



# HOTLINE

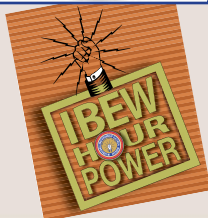
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
FALL, 2006

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Safety Rodeo returns to IBEW members working at BC Hydro



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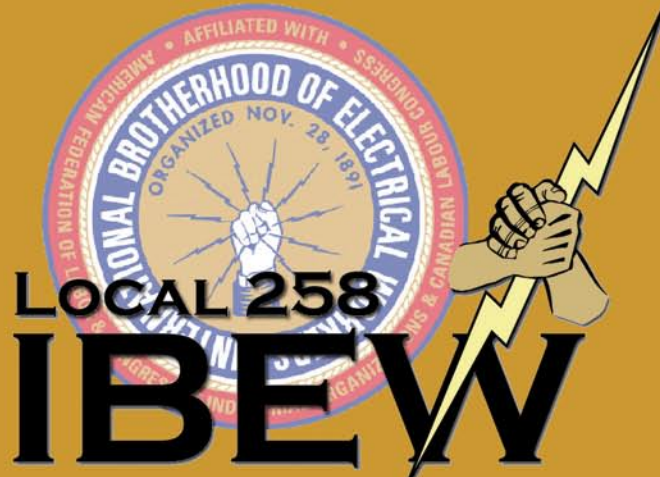
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**HOTLINE** Fall 2006

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### *THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS*

**HOTLINE** is the official newsletter magazine published for the members of Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in British Columbia, Canada.

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Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is affiliated to the British Columbia Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.

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Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** This year's Safety Rodeo, sponsored by Local 258 IBEW, COPE 378 and BC Hydro, returned to Surrey, BC after a long absence. Pictured are Local 258 members who travelled to Bonner Springs, Kansas for the International Lineman's Rodeo. Trophies that were handed out to the winners of the various competitions at the Surrey Safety Rodeo are also pictured.

Cover photos by Christine MacLennan and Michelle Boudreau.

## VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

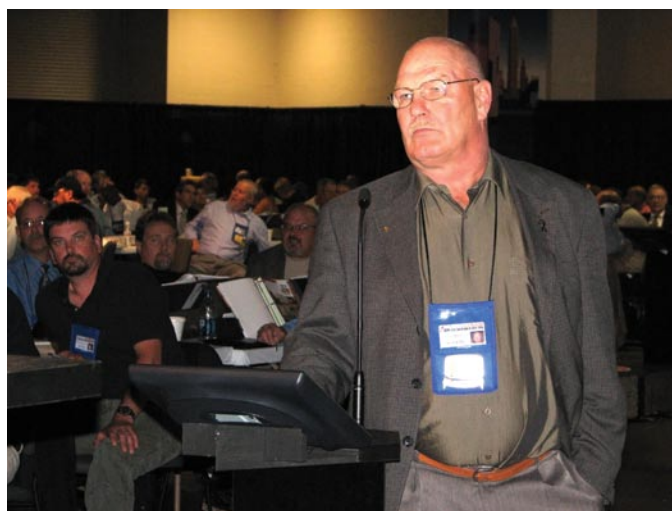
With the fall season heralding a return to school for many of our members' families, education and apprenticeship training is again at the forefront of Local 258 IBEW. The future for workers in our industry is defined by the thorough and comprehensive training they receive and the union is proud to have the best facilities in the business to meet this goal. At our Electrical Industry Training Institute in Surrey, 22 more apprentices moved through the program in September and more are on the way.

Your union has been working closely with industry stakeholders to ensure that training opportunities are expanded to focus on youth and our aboriginal youth in particular. Given the vast expanse of the province of British Columbia, it is imperative we continue to seek opportunities for youth to participate in a rewarding career in the electrical and power line trades. Our trade has always felt the best way for youth to experience our types of work is to give them an opportunity in a pre-apprenticeship training course.

But that is not enough in these days of competition for skilled labour. Here is where our power line apprentices have an advantage – if they undertake training at EITI, the union has negotiated a 50% repayment of tuition fees by BC Hydro when they are hired and the remainder of their tuition will be repaid at the end of one year of employment with the company.

But it's not only the new recruits into the industry that must be given fair treatment – our longer term members also need to have appropriate compensation, especially in this day and age where competition for skilled workers is at an all time high. Appropriate wage levels can ease the so-called "worker shortage" we hear employers squawking about. I believe it is not a shortage of workers, but a shortage of wages that is at play here. With BC Hydro's recent attempt to provide a "Retraction/Retention" bonus to some workers, the union has had to take a stand and demand that if a bonus is to be paid, it should be paid to all workers across the board – in every trade and at every skill level. Today's high cost of living in this province affects all workers, and it is unjust that the company single out one particular group for a bonus. The union will continue fight to ensure all members are appropriately rewarded with bonuses that pertain to keeping them in their jobs.

