



# HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
SUMMER, 2008

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

## SAFETY MATTERS

**As IBEW Local 258  
mourns the recent  
loss of three of our own,  
safety is once again  
at the forefront  
of our union.**

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**MEMBERS COME TOGETHER TO HELP INJURED  
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**HOTLINE** Summer 2008

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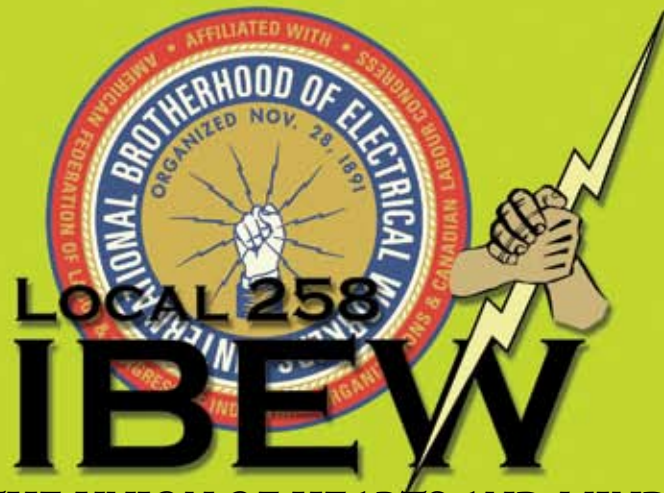
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### *THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS*

**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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## VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay


With the recent tragic deaths of three of our members – Brother Terry Mitchell, Brother Dirk Rozenboom and Brother Rob Lehmann – my heart goes out to the families, friends, union brothers and sisters and their colleagues at work who have been touched by their absence and sudden departure from our lives.

I could use my message in The Hotline to speak out in anger, generated from my heartfelt sorrow. I could ask questions like, “What will it take to make sure we work in safer environments?” and “Why were these brothers taken from us, their children and families, and their communities, in such a tragic and sudden way?”. But where would that get us? I know we all feel the loss and that speaking out in anger is a natural response, but somewhere deep down inside, we also know that anger can eat you up if you let it.

I’ve unfortunately discovered that one of the most difficult parts of this job as your Business Manager is showing leadership and strength at a time when tragedies of worker fatalities and serious injuries occur. Thankfully, these events are rare, but when sorrow is enveloping families and co-workers, it is heartwarming to see our membership respond by coming together in strength and solidarity to honour those taken from us and assist those left behind. This strength of character is a trademark of our union, and I applaud and thank those who take the time out of their lives to come to funerals or to offer assistance to the families left behind.

With the recent deaths of Brothers Mitchell, Rozenboom and Lehmann, I have again witnessed the power of the heart in our membership as we come together to begin the healing process. As we each proceed through our grief, I have also seen the pride of our membership in belonging to an organization that reaches out to find strength in one another.

I am proud to be a member of this union whose members consider the future of the young children left behind with the loss of a parent from a workplace accident. For these members who have paid the ultimate price, our union has begun the process of establishing trust funds to help secure the future of these young children. This show of respect is the true leadership of our union, and I thank you for supporting this initiative.

In light of these recent tragedies, it is a stark reminder to us all of the importance of safety in the workplace. Even though tragic accidents can happen no matter what precautions we take, we must continue to do all we can to work safe, to watch out for our brothers and sisters, and to keep those who have been taken from us close to our hearts and in the forefront of our minds. 



*Brother Dirk Rozenboom*



*Brother Rob Lehmann*



*Brother Terry Mitchell*

# 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





# We've Got Mail!

Brother & Sisters;

Just a big thank you for the nice gifts I received at my retirement lunch. It was great to see some of the "old retirees" like Bill Parrish and Lloyd Gratton, both looking very fit.

It was especially nice to have Brother Jim Greenwell present me with the gifts. I have known Jim since the old Surrey electric shop days in the seventies, and have worked together at various headquarters over the years. Thanks Jim.

I would also like to thank Local 258 for providing the benefits over the last 33 years to enjoy a nice home, holidays and the time off to watch my two kids in their various activities. So once again, all the very best to all the members I have worked with at BC Hydro.

Yours truly,  
Al Burton

Dear IBEW,  
Thanks for being so thoughtful...  
and thanks for thinking of me!  
Sincerely  
Heather Esplan

Dear Doug McKay,

I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to tour the Burn & Wound Healing Lab and the Burn/Plastic/Trauma Unit at VGH on February 1st. I would also like to thank you and Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for the very generous \$7,500 contribution which has been put toward the groundbreaking research taking place in the Wound Healing Lab under the leadership of Dr. Aziz Ghahary.

The Division of Plastic Surgery and the staff of the Burn/Plastic/Trauma Unit has been proud over the years to look after many of your embers. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to be involved in a place that has real meaning for them. If I can be of any help in touring your members through the Unit in the future, I would be delighted to.

Yours sincerely  
Nicholas J. Carr, MD  
Head, Division of Plastic Surgery  
University of British Columbia



Dear IBEW Local 258 and Doug McKay,  
Thank you for your letter on April 3 on behalf of my two children I write you this thank you note.

