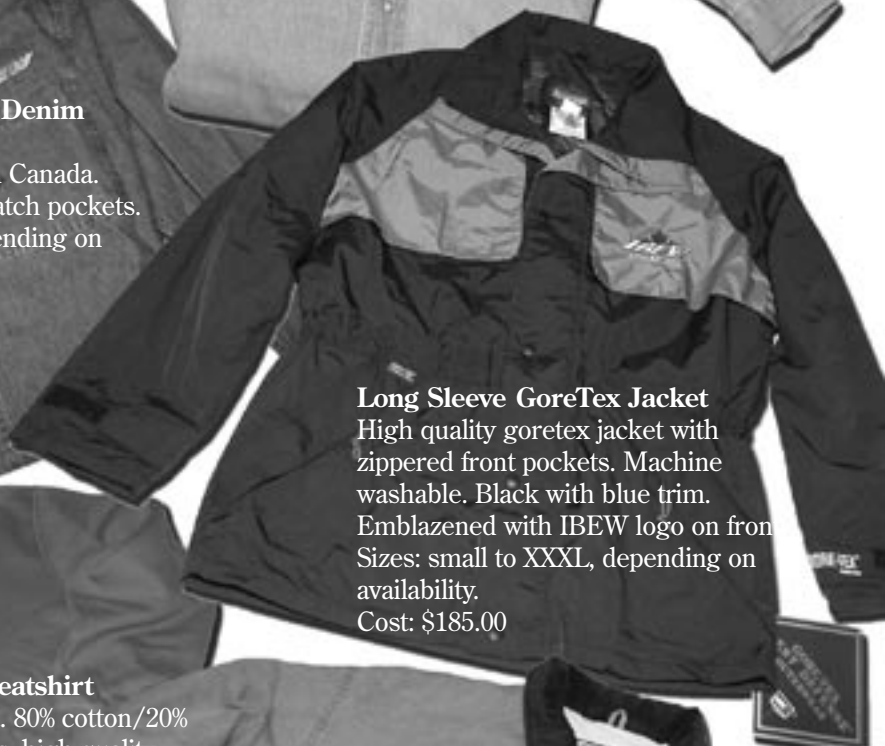
Show your support for your union. Take a moment to browse through our selection of golf shirts, jackets, caps and products with your union logo. Made in Canada by union members, these products also make great raffle prizes for fundraising events in your community. For information on ordering, please contact the local union office.



**Long Sleeve Ice Blue Denim Shirt**  
Made by MWG Apparel in Canada. 100% cotton with 2 front patch pockets.  
Sizes: small to XXXL, depending on availability.  
Cost: \$42.00



**Long Sleeve Dark Blue Denim Shirt**  
Made by MWG Apparel in Canada. 100% cotton with 2 front patch pockets.  
Sizes: small to XXXL, depending on availability.  
Cost: \$42.00



**Long Sleeve GoreTex Jacket**  
High quality goretex jacket with zippered front pockets. Machine washable. Black with blue trim. Emblazened with IBEW logo on front.  
Sizes: small to XXXL, depending on availability.  
Cost: \$185.00



**Fleece Full Zip Hooded Sweatshirt**  
Florida brand made in Canada. 80% cotton/20% polyester. 2 front slash projects, high quality embroidered colour logo. Full metal zipper. Available in heather grey, mustard gold, navy blue and denim blue.  
Sizes: small to XXXL, depending on availability.  
Cost: \$39.00





# From the Back Corner...

As you saw earlier in this issue, EITI had its first Trade Expo early this summer, drawing keen interest from youngsters thinking about their futures. Now, as the summer fades, and young people are going back to school, more and more mature students are thinking about the possibilities of a future career in a trade. There is a definite shortage of skilled trades people, meaning that there will be lots of work in the years to come, and the pay and benefits – thanks to organized workers – are pretty good.

As part of a national strategy to bring skills training of our trades back to the control of the IBEW, all Canadian locals were sent a survey to find out what the current status of training is. Of the results received, Local 258 is one of only three locals that own and operate a trade school that provides one hundred percent of the apprentice schooling and journeyman upgrading for one of the trades represented. In our case, of course, that is the Power Line Technician, or Line trades training.

Our strong commitment to the training, and the high skill levels of our tradespeople are matters we should be extremely proud of. Certainly, I believe that we are an excellent example of the best practices in training for our Union – our members training our trades in our school. After all, who knows the skills needed better than our own tradespeople, and who, therefore, is more qualified to pass on and protect those skills?

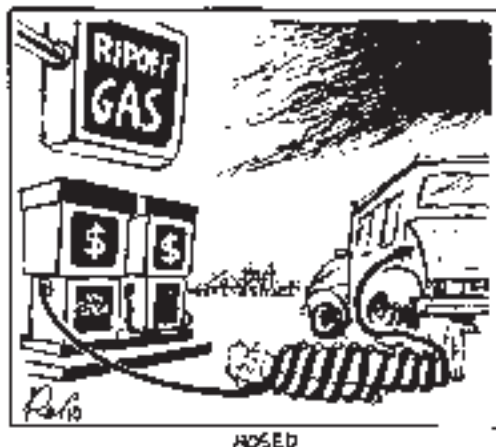
Over the past many months, EITI has been expanding the training on the utility electrician side, as well, and we will continue to grow with the same pride and commitment in that branch of our business. The Board of EITI, which presently is composed of the Executive Board of Local 258, met over the spring and summer to review and hone our strategy going forward. The report and results from that strategic planning have been circulated at union meetings for the past couple of months, and are available on their website at [www.eiti.bc.ca](http://www.eiti.bc.ca).



**Local 258 IBEW President  
Michelle Laurie**

We did well in the election last spring – bringing back a sizable opposition to keep government in check – we hope. The first session of the legislature started this month, so keep your ears and eyes open to ensure that your MLA is doing their job, whether that be in power or in opposition. Politics never stops, though – we are heading into municipal elections across the province in November, and will likely have a federal election in late winter or spring of 2006. I know that many of you continue to be active in your local politics, and that many more became active to make a big difference this past spring. It is difficult to stay abreast of all the issues, and to hear through the spins to find out where each party and player stands. With the widening gap between political ideals, though, it is increasingly crucial that we continue to be heard and to be counted. Worldwide, there is a pendulum swing to neo-conservative right-wing governments that are not concerned with the rights of working class people. As union members, we are concerned with social justice, human rights, and equal access to necessary services – we need to become somewhat politically involved to protect those important values.

Which brings to mind our own Union elections next spring (oops, did I say that out loud). Seriously, we have many activists within our membership, and I hope that you will consider running for an elected position within the Local. We can only grow stronger with active participation, and I encourage each of you to educate yourselves on the Local Union and Unit offices, and give serious thought to running for a position. ☑



Return to:  
IBEW Local 258  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

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