Our IBEW International Convention was held in Cleveland this year and over 5,000 delegates gathered to set the course for the future of our union. I had the pleasure of serving as the Chair for the Canadian Caucus election and am pleased to report that Brother Phil Flemming of Toronto was elected as the First District Vice-President and Brother Rick Dowling, Business Manager of our sister Local 213 here in British Columbia was elected as the



*Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay attended the 37th International Convention of IBEW held in September in Cleveland, Ohio. He also served as the Chair for the Canadian Caucus election that saw Local 213 Business Manager Rick Dowling of British Columbia elected as the International Executive Council Representative for Canada.*

International Executive Committee representative for Canada. Congratulations to our Brothers who have taken on these leadership roles.

As you will read in this issue of The Hotline, advances were made on the convention floor to deal with our pensions and I am pleased to fully support these resolutions.

Our Local union is looking forward to undertaking organizing initiatives here in British Columbia with the full support of our International Union. This 37th Convention was a hallmark event that saw leadership renewal and a strong focus on the future for IBEW members in North America. Organizing is the key to our future success and survival. Our president, Edwin Hill, has also expressed the union's intentions to seek out a Canadian venue for the next International Convention to take place in five years, and Vancouver is at the top of the list. We look forward to further developments in this area.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to continue to work safe. The busy Christmas season will soon be upon us, as well as the bad weather that often happens at this time of year. So stay focused and remember, if you don't think it's right, and you don't think it's safe, don't do it. ☑



# We've Got Mail!

Dear IBEW Local 258;  
Thanks for the great get well card and the gift. My hand surgery went well and I am back at work.  
Thanks once again,  
Pete Staff

Dear IBEW Local 258,  
Belly's Bullets, our Relay for Life Cancer Team would like to thank IBEW Local 258 for their donation in support of our team.

We also appreciate your encouragement to be involved with this cause.

Sincerely,

Brother Ed Mullin

Dear IBEW Local 258 Executive Board,

The Parent Advisory Council of the Brent Kennedy Elementary School in Crescent Valley thanks you for your contribution to the Annual Spring Carnival held on May 5th. We hope to purchase library books, support field trip transportation, and many other items that the children would otherwise go without, many of which are children of Local 258 members.

We are grateful. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Pete Jansen

Chairperson (President)

Brent Kennedy PAC

## HAVE YOU MOVED?

**If you have recently moved, make sure your local union office has your new mailing address.**

**Contact Local Union 258 IBEW and let us know your new address so we can make sure you continue to receive news alerts, The Hotline newsletter and be notified of current events.**

*Your employer is not responsible for forwarding your new mailing address in a timely fashion, so please let your union know where you are.*

**Call the office at 604-520-3305, fax us at 604-522-3371, or e-mail us at [ibew@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:ibew@ibew258.bc.ca)**



## Brother Brian Haugen retires as dispatcher

Brother Brian Haugen, a Local 258 IBEW member since 1969, retired from his position as Dispatcher this summer after working for 15 years in the union office.

Brother Haugen joined the union in 1969 and started as a regular in 1973 as a Driver/Helper in Quesnel. Moving to Sechelt in 1977, he was later

bumped to Store 1 as a Storekeeper, and in 1991 he came to work in the office, taking on the role as union dispatcher.

Brother Haugen served his union brothers and sisters as a Shop Steward many times during his career. Some of you will recall he was the winner of the 2nd Annual Safety Rodeo in 1990 when he won the Forklift Competition.

Thanks to Brother Haugen for all your years of service and the union wishes you many years of happy retirement. 📧

## 5000 delegates gather in Cleveland

# Historic 37th Convention confirms future benefits

This year's IBEW convention held in Cleveland, Ohio saw delegates unanimously supporting a resolution calling for increasing Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contributions to protect the fund's solvency and provide enhanced benefits.

The ratified PBF amendment, revising Articles IX and XI in the International Constitution, raises contributions by \$.70 per month on January 1, 2007; \$1.00 per month on January 1, 2008, and \$1.00 per month on January 1, 2010.

Currently a member who retires with 20 years of service contributes \$2,712 over the course of his or her career, resulting in a present benefit of \$79 per month at retirement. The new measure raises total contributions for a 20-year member to \$2,995 and provides a payout of \$90.

In recounting the proud 80-year history of the PBF, IBEW Secretary Treasurer Walters reminded delegates that the fund has not raised its contribution rate in 40 years. In 2006, the PBF paid out \$80 million in pensions and \$18 million in death benefits, totaling \$98 million. The PBF members' contribution totaled only \$45 million for a shortfall of \$53 million. If this situation were allowed to go unchanged, said Walters, the benefit levels would have to be reduced for those who have paid their monthly assessments.

"If we do the right thing today," said Walters, "there is still reason for optimism."

He asked delegates to support a \$2.70 increase over the next five years and a change in the calculation rate from \$3.50 to \$4.50 for all years of service. Walters encouraged locals to sign up more "A" members to build the health of the PBF.