We greatly appreciate your generous contribution towards David and Annika's post secondary education.

Sincerely,  
Ulrika Spence

Dear Doug,

George and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help in securing an additional \$15,000 from BC Hydro for the children's trust fund.

We are very fortunate to know Todd had such caring friends who are still thinking of him and the interest of his children.

David and Annika continue to grow and mature. We are very lucky to be able to have them for three weeks this summer and I know Todd would be so proud of them as we are.

Take care and thanks for your help and interest in his children's welfare.  
As ever,  
George & Barb Spence

Dear IBEW staff and fellow members,  
My wife Anita and I would like to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in sending a wonderful basket of fruit and goodies during my recent illness. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you again for your kindness and concern.

Sincerely  
Ron Spohr  
CPC Tech in Vernon

Hi Brother Jim Greenwell,

Thank you for attending my retirement lunch on Wednesday, February 13, 2008. I appreciate the IBEW jacket, plaque and pins you presented to me. These mementos will certainly keep the IBEW in my memory as I go into retirement.

All the best  
Noel Malubag



Dear Madam,

The Coquitlam Sabres Hockey Team, coaches and parents would like to thank you for your generosity for the donation in the amount of \$200.00. The funds received assisted the team with attending tournaments.

Yours truly,

- |                     |                   |                        |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| #1 Dakota Liboiron  | #7 Ben Forsberg   | #12 Michael Caan       |
| #2 Sean Marshall    | #8 Josh Shigetomi | #14 Eric Thiessen      |
| #4 Brandon Humphrey | #9 Taylor Raiche  | #16 Matthew Hackett    |
| #5 Kevin Groulx     | #10 Evan Kear     | #17 Christopher Urbani |
| #6 Andrew Lamboff   | #11 Aiden Seely   | #18 Tyler Prentice     |
- Coach: Rob Hackett, Asst. Coaches: Brady Prentice, Dave Liboiron

Dear Michelle Laurie,

On behalf of the Saskatoon & District Labour Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for addressing the delegates of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Saskatoon & District Labour Council on Saturday, February 9, 2008, at the Heritage Inn.

I know that I can speak on behalf of the delegates by saying how much we enjoyed seeing you at our convention and that your comments were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We look forward to seeing you at future Saskatoon & District Labour Council events.

In solidarity,

Kelly Harrington,

President, Saskatoon & District Labour Council

Dear IBEW

I would like to thank the IBEW for the wonderful fruit basket while I was off.

Bob Verhoeve  
Salmon Arm



To Michelle Laurie & Local 258 IBEW Staff,  
Thank you for supporting the MS Society of Canada's 2008 Carnation Campaign!

Bev Matsu  
MS Society, BC Division

## HAVE YOU MOVED?

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

**Contact Local 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 [info@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:info@ibew258.bc.ca)**

Dear IBEW,

I would like to thank Dan and IBEW 258 for the gifts given to me on my retirement from BCTC. The plaque, IBEW jacket and baseball cap are greatly appreciated and will be worn proudly.

Ken Wakahara

Dear Local 258,

I would like to thank the IBEW members and Leon for the great retirement gifts (especially my new jacket!).

I would especially like to thank the Union for working with BC Hydro to keep us all safe and healthy over the years so now we can play.

Ken Essery

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



## BARGAINING REPORTS

# Members at Valley Traffic succeed in getting a new contract after difficult negotiations

By Susan Longva

Assistant Business Manager, Local 258 IBEW

After rejecting a tentative agreement in January, members of Local 258 IBEW working for Valley Traffic succeeded in bargaining a new collective agreement after difficult negotiations took place over the late winter/early spring.


With their previous contract expiring at the end of December, Assistant Business Manager Susan Longva reports the negotiations for more than 120 members were challenging from the start. "Our members working for Valley Traffic stuck together and were firm in their demands throughout this set of bargaining," she described in a recent interview with The Hotline.

Contributing to the difficult bargaining atmosphere was the influence of

the increase in non-union traffic control companies throughout BC, in particular in the lower mainland. It is felt that many of these new start-ups are of questionable legitimacy, and their presence as fierce competition impacts on companies with experienced workers as construction contractors are often forced to favour the lowest bidder and disregard important issues such as experience and safety-trained workers.

The industry in general is expressing some concern about an overgrowth of competition in this growing industry as promises of projects such as the Evergreen Line still sit on the drawing board as the BC Liberal government tries to secure funding.

Nonetheless, Valley Traffic's Bargaining Committee was successful in achieving a three-year agreement that was ratified by the membership on May 22, 2008. The new contract features significant improvements to the health & welfare plan and up to nine percent wage increases. A new classification of supervisor with an enhanced pay rate was also obtained during the negotiations. Many thanks to Bargaining Committee members: Rebecca Huggins, Laurie Blancard and Angelia Fox.

*Update on Lanetec — Congratulations to the thirty IBEW members who work at Lanetec Traffic Control who ratified a new collective agreement in January that sees a new three year contract with wage increases and benefit improvements.* 

### Attention all Local 258 IBEW \*A\* members


**This is a reminder to all \*A\* members to update your beneficiary information for your International Pension when there is a change in your personal status. Please contact Janice or Eileen at the Union office in Burnaby for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 604-520-3305 Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305**

## AND THE 2008 TOM FORKIN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ARE...

Many thanks to this year's applicants for their hard work in researching and writing their submissions for the annual Tom Forkin Scholarships.