The resolution gives the International Executive Council, as PBF fiduciaries, the discretion to modify future death benefit payments only for "A" members enrolled in the plan after a specified date, if it becomes apparent that the PBF's financial health is jeopardized by a sudden influx of new participants who are older than expected.

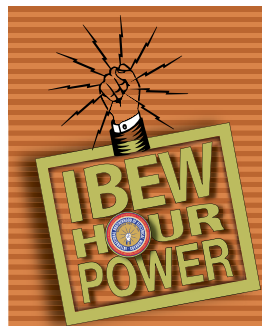
Article IX of the IBEW Constitution was reorganized under the resolution to provide for a separate listing of per capita taxes paid to the IBEW's General Fund and payments by "A" members into the PBF.

J.E. McElligot, Chicago Local 134, said: "As the oldest son of a retired electrician from Local 134, who's now celebrating his ninth month of his 16th year on pension with my mother ... I hope some day to join him in the ranks [of the retired]; and I hope he's still collecting his cheques when I get there." ☑



IBEW president Edwin Hill posed for photos with Local 258 IBEW delegates to the 37th Convention. From left, Brother Al Beeson, Brother Klaus Kraft, President Hill and Brother Jim Greenwell.

**For complete coverage of the 37th Convention of the IBEW go to Local 258's website and follow the links – you will be**



**impressed at the level of coverage of the convention and have an opportunity to see what happens when 5000 delegates from across North America stand strong in support of their union.**

[www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca)



*Delegates from Local 258 IBEW attended the convention.*



*Brother Al Beeson, delegate, and his wife Karen at this year's convention, pictured on left. On right are delegates Brother Bob Abernethy, left and Brother Don McNabb, Local 258 Assistant Business Manager.*



*Local 258 delegate Brady Prentice, above right, with Business Manager Wayne deDelley from Local 993 at the convention.*



*IBEW president Edwin Hill, left with Brother Jim Greenwell.*



*Brother Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress addressed delegates at the 37th Convention of the IBEW and received a standing ovation.*



*Brother Phil Flemming, shown above on right, was elected as 1st District Vice-President at the Convention, representing Canada.*



## Precedent setting case in BC Supreme Court

# Union seeking legal resolve

In early October the Union provided legal counsel to one of our members who is challenging a decision of the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal in the BC Supreme Court. The case attacks the Workers' Compensation Act and the policy that interprets the Act, as contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

In 2003 our member went off work after being diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of a workplace accident giving rise to a Level 1 Near Miss incident report.

Workers who experience a mental injury at work have the extraordinary burden of proving the triggering event was "traumatic". No such burden is imposed on workers who experience a physical injury.


Not only is the extra burden offensive, but WCB's approach to deciding whether the accident is "traumatic" involves polling co-workers to find out how they reacted to the event. The member's co-workers were told about his WCB claim and then polled on how they viewed the accident. Such a

process is offensive to our member's privacy rights, and again it sets up extra barriers to WCB benefits for persons with a legitimate mental injury claim.

If the member had tripped and broken his ankle in reaction to the accident his WCB claim would simply have been approved. The opinions of his co-workers on whether he acted in haste or whether the situation was truly dangerous would not matter.

In an oral decision from the bench on October 10th Justice Wong quashed the WCAT decision on the grounds of some "internal inconsistencies". Justice Wong refused to decide the Charter issues and further declined to identify any specific errors in the WCAT decision.


With the Union's support, our member is appealing Justice Wong's decision to the BC Court of Appeal. If successful, his case will have wide implications for all workers with mental injury claims across the Province.

The Union has taken on this case because of its precedent setting value for all Local 258 members. 

## Vancouver Island members about to begin bargaining

Brother Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager for Local 258 IBEW serving members on Vancouver Island, reports bargaining is about to get underway at a number of certifications including Island Traffic Services, Pacific Coast Flagging and Ace Flagging. Requests for proposals have been sent out to the members working at these companies and some proposal meetings have been held. Bargaining dates are being scheduled as contracts are about to expire.

Brother Klassen also reports there have been a number of safety concerns reported on Vancouver Island in regards to non-union flaggers being hired for traffic management on some Hydro jobs. The union is aware of these concerns and has been working closely with the parties to ensure collective agreements are upheld and best practices are maintained.

This summer's successful IBEW 258 Golf Tournament (see photos on page 16) provided a substantial donation to the MS Society of Canada when a cheque was written for \$7,000.00. Brother Klassen, along with Brother Mark Davison, worked together to put on this annual event, now in its 13th year. Many thanks to all the sponsors who donated a total of 144 prizes and to the Power Pioneers for all their help, as well as the volunteers from the MS Society who donated their time and efforts. The event was well attended and the weather cooperated, making sure a good time was had by all. 


## *ABM Giesbrecht reports busy summer and fall season*

For IBEW members working at the British Columbia Transmission Corporation, Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Assistant Business Manager for the union, reports that proposals for negotiations for the upcoming collective agreement are in the mail and members are encouraged to keep their eyes peeled for these important documents.

Brother Giesbrecht has been busy working on a number of grievances filed by IBEW members at various facilities in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley and reports one grievance is heading to arbitration in November. The union was also successful in working to remove a reprimand off the record of an IBEW member in a recent dispute with the employer.

This year's return of the Safety Rodeo,

sponsored by the union along with BC Hydro and COPE 378, saw Brothers Mike McMinn, an apprentice at BC Hydro and Brothers Shannon Sawchuk, Bruce Scott and Richard McGrath from Allteck succeeding in winning parts of the competition held in Surrey in September. The BC Hydro team who travelled to Kansas to compete in the International Lineman's Rodeo were Brothers Don McLennan, Al Bogetti, Trevor Williams, Doug Swoboda, Matt Tugade and Darryn Smith. Congratulations to all who participated.

In closing, Dan extends his thanks and appreciation to all the Shop Stewards in his servicing area who have been most helpful in managing issues on the shop floor as they arise. 





## *Fall bargaining set or underway*

# Improved wages and benefits on the table at CODE

IBEW members working at Code Manufacturing and Code Electric in Coquitlam are in bargaining for a new contract as the current collective agreement expired at the beginning of October. Bargaining committee members Brother Bobby Sami, Shop Steward at Code Manufacturing and Brother Craig Anselmo, Shop Steward at Code Electric have been working with Sister Susan Longva, Assistant Business Manager for Local 258 IBEW, on these negotiations. The union is seeking improvements to the wage and benefit package for members working at these facilities.

Sister Longva reports that members working at Cam Tran in Chilliwack are entering into negotiations for a new collective agreement with bargaining committee members about to be selected. The contract expires in December and proposals are being sent in the mail as The Hotline goes to press.

At All Clear Traffic in Gibsons, members have met to discuss proposals for the negotiations on the wage re-opener clause in the contract. Dates for bargaining will be set in the near future.

Sister Longva will be traveling to Kamloops for a union meeting scheduled with members working at Deb's Traffic Control in the last week of October. Members are being notified by mail as well as with notices in the workplace and are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The new Abbotsford and Chilliwack District Labour Council will be holding their first meeting in October and the union is seeking any interested members who would like to participate in this new labour council in the Fraser Valley. Please contact Sister Michelle Laurie at the union hall for further information. ☑

## Longva appointment ratified by labour delegates

*Sister Susan Longva was recently appointed by the Canadian Labour Congress as the Labour Representative for Western Canada on the Federal Executive Council of the NDP, an appointment that was ratified by the labour delegates at the recent Federal NDP convention held in Quebec City. Congratulations to Sister Longva who continues to play an active role in political action for the union. Seated from left in the photo is Sister Susan Longva, ABM for Local 258 IBEW and Brother Andy Ross, President COPE 378. Standing from left are Moonia Lhababi, Parliamentary Assistant to MP Peter Julian; Shelly Ervin, Secretary-Treasurer for UNITE HERE Local 40 in British Columbia and Peter Julian, MP for Burnaby-New Westminster.*



## *Weekend to End Breast Cancer*

Sister Susan Longva, ABM Local 258 IBEW, successfully reached a tremendous personal goal this summer when she was the Captain of a team of her family members known as "Shirl's Girls" (named after Sister Longva's mother), who participated in the "Weekend to End Breast Cancer", a 60 km. walk that took place over two days to raise funds for the awareness of breast cancer. With the support of numerous IBEW members, manufacturing employers and union Executive Board members as well as office staff from COPE and IBEW, Sister Longva and her team raised a substantial donation for this worthy cause.



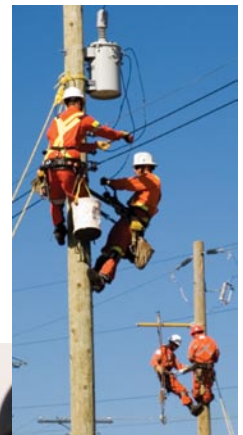
*From left are Nicole Borton, HSA member and Sister Longva's niece; Sandy Borton, Susan's sister; Sister Susan Longva; Nadine Borton, Susan's niece and Debby Morgan, Susan's sister.*

# SAFETY RODEO RETURNS TO LOCAL 258 IBEW MEMBERS WHO WORK AT BC HYDRO

After a long absence, the Safety Rodeo sponsored by BC Hydro, Local 258 IBEW and the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union Local 378, returned to BC Hydro's Campus in Surrey, BC. Thousands of people crowded the event, the majority being BC Hydro workers and their families, with many IBEW members engaging in

skilled competitions in everything from pole top rescue to forklift operation to Class 3 & Class 5 driving. There were also demonstrations in safety procedures and an opportunity for spectators to participate. Local 258 IBEW had a tent set up at the event and it was well attended by many visitors. Thanks to Brothers Jim Greenwell, Dan Giesbrecht and

Dan Klassen for their help at this year's successful event. Winners of top awards were Local 258 IBEW members Brothers Trevor Williams, Don McLennan, Al Bogetti, Doug Swoboda, Matt Tugade, Darryn Smith, Mike McMinn, Shannon Sawchuk, Bruce Scott and Richard McGrath. 🚧