This year's applicants were asked to write an essay in response to the question: "What are the economic and environmental impacts of private power production in British Columbia?"

The successful candidates were **Molly Brewis, Kim Lipscombe and Denise Lipscombe.**

Congratulations and the union wishes you the best in your future educational endeavours. The winning essays can be read on-line at Local 258's website, [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) 

## Spotlight on IBEW Shop Stewards

As one of the union's longest serving Shop Stewards, Brother Tim Mitchell recalls the day he took on the role of representing his union brothers and sisters in the workplace.

"It was shortly after we became certified with IBEW Local 258 in the mid-eighties," said Mitchell, a trained Utility Arborist who works at Asplundh in Aldergrove, BC. "I wasn't really too sure what the union was asking for when they held that first meeting at the shop. I think it was the Business Manager at the time who asked, 'We need a Shop Steward, and we're not leaving here until we get at least one of you to step forward'. All I knew is I wanted to the meeting to end, so I volunteered to be the Shop Steward!"

Over the years, Brother Mitchell has been the voice of IBEW Local 258 at Asplundh in Aldergrove and has worked closely with a number of ABMs over the years to help deal with workplace issues. He has also been a member of a number of Bargaining Committees when it came time to negotiate new contracts.

"The guys I work with are pretty good," said Mitchell. "We all look out for one another and when they need to find out something about the contract or if there's an issue we have to deal with, I'm always glad to be able to help them out."

One of the roles a Shop Steward plays in the workplace is to understand the collective agreement inside out. But as stressful as that may sound, it is actually an ongoing learning process, as

often a situation a worker may face or need information about is uniquely individual. "I've always been able to find the resources to address the issues we come up against in the workplace," said Mitchell, "And with the help of the ABMs, together we usually

get the problems dealt with and we can go on about our business."

Mitchell says he has participated in Shop Steward Training many years ago and found it to be very beneficial. "I'm looking forward to being able to get to the next Shop Steward Training course the union puts on. I hear they're pretty good," Mitchell said.

ABM Dan Giesbrecht from Local 258 describes Brother Mitchell as a stand up guy who has been successful at dealing with issues on the shop floor so they don't get to the point of grievances having to be filed. Brother Mitchell also plays a role on the Health & Safety Committee at his workplace.

Tim lives in Langley and likes to spend his spare time gardening, when the weather cooperates! 🌱



**IBEW Shop Steward  
Tim Mitchell,  
Asplundh Tree Expert Co.,  
Aldergrove, BC**



*Brother Tim Mitchell, above center, with two of his co-workers at Asplundh in Aldergrove. From left Brother Pat Smith and on right, Brother Cory Zeitner.*

# Selling the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg

The public outcry this spring over the Upper Pitt River dam proposal was heart-warming. The people of this province do not trust private industry to protect the rich ecosystems that support our wildlife and vegetation, or to keep the lights on.

British Columbians are among the most environmentally conscious on the planet. Soon, we may even wake up to the fact this provincial government is selling our birthright. Through legislation, the Liberals have banned BC Hydro from developing new power sources, including green power sources (with the single exception of the much debated Site C on the Peace River, BC Hydro is prohibited from building new generation stations). Instead, through their Energy Plan, the Liberals have instigated a gold rush mentality among private Independent Power Producers (IPP's) who are eager to churn high profits out of our rivers and streams.

These are intertwined environmental and economic issues. In 2007, BC Hydro (BCH) turned a net profit of \$407 million, \$266 million in 2006 and \$402 million in 2005. By far, BCH is the most lucrative crown corporation in the province, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars each year to the public coffers that support health and education. By owning and controlling its own assets, BC Hydro has provided cheap and stable energy to residents while attracting both large and small scale industry to the province. For 40 years, BC Hydro has created wealth.



by **Doug McKay**  
**Business Manager,**  
**Local 258 IBEW**

And yet the Liberals choose to hand over the goose that laid the golden egg to the IPP's. Under the Liberal mandate, BC Hydro, as a shell, will continue to exist, but in the face of ever increasing demands for power, it will be the IPP's who take over the landscape with their for-profit agendas and stakes driven so deep into the infrastructure they will be impossible to disgorge.

I'm not against private industry. The IBEW has many members who are employed by many private companies who work as contractors to BC Hydro. Our members provide a valuable service in helping to maintain British Columbia's energy infrastructure. But they are beholden to BC Hydro, and BC Hydro is beholden to the citizens of this province. That's a system of public accountability we have every reason to trust.

BC Hydro has the economic leverage to develop and build its own green power sources. It has an unmatched track record domestically and internationally.


With a stellar credit rating, BC Hydro is able to borrow money at a rate private investors can only dream of. For example, if large amounts of money are needed to develop and build sustainable green technology, BC Hydro can borrow the lion's share at a rate much lower than an IPP or private industry.