## JLATTC

Joint Line Apprenticeship & Trades Training Committee

**Power Line Technician (PLT)**  
Journeyman Lineman

**Training Program**

- First Nations enabled
- Safe work practices
- Skill development

**Trades Trainee – first step towards apprenticeship**

- Entry probationary position (6 to 12 months)
- Educational prerequisites
- ALEX 3 driver license
- Contracted and selected
- Registered with the JLATTC and the apprenticeship committee



## Electrical Industry Training Institute

LOCAL 258

rapid changes in the utility industry present the world with a major challenge. The key to meeting this challenge is the generation and distribution of electricity. Innovative through investment provides the initiative necessary for both the IBEW and EC to rise to the new challenge.

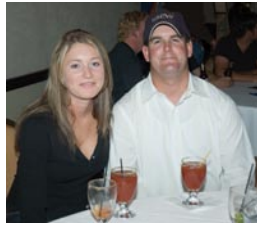
Considering an alternative industry career? Join the Electrical Industry Training Institute in celebration of Local 258 IBEW.



# SAFETY RODEO 2006 BANQUET

*Safety Rodeo participants and their guests enjoyed themselves during an evening celebration banquet hosted by Local 258 IBEW. Impressionist Don Hambley entertained guests as they enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey.*





# Kansas here we come!

Winners from the Safety Rodeo held in Surrey in September traveled to Bonner Springs, Kansas in October to participate in the 23rd Annual International Lineman's Rodeo. Local 258 IBEW members who work at BC Hydro who went are Brothers Trevor Williams, Al Bogetti, Don McLennan, Doug Swoboda, Darryn Smith and Matt Tugade, Mike McMinn, Shannon Sawchuk, Bruce Scott and Richard McGrath. On behalf of your union brothers and sisters, congratulations on all your efforts! Many thanks to Christina McLennan and Scott Brannlund who forwarded photos from the Kansas event.





# 13TH ANNUAL *Local 258 IBEW Golf Tourney raises money for MS Society of Canada*

Local 258 IBEW held it's 13th Annual Golf Tournament this summer and it was another successful fundraiser with proceeds going to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

Tournament organizers Brother Dan Klassen and Brother Mark Davison really pulled together this fun event, with lots of good prizes handed out at the banquet that followed the day of golfing.

Participants enjoyed themselves at the Golden Eagle Golf Club in Pitt Meadows. Many thanks to members of the Power Pioneers and the MS Society who volunteered their time to help out with the event.

Your union is proud to announce that the total amount donated to the MS Society was \$7,000.00. Thank you to all who participated and the union looks forward to seeing you all next year. 🏌️



*From left to right, Brothers Graham Dickie, Jim Greenwell, Dan Giesbrecht and Don McNabb.*



*Brother Dan Klassen, ABM with the union, stands in the midst of all the prizes that were distributed at the Golf Tournament banquet.*



*From left to right, Theron Breton, Rick Gerrard, Derrick Macgillivray and Steve Winkelman.*



*Brother Gary Cropley and Brother Mark Davison entertained their group of four at the IBEW Fundraiser Golf Tournament.*



# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

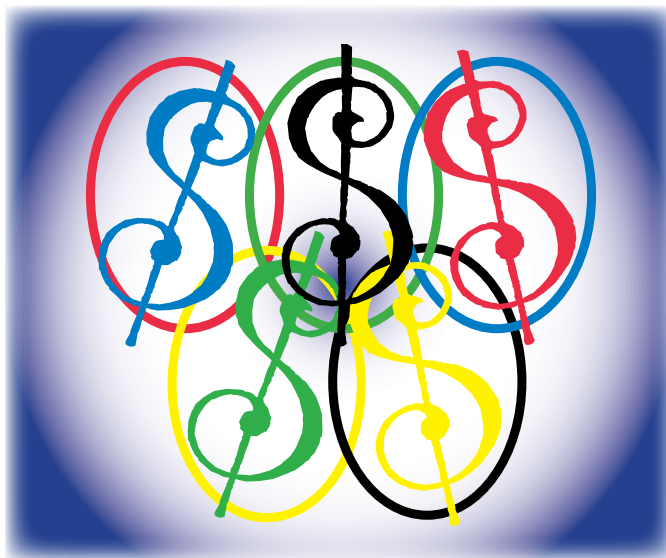
By Ken McEwen

Here we are again at the end of another summer. As my retirement progresses these summers seem to come around more often and go by more quickly than they did before. Now that summer is over, Catherine Dear, Sesame and I, along with the Canada geese and the hummingbirds, are starting to think about heading south for the winter.