And yet the Liberals are back-dooring the sale of our energy resources.

Recent TV and newsprint ads announce that British Columbia imports power from other jurisdictions. These ads are mis-

leading at best. BC imports power when it's cheap to do so — at night and during off seasons to retain water storage. But BCH sells power when it can get the best price. For example, in 2007, BCH bought \$1.1 billion worth of electricity, but its subsidiary, PowerEx, sold \$1.4 billion during the same period.

The point of the ad campaign is to sway opinion towards the justification of IPP's the IPP's. The Liberals want us to believe that if we're short of power, the IPP's are the answer. But nothing is further from the truth.

New legislation that permits BC Hydro to develop its own green power sources is the answer. Only then will we preserve our system of public accountability and the ability to keep every golden egg that drops from the belly of this wonderful province. 



# 15th Annual IBEW — BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Shotgun Start  
at 1:30 pm**

**Fundraiser for the  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society of Canada**

**Monday, September 15, 2008  
Burnaby Mountain Golf Course  
7600 Halifax Street  
Burnaby, BC**

- **Team Play  
Competition**
- **Long Drive**
- **Hole-n-One**
- **KP**

**Entry Fee: \$85.00  
includes steak dinner  
& prizes for all**

*Early Birds!  
Register by August 31  
and you'll be entered in a  
draw for golf for four at  
Burnaby Mountain  
Golf Course!*

To get tickets and/or to reserve a  
golf cart, please contact  
Dan Klassen at 604-312-5929 or  
604-520-3305, or Mark Davison at  
604-469-6251.

Make cheques payable to  
IBEW Golf Tournament  
and mail to:  
IBEW Local 258  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2



# Valley Traffic workers mourn the loss of one of their own



Local 258 IBEW members, above from left, Tina Perrault and Vicki Boesterd. Brandi Butler, right, was with Brother Mitchell when the accident happened.



made the call to Vicki. She received a call from her co-worker, Brandi Butler, who was working on the same job site as Terry when the accident happened. Tina recalled Terry's dedication to his job and his co-workers when interviewed for Local 258's member magazine, *The Hotline*.

"We couldn't believe what happened and are still in shock that it really could

When the call came in that her friend and colleague had been killed in a workplace accident, IBEW member Vicki Boesterd was left speechless. And if anybody knows Vicki, that's an almost impossible feat.

have happened to anyone who was on site that day. Terry did everything right – it was a tragic turn of events," she said.

An elderly Abbotsford man, who was driving without a valid license, has been charged in the death of 52 year old Mitch-

Tatjana Kelch, safety officer for Valley Traffic, is involved in the follow up investigation being done by the Workers Compensation Board and expects a report will be available sometime soon on this incident. "There is an ongoing police investigation along side our review, as is usual in an event of this type", she said.

Mitchell is the third flagger to be killed on the job since 2004, according to WCB.

IBEW Assistant Business Manager Susan Longva said, "This event has hit these members very hard. Terry was well liked and was an excellent employee for Valley Traffic. More awareness is needed about the safety risk these workers face every day on the job as they try to protect motorists' safety. They consistently put themselves at risk but it seems some members of the public don't always respect the work they do as these workers, many of them women, are subjected to insults,



Her co-worker, Terry Mitchell, had been killed while working as a flag person on a job in Fort Langley on that Monday morning in late February of this year. The shockwaves rippled through the workplace and extended out into the community, as Terry was not only well known but well liked by so many. To Vicki, and many others, it felt like she had lost a member of her own family.

"Terry had this ability to make you smile on your worst day," said Boesterd, an instructor with Valley Traffic and IBEW member for the last nine years. She knew Terry since he came to work with Valley Traffic in 2000. She helped recertify him to do the difficult work of a flag person.

Valley Traffic worker Tina Perrault



ell, who leaves behind to mourn his wife Allison and his family, along with his co-workers and hundreds of members of his community.



Allison Mitchell, center, widow of Terry Mitchell, attended this year's Day of Mourning event with Michelle Laurie, right, President, and Susan Longva, left, ABM, Local 258 IBEW.



threats and driver frustrations as they try to do their work."

Mitchell's co-workers have erected a temporary memorial at the site where he lost his life on February 25 at the corner of River Road and Mavis in Fort Langley and have plans to erect a permanent memorial on the site. Mitchell's widow, Allison, was in attendance at the Day of Mourning services that took place at Burnaby City Hall this year. ☘

# Campbell government rams through seven bills on final day of legislature

This year's spring legislative session in Victoria ended with the Campbell Liberal government ramming through seven new bills into law that have brought British Columbians, among other things, a new fuel tax with Bill 37, new threats to our public health care system with Bill 21, and the implementation of a "gag law" that denies British Columbians the ability to exercise their right to free speech by limiting third party advertising from mid-February until after the provincial election next year on May 12, 2009 – Bill 42, the Election Amendment Act.

**Just SHUT UP BC** | Bill 42 changes the definition of election advertising to mean "the transmission to the public by any means, during the period beginning 120 days before a campaign period and ending at the end of the campaign period, of an advertising message that promotes or opposes, directly or indirectly, a registered political party or the election of a candidate, including an advertising message that takes a position on an issue with which a registered political party or candidate is associated."

Bill 42 also severely limits any spending on public interest communication for a full three months before the election. Public advocacy organizations, environmental groups, unions and others will have their ability to print materials or buy advertising limited to \$3,000 in a single electoral district or \$150,000 in total from February to the election in May, 2009.

## Late Breaking NEWS! BC unions launch legal challenge against gag law

June 26, 2008 - Seven of British Columbia's largest unions, along with the BC Federation of Labour, have decided to launch a legal challenge against Bill 42.

The unions have retained lawyers Joseph Arvay, Q.C., and Leo McGrady, Q.C., to handle the case.

Bill 42 was introduced late in the last legislative session. The government eventually invoked closure to pass the Bill.

"The Gordon Campbell government is afraid of legitimate criticism and it is fully prepared to violate constitutionally protected free speech rights to silence its critics," says BC Federation of Labour Secretary-Treasurer, Angela Schira.

"This law is a poorly disguised attempt to stack the deck heading into the provincial election less than a year away," added Schira. "Gordon Campbell loudly and vehemently opposed much weaker spending restrictions when he was in opposition, and now that he is in power has introduced a much more egregious gag law."

**\$150,000 seems like a LOT OF MONEY, isn't that enough?**



The reality is, advocacy organizations, whether they're speaking in the interests of a resource industry or public education are part of a democracy and they spend money to inform the public about their issues.

For example one 30-second ad on prime time TV can cost \$14,000. Under these rules, that's just over one-and-a-half minutes per month to talk about the importance of education or public health care or climate change to future generations.



**Aren't spending limits GOOD FOR DEMOCRACY?**

Bill 42 actually places new limits on democratic participation.

Bill 42 DOES NOT restrict political party donations.

Bill 42 INCREASES political parties' campaign spending limits to an amount that can only be reached by the BC Liberal Party, with the support of corporate donations.

And Bill 42 places new limits on ID requirements for voter registration that disadvantage low income and homeless people in our communities.

**Take action NOW!**

Visit [www.justshutupbc.com](http://www.justshutupbc.com) to find out what you can do!



## EITI joins with Okanagan School District to create training opportunity

On May 26, an agreement was officially signed between School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) and the Electrical Industry Training Institute to create the first dual-credit Utility Arborist Apprenticeship Program in Canada. This program will allow students to earn their Level One Technical Utility Arborist certificate.

“EITI is the training provider for the province; we look forward to being involved in this new program,” said Phil Davis, Executive Director of the Electrical Industry Training Institute, moments before signing. “Although the forestry sector has cooled, the Utility Arborist sector is booming. We anticipate job growth to be 50% in some regions of BC.”



*Moyra Baxter, Central Okanagan School District, left, and Phil Davis, Executive Director of the Electrical Industry Training Institute, shake hands at the signing ceremony creating the first dual-credit Utility Arborist Apprenticeship Program in Canada.*



*Utility Arborist students received training on the lift truck at the Utility Arborist Apprenticeship Program.*

Superintendent of Schools, Mike Roberts attended the signing ceremony and offered his support to those involved in the program. “I’d like to recognize the efforts of our Board of Trustees whose confidence and support has made this program possible. Utility Arborist is pretty far outside of our traditional programs. Thanks to Phil Davis and EITI, Wayne

Price, Dale Popp, Clayton Bennett, Rick Oliver and everyone else involved. By thinking outside of the box and trying something different we can offer students a career that will be very rewarding.”

**Courtesy of Lisa Harrison, School District No 23 (Central Okanagan)**

*Students who have spent the past three months in Forestry Resources were excited to receive training on the lift truck and chipper on the very first day of the Utility Arborist program.*

**Brittany Foster:** *“It’s not that bad being the only girl with a bunch of guys.... It’s been interesting to learn the truck limits, safety and stuff.”*

**David King:** *“We learned a bit about how to operate the truck; it can be complicated; safety is important.”*

**Sheldon Novakuske:** *“We’ve been in the Forestry class since February. We had a week of classroom time and the rest has been mostly outside.”*

**Justin Novakuske:** *“We’ve travelled a lot in the forestry program: Peachland, Silver Lake, Kamloops. We’ve done fire and forestry training, visited tree nurseries, mills. It’s cool.”*

## Members of IBEW Local 258 help one of their own

Members of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers gathered to help out the family of Brother Darin Knutson, a member working at BC Hydro in Surrey, who remains in hospital after suffering a life threatening head injury after being involved in a motorcycle accident in early May of this year.

Brother Knutson's wife, Cindy, told The Hotline during a recent interview, "Darin was traveling home on his motorcycle after spending an afternoon helping get a motor home we were going to borrow from a friend this summer ready for a family holiday when he was involved in a really bad motorcycle accident."

Since then, Cindy, daughter Alicia and son James have had to immerse themselves in the world of medical technology as

Darin remained in a coma for almost two months. He is now beginning to show signs of recovery and was recently transferred to Surrey Memorial from the Royal Columbian. Darin's progress is "slow but sure", reports Cindy.