This summer has been kind of a lazy one for me and so has provided time for rumination on a variety of subjects. Like, it puzzles me that so many people are surprised that hosting the 2010 Olympic Games is going to cost us a bunch more money than originally predicted. Every venue that hosted any Olympic Games in my living memory has had budget overruns of millions or billions of dollars. Why would we be any different? Newspaper columnists and editorialists tell us that the economic benefits flowing from hosting the 2010 Games will be in the billions of dollars. In my ruminations, I've conceded that there might be some benefit for the Whistler area or the greater Vancouver area, but I'm kind of at a loss to see how the taxpayers in the Hazeltons or in Likely will share in this largesse.

Lately, those same newspapers have been printing stories about MRI, CT-scan and ultra-sound equipment being idle for so much of the day that they can be rented out for private use. Now that would seem to be responsible management if the idleness was a result of a lack of clients. However, we're being told that there is a waiting list in excess of seven months for the MRI machines. In my simplistic view of the world, I kind of wonder why the machines aren't run all day every day until the waiting list is empty. I also wonder what would happen if the Utility Company said, "We don't have the staff to run the generators full time so we'll put you on a waiting list for power while we rent their use to California Edison". In the end perhaps it's a case of priorities and health care is a low priority item. That'll take some more ruminating.

When I get to pondering incomprehensible things, I often wonder who decided to put those hard little seeds on top of hamburger buns. Like when you go to any fast food restaurant all the buns are covered in those hard little things. All I want from a hamburger place is a hamburger in a hamburger bun. If I want to eat seeds I'm sure I can buy a package of seeds somewhere. I've speculated that the same guy may be responsible for foisting double sinks on an unsuspecting public. If you look at the hole in a kitchen counter top you can see that it would accept a pretty good sized sink. You know, a sink you could put a frying pan or a big roasting pan in without having it on an angle and causing water to be splashed about on the floor which gets you in trouble with the kitchen's other user. To me it's a waste of a good hole when the



sink provider puts in two little sinks instead of one big sink.

Another thing I've been trying to figure out is the signage for passing lanes on our highways. When we were wandering around BC in our camper earlier this summer and Catherine dear was enjoying her "quiet time", I took especial notice of these signs. Now some signs say "Slower Traffic Keep Right". That message always leads me to ask, "Slower than what?". Other signs say "Keep Right Except To Pass". That sign is pretty declarative and kind of makes perfect sense to me. For a while I thought that maybe the highway boffins alternated the signs so we wouldn't get bored with reading one message too often. That proved not to be true. Several times I noted that the "Slower Traffic..." signs came one after the other. Then I thought maybe the type of road or length of passing lane determined which sign was used. After extensive research and discussion on my part, Catherine Dear just says "Mmmmm", no conclusion has been reached. I will have to bear down and ruminate on this issue in greater depth.

One of the benefits I enjoyed during my working career with the IBEW was the opportunity to learn. I think the greatest strength of the IBEW is members' willingness to share knowledge and experiences with newcomers to the industry. On any job the newer worker can tap the vast wealth of skill and information held by the older hands. This willingness to share is what keeps the IBEW at the leading edge of the industry and ensures that what has been learned is kept available for future workers.

Please continue to work and travel safely because even in retirement the learning process continues. 📄

## Rallies held in lower mainland

# Unions protest increased use of temporary foreign workers

In a number of rallies over the past few months in Vancouver, union members have gathered together to protest the increased use of temporary foreign workers, at the expense of Canadian workers, on major construction and other projects in British Columbia.

With the revelations that workers brought in from Central and South America for the RAV line tunnel project in Vancouver were being paid less than minimum wage, and with applications being filed by the employer to bring in hundreds of temporary foreign worker for one of the largest bridge construction projects in the lower mainland as well as the recent arrival of temporary foreign workers to fill vacancies created when long time staff were fired at a care home in the Interior, members of the Ironworkers Union, IBEW 258, BCGEU, the BC Teachers Federation, HEU and the BC & Yukon Building Trades rallied to demand a tightening up of the application process and monitoring of the program that appears to be full of loopholes.

“This is not an anti-immigration demonstration,” said BC Fed President Jim Sinclair at one of the rallies, “It is an anti-exploitation demonstration.”

On the RAV line tunnel project, it was reported this summer the temporary foreign workers were being paid less than the minimum wage. The Labourers



Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay (top left photo insert) attended one of the rallies in downtown Vancouver to show support for union members who are being affected by the increased use of temporary foreign workers. BC Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair addressed over 200 workers who gathered at this rally outside government offices.

Union stepped in, organized the workers and have been fighting for a first collective agreement. The process is now at the Labour Relations Board as the union has filed charges against the employer for unfair labour practices when tactics of harassment and intimidation were uncovered during the negotiations leading up to a strike vote.

“Our union brothers at the Ironworkers report they have Canadian workers

ready to go, yet the company has filed application to bring in workers from outside the country,” says Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay. “The fundamental rights and labour standards for all workers are what’s at stake here. It appears to be a shortage of wages, not a shortage of workers.”