In the meantime, Cindy and her kids were left with having to manage their large property in South Surrey and quickly came to realize all the work that Darin used to

effortlessly do around the yard was now not getting done. "Before I knew it the grass was so high and the weeds were out of control, the outdoor swimming pool needed to be fixed for the kids and I didn't know how I was going to get that all done," said Cindy.

Hearing Cindy's plight, Darin's IBEW brothers stepped into action. They organized a work weekend at Cindy & Darin's place and came together to do the much needed yard work and help get the pool ready for the kids as summer approached.

"I am so grateful what these guys came and did for us," said Cindy. "They have been so helpful and have gone over and above. They were chopping wood and fixing things. We so appreciate their caring and concern and help and don't know what we would have done without them." 🚧

## Local 258 supporting goals of BC Citizens for Public Power

The BC Citizens for Public Power (BCCPP) is a dynamic grassroots movement that supports publicly-owned, affordable, reliable, clean, and renewable energy in British Columbia through its advocacy initiatives.

Founded in 2002 by a group of concerned citizens representing diverse backgrounds and sectors of the community, including the academic community, trade unions, consumer organizations and environmental groups, as well as residents from every corner of the province. A registered non-profit society funded by donations from individuals and groups, BCCPP was formed in response to the BC Liberal government's agenda of dismantling and privatizing BC Hydro.

The BCCPP promotes and advocates for a publicly owned and integrated system of power production, transmission and distribution that provides BC residents with affordable, clean, reliable and renew-

able energy. Their mandate also includes a commitment to informing BC residents about the implications surrounding the deregulation, privatization and breakup of BC Hydro.

Members of IBEW Local 258 recently voted, in a mail ballot, to approve a donation of \$200,000 to the BCCPP in an effort to assist the organization in meeting its' goals.

In its efforts to continue to educate and inform government and British Columbians about the benefits of public power, the BCCPP is holding a conference this fall in Vancouver featuring keynote speaker Rafe Mair, former MLA, broadcaster, writer and outspoken political commentator. All are welcome to attend "More Power To You". Early bird registration is \$50, and there are travel bursaries available. Visit the BCCPP website for registration forms at [www.citizensforpublicpower.ca](http://www.citizensforpublicpower.ca). 🚧

### Achievements to date of BC Citizens for Public Power:

- *The Interim Energy Policy Report: This report called for BC to move to North American market electricity rates. Current rates in San Francisco are now more than triple BC residential prices! We fought that plan, and the government was forced to abandon it.*
- *Relaunch of [www.citizensforpublicpower.ca](http://www.citizensforpublicpower.ca) website which now includes up-to-date information, news and event listings on public power issues and campaign activities.*
- *Helped organize awareness events for the National Day of Action on Energy on February 5, 2008.*
- *Coordinated a high profile demonstration opposing private power outside the BC Energy Summit in Vancouver on March 11, 2008.*
- *Collaborated with environmental, First Nations and community groups to fight the Upper Pitt river private power project – a proposal which, if approved, would result in huge profits for the private company, Run of River Power Inc., soaring prices for ratepayers, significant environmental impacts to fish and wildlife, and the construction of transmission lines through Class-A protected Pinecone Burke Provincial Park.*

# IBEW members compete in Safety Rodeo 2008

IBEW members joined with the Power Pioneers, members of COPE 378 and hundreds of visitors on a Saturday afternoon in June as they showcased their skills and abilities and highlighted safe working methods at the 2008 BC Hydro Safety Rodeo that took place in Surrey, BC.

As one of the event's sponsors, Local 258 had a prominent display booth at the Safety Rodeo where Business Manager Doug McKay, President Michelle Laurie and Senior ABM Jim Greenwell, ABMs Dan Klassen, Don McNabb and Dan Giesbrecht promoted the union, answered questions and met with union members and their families who came to enjoy the day's events.

Held on the site of the Electrical Industry Training Institute (EITI), the Safety Rodeo featured Power Line Technicians (PLTs) and Apprentices in live demonstrations and competitions and also included interactive displays with IBEW members working in the utility arborist, light manufacturing and traffic management sectors.

This year's Safety Rodeo included a barbecue lunch catered by the Burnaby Firefighters and family activities that included a dunking tank and putting green for the kids.



Back row from left: Dan Klassen, ABM; Doug McKay, Business Manager; Michelle Laurie, President; Dan Giesbrecht, ABM. Front row: Don McNabb, ABM; Jim Greenwell, Senior ABM.

## 2008 Safety Rodeo Winners

### Overall BC Hydro PLT Event Winner

First Place: Zane Gauthier, Jeremy O'Laney, Rob Jack (Nanaimo Lineroom)  
Second Place: Tyler Thompson, Mike Lukoni, Dan Clinaz (North Shore Lineroom)

### PLT Individual Event Winners

#### Automatic Sleeve Change-Out Event

First Place: Zane Gauthier, Jeremy O'Laney, Rob Jack (Nanaimo Lineroom)  
Second Place: Tyler Thompson, Mike Lukoni, Dan Clinaz (North Shore Lineroom)

#### Egg Climb Event

First Place: Scott O'Laney, Ken Mackenzie, Riho Hove (South Interior)  
Second Place: Zane Gauthier, Jeremy O'Laney, Rob Jack (Nanaimo Lineroom)  
Second Place: Tyler Thompson, Mike Lukoni, Dan Clinaz (North Shore Lineroom)

#### Pole Top Rescue Event

First Place: Doug Swoboda, Daryn Smith, Matt Tugade (Coquitlam Lineroom)  
Second Place: Zane Gauthier, Jeremy O'Laney, Rob Jack (Nanaimo Lineroom)  
Second Place: Larry Dwolinsky, Jeff Stites, Shawn Quast (Port Alberni Lineroom)

#### Mystery Event

First Place: Shane Holmgren, Glenn Gallagher, Mike McMinn (Surrey Lineroom)  
Second Place: Zane Gauthier, Jeremy O'Laney, Rob Jack (Nanaimo Lineroom)

### Overall Apprentice PLT Event Winner

First Place: Brock MacLean (Surrey Lineroom)  
Second Place: Trevor Beeson (Nanaimo Construction)

## Apprentice PLT Individual Event Winners

### Meter Socket Safety Check Event

First Place: Scott Gwilliam (Edmonds Lineroom)  
Second Place: Brock MacLean (Surrey Lineroom)

### Rope Knot and Splicing Event

First Place: Brock Maclean (Surrey Lineroom)  
Second Place: TJ Fisher (Edmonds Lineroom)

### Egg Climb Event

First Place: Brock MacLean (Surrey Lineroom)  
Second Place: Brad Masse (Nanaimo Lineroom)

### Pole Top Rescue Event

First Place: TJ Fisher (Edmonds Lineroom)  
Second Place: Richard Barrie (Prince George Lineroom)

### Mystery Event

First Place: Brock MacLean (Surrey Lineroom)  
Second Place: Trevor Beeson (Nanaimo Construction)

### Electrician Event

First Place: Brian Thompson, Jarret Bublitz (Williston Substation)  
Second Place: Robert Wilmsmeier, Donney Mathiesen (Surrey Construction)

### Forklift Event

First Place: Steve Pulford (MDC)  
Second Place: Jason Barham (MDC)

### First Aid Event

First Place: The Heinrichs – Eric Swantje, Les Giles, Fred Bonn (EARG Safety)  
Second Place: Shocking By Hydro – Jim Harrold, Jan Kehl, Randy Laidlaw (Keenleyside Dam)

### Class 5 Driving Event

First Place: Michelle Stadnyk (Surrey Garage)  
Second Place: Gerald Goodwin

### Class 3 Driving Event

First Place: Danny Chan  
Second Place: Don Kelly (Surrey Garage)

### Overall Contractor PLT Event Winner

First Place: Shannon Sawchuck, Bruce Scott, Clayton McKay (Allteck)  
Second Place: Mike Scott, Doug Laity, Lee Zachow (Allteck)

### PLT Individual Event Winners

#### Automatic Sleeve Change-Out Event

First Place: Shannon Sawchuck, Bruce Scott, Clayton McKay (Allteck)  
Second Place: Mike Scott, Doug Laity, Lee Zachow (Allteck)

#### Egg Climb Event

First Place: Mike Scott, Doug Laity, Lee Zachow (Allteck)  
Second Place: Shannon Sawchuck, Bruce Scott, Clayton McKay (Allteck)

#### Pole Top Rescue Event

First Place: Shannon Sawchuck, Bruce Scott, Clayton McKay (Allteck)  
Second Place: Mike Scott, Doug Laity, Lee Zachow (Allteck)

#### Mystery Event

First Place: Mike Scott, Doug Laity, Lee Zachow (Allteck)  
Second Place: Shannon Sawchuck, Bruce Scott, Clayton McKay (Allteck)



BC hydro  Safety Rodeo

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



Local 258 IBEW's website, located at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) on the internet, has recently been revamped.

Your union website features information about the Local and also includes a number of links for important union information, including downloadable pdf files of your member magazine, The Hotline.

You will also find a number of resources for members such as a Membership Application Form, Unit Meeting Schedules and Applications for Training Assistance.

We hope you enjoy the website and look forward to receiving any suggestions on how we can improve your website, including information that you would like to see on the site. Contact the union's president, Michelle Laurie, at [mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca) with your suggestions. ☑

## Do you have photos, original artwork, cartoons, poems for The Hotline?

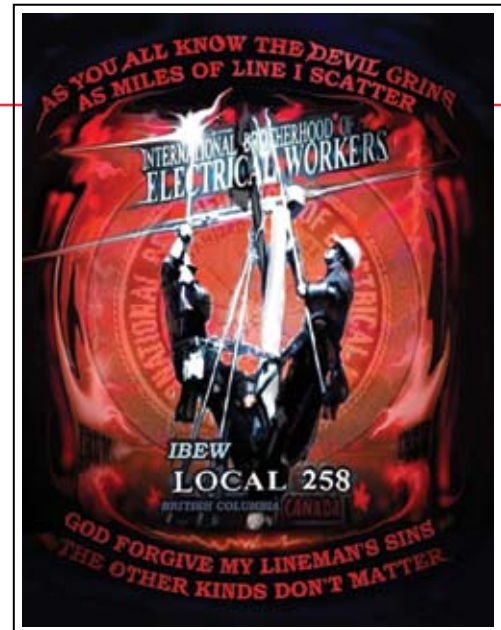
The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. We also know there are some of you are very creative. We would like you to share your photos and creative works — and your stories too — with your union's member magazine, The Hotline!