Federal NDP MPs from British Columbia, including Libby Davies (Labour Critic, Vancouver East), Bill Siksay (Immigration Critic, Burnaby North) and Peter Julian (International Trade Critic, Burnaby-New Westminster) are supporting the Canadian workers and are calling on the Harper government for an immediate and meaningful, multi-stakeholder review of the Temporary Foreign Workers program.

<http://www.ibew258.bc.ca>

Your  
union  
website



## 2006 United Way of the Lower Mainland campaign underway


The United Way of the Lower Mainland has launched their Fall 2006 Campaign and Local 258 IBEW encourages all of our members to participate in whatever way they can.

The long standing partnership between the Canadian Labour Congress and the United Way goes back more than 25 years. By working together we ensure that workers and their families have access to important social services and keep their communities strong by dealing with the root causes of critical social issues. The partnership between Labour and the United Way acts to prevent problems and create lasting solutions for people throughout British Columbia.

Local 258 president Michelle Laurie is

a senior labour volunteer with the United Way and this year's campaign again sees Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair Local 258 IBEW participating, with her local union support.

Labour and the United Way working together can focus on our common goal of ensuring that no one is forgotten, and we can utilize our shared capacities to heighten awareness and support for high quality social services that are easily accessed wherever they are need in our communities.

Watch your local workplace for notices about how you can help and your union encourages you to give generously to this year's campaign. 



*Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair Local 258 IBEW is a labour volunteer with this year's United Way campaign. She is shown here with Raj Chouhan, NDP MLA for Burnaby-Edmonds at the Union Label Annual Labour Day picnic held in Burnaby.*

## HYDRECS 2007 campaign launches province-wide

*To run from September 26 to December 1, 2006*

Each year BC Hydro employees and retirees launch a campaign to raise funds for registered charities across British Columbia through the BC Hydro Employees' Community Services Fund (HYDRECS).

All BC Hydro employees and retirees have an opportunity to participate in the HYDRECS fundraising campaign through payroll, cheque or time bank deductions.

The HYDRECS 2007 campaign will be running in BC Hydro offices across the province from September 26 to December 1, 2006. 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 16-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 2007 SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### Provincial Project

#### Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation - \$100,000

HYDRECS' donation of \$100,000 will contribute to the delivery of CPR training to all grade 10 students across British Columbia. In conjunction with the BC Ambulance Service and it's Paramedics Union, the ACT Foundation endeavours to annually train grade 10 teachers province-wide in the delivery of CPR.

#### Regional Projects

#### St. Vincent's Health Care

#### Foundation, Vancouver – \$30,000

HYDRECS donation of \$30,000 will support the electrical upgrade at Marion Hospice located across from Vancouver General Hospital in the Windermere Care Centre. Marion Hospice provides hospice care to people throughout Vancouver.

#### BC Schizophrenia Society, Prince George, – \$10,000


HYDRECS' donation of \$10,000 will

purchase equipment and launch a new lawn maintenance program within their Skills Development Employment program. The soon to be created lawn and garden maintenance program will employ 30 to 50 clients annually.

#### Our Place Society, Victoria – \$10,000

HYDRECS' donation of \$10,000 will purchase new furniture and equipment for the bed/sitting rooms in Our Place Society's new facility. Our Place Society provides many resources including housing for the homeless, advocacy, medical aid and employment assistance.

#### Castlegar and District Public Library Association, Castlegar – \$10,000

HYDRECS' donation of \$10,000 will help to upgrade the ramp that leads to the front door of the library and install three push buttons for automatic access. The lack of automatic doors makes it extremely difficult for people in wheelchairs or for people pushing strollers. 



*Brothers George Smith & Harry Funk were recently awarded their 35 year service pins by Unit 3 Vice Chair Ray LaPointe.*



*Congratulations to Brother John Wassing on the occasion of his 35 year service pin award. He is shown above with Brother Ray LaPointe, Unit 3 Vice-Chair.*



*Brother Leon Arishenkoff, Unit 3 Chair, awards Brother Frank Donaghy his 30 year pin.*



*Brother Ray LaPointe, left, congratulates Brother Gord Lawson and awards him a 30 year service pin.*



*Brother Terry Edwards was awarded a 5 year service pin by Brother Ray LaPointe, Vice-Chair Unit 3 pictured on right.*



*Brother Mark Larsen receives his five year service award pin from Brother Ray LaPointe, Vice-Chair Unit 3.*



*Willie Schmidt received a number of union gifts upon his recent retirement, including the jacket shown above - congratulations Brother Schmidt.*



*Receiving his 40 year service award pin is Brother Rudy Funfer. Pictured on the left is Brother Ray LaPointe, Vice-Chair Unit 3.*



*Sister Cathy Tagseth welcomes new member Brother Jeff Unger at the Unit 5 meeting held in Sechelt in September.*



## LABOUR NEWS

# Spending cuts to jobs and skills programs a backward step

### CLC/CALM

The Canadian Labour Congress says the Harper government is wrong to abandon its role in helping Canadian workers improve their skills and find good jobs.

"They've got their priorities all wrong on the jobs front," said Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

"Canadian employers are talking about skills shortages. Everybody agrees that investment in skills is crucial to building both a productive and an inclusive society. Yet the new federal government has decided to cut funding and abandon programs aimed at raising the skill levels of our workforce," he said.


Included in the \$2 billion in spending cuts announced in September was funding to youth employment programs, the beginnings of an attack on federal government employees, and supports for industrial development in the midst of a major crisis in the manufacturing sector.

Pointing to the OECD's latest Economic Survey of Canada, which highlights the country's high proportion of adult low-wage workers who lack basic skills and cannot get training, Georgetti says the spending cuts are a backward step.

"Raising the basic numeracy and literacy of these workers would do more to raise overall productivity and address the shortage of skilled workers than any tax

cut in the next budget," said Georgetti.

He also questioned the logic of the decision to shut down the Canadian Labour Business Centre, which represented the only forum in Canada where business, labour, the federal government and the provinces came together and were working toward solutions to the shortage of skilled workers.

Georgetti said workers should seriously question, not just these cuts, but also the lack of advance consultation. The labour movement will need to redouble its efforts to stop this government from any further shift away from their responsibility to help ordinary working people. 

### Humour corner

Internet/CALM

*"When I die, I want to die like my grandfather. He died peacefully in his sleep, not screaming like the passengers in his car."* – Anonymous

*"The problem with being the designated driver is it's not a desirable job. But if you ever get sucked into doing it, have fun. At the end of the night, drop them off at the wrong houses."* – Jeff Foxworthy

*"If a woman has to choose between catching a fly ball and saving an infant's life, she will choose to save the infant's life without even considering if there is a man on base."* – Dave Barry

*"Relationships are hard. It's like a full-time job, and we should treat it like one. If your boyfriend or girlfriend wants to leave you, they should give you two weeks' notice. There should be severance pay, and the day before they leave you, they should have to find you a temp."* – Bob Ettinger



I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and early fall this year. As you have seen in this issue of The Hotline, it has been a busy time for the Local Union, and for our International. Since our Convention only occurs every fifth year, there was a fair bit of business to cover in the five days of the event. I was very pleased to have been appointed to the Resolutions Committee for this 37th Convention, and to have the privilege of working with our Brothers and Sisters from each District of the Union. Although many of the resolutions were straightforward, there were others that created specific regional problems, and I am pleased to say that we were able to reach consensus on the Committee's position for each.

Your delegates all did a great job, and I congratulate you on making wise choices, and thank each of those elected delegates – Brothers Doug McKay, Klaus Kraft, Don McNabb, Leon Arishenkoff, Tom Greenwell, Brady Prentice, Bob Abernethy, Jim Greenwell and Al Beeson for their commitment and engagement during the Convention. I hope that you have had a chance to review the resolutions, speeches and debates that occurred by connecting to the website. The matter of per capita dues and pension funds was critical, (if you were not able to attend a union meeting in October, please go to our website for an update) but the plan for organizing that President Hill set out lays the groundwork for major change in the way that our International operates. This innovative initiative should mean that we will have resources dedicated to identifying and organizing non-construction groups in western Canada.

As our US Brothers and Sisters are heading into congressional and senate elections this November, political discussions were front and center at the Convention. The American opinion is that Canada is seen as having progressive social and labour legislation, and Brother Ken Georgetti, our Canadian Labour Congress Pres-

## From the Back Corner

Report from  
Michelle Laurie,  
President, Local 258 IBEW




### *The International Convention...*

*Your delegates all did a great job, and I congratulate you on making wise choices, and thank each of those elected delegates – Brothers Doug McKay, Klaus Kraft, Don McNabb, Leon Arishenkoff, Tom Greenwell, Brady Prentice, Bob Abernethy, Jim Greenwell and Al Beeson for their commitment and engagement during the Convention.*

ident, received a standing ovation when he described labour's engagement in Canadian politics.

Sadly, however, when I returned home at the end of September, I learned that the Harper federal government has eliminated the Training Centre Infrastructure Fund. This fund was originally established under the Paul Martin minority Liberal government, and was money provided to trades training facilities, for the most part union owned or operated, for obtaining new equipment to ensure that training could be provided on current and emerging technologies and techniques. Any funds granted under this program were matched by the facility. Eight IBEW training centres, including EITI, our own school, received funding last year, and had applied again this year. Apparently, while our government talks a great deal about the need

to increase trades training, they are not committed to programs that enable that training.

I hope that you have each taken the time to write to your MP about the upcoming anti-scab legislation. The vote was very close last time, proving that this is an issue that crosses party lines – an issue of fairness for working people. We in British Columbia are fortunate to have similar legislation already in place provincially, and we must fight to ensure that all workers' right to effective bargaining are protected. 

# SAFETY FIRST

If you don't think it's right  
and you don't think it's safe

# DON'T DO IT

*THE UNION OF  
HEARTS AND MINDS*

LOCAL 258

IBEW



RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:  
7535 SIXTH STREET,  
BURNABY, BC V3N 3M2