You are welcome to send in photos from your workplace, and if you have a bit of writing ability, we are also interested in any stories, poems or articles you have written about a work-related issue. Cartoons and drawings are also welcome.

If you'd like to send photos to be published in The Hotline, there are a few requirements:

- If you are sending digital photos - and that's a lot easier to do these days with almost everybody having a digital camera - it's best if the photos are from a 4.0 megapixel, or better, camera, set at the highest quality setting ("Fine/Superfine" or "Large").
- If you don't have a digital camera, traditional glossy colour prints developed at the local camera shop or drug store work well too.
- Please **don't** send ink jet, colour copier or colour laser prints - they just don't work well for publishing purposes.
- Include your name and where you work, along with a description of who is in the photo including the occasion and date.
- You can also burn the photos onto a CD and mail them to the Local 258 IBEW office, Attention: The Hotline.

\* Remember to turn off the automatic date off when taking pictures on your camera. Please do not send originals photographs - copies will be best as we cannot confirm return of originals. By sending photos you consent to having your photos published in The Hotline. Please be aware the union's member magazine is downloadable on the union's website.



The above original artwork was sent to The Hotline by Brother Don McNabb, Assistant Business Manager with Local 258 IBEW. If you have original artwork or photos you would like to share, please send to [hotline@shaw.ca](mailto:hotline@shaw.ca).

Send your photos via e-mail to:  
[hotline@shaw.ca](mailto:hotline@shaw.ca)

Send your photos via mail to:  
Local 258 IBEW  
Attention, The Hotline  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2



# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired IBEW member

Here we are back in the land of the carbon tax. Our trip home from the desert was uneventful. Again we visited the gambling Mecca of Pahrump, Nevada. The stopover there did not result in any circumstance that would enhance our financial status so no life-style alterations are necessary. The Nevadans, on the other hand, seem appreciative of Catherine Dear's periodic contributions to their economy.

As we wandered home through California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington we enjoyed warm sunny weather. When we crossed the border at Osoyoos, BC, we encountered cold and rain. That rain turned to snow and semi-blizzard conditions through Allison Pass on the Hope Princeton Highway. I guess that was the best "welcome home" southern BC could muster at the time. We've been home a month-and-a-half now and still haven't experienced very much hot at all. As I've asked before, where is all this global warming when you need it?

One weather phenomenon we did encounter on our trip north was wind. The wind blew fairly strong every day we were on the road. While driving during Catherine Dear's "quiet" (nap) times I did some ruminating on the vagaries of wind direction and speed. I'm sure you've all heard the expression "tail wind". That's purported to be a beneficent wind that gets in behind you and assists you on your way and at the same time reduces fuel consumption. I've pretty much come to the conclusion that "tail wind" is one of those folklore things. See, we've wandered over a fair bit of western North America in our camper and have yet to encounter a "tail wind". It doesn't matter which direction we're travelling, the wind always approaches from either side or head on, never from behind. I think searching for a "tail wind" is much like trying to find Ogopogo or a Sasquatch, you just have to take on faith that it's there and maybe one day you'll come across it.

Another observable fact that required some rumination had to do with fuel pricing. In our wanders around western North America the lowest gasoline prices we have encountered are in Oregon. While this fact in itself may not necessarily require a lot of consideration, when you couple it with the fact that there are no self serve gas stations in Oregon the need for serious rumination is indicated. Like, if the Oregon vendors are already in a detrimental marketing position by having to pay some person to pump the gas how can they sell cheaper than the jurisdictions where the custom-

ers do the work? You know, aside from pricing considerations, I kind of like that Oregon doesn't allow self serve gas stations. As well as providing a service to the customer (and they even clean the windshield) a lot of entry level employment opportunities are created. On further rumination, maybe the employment opportunities are not all entry level. There may be some career gas pump persons providing that service.

I've also noted, since arriving home, that our provincial government has a simple solution for fixing perceived problems. It just looks around for something to tax. According to the government, taxation is not really driven by a need for more money but by a need to address popular cause concerns. Like if the concern is global warming (which I have yet to personally experience) let's find something to tax. So we now have a carbon tax on fuel. Like that's going to save the planet. I'd have more respect for the government if it would just say, "Look you, we want more money so we're going to put another tax on fuel." Oh, I'd still moan and carp and complain about the tax but I'd at least have the satisfaction of knowing the government was being up front and honest. Or, how about if the government used the money to meaningfully improve public transit alternatives throughout the province. As an aside, in my attempts to use transit I have never found it accessible to go from where I am to where I want to be in a timely fashion or with any degree of convenience. And yes, I know the carbon tax is "revenue neutral". To prove the revenue neutrality the government is going to give each and every one of us \$100.00. Some years ago another government with a different name but of the same political persuasion announced they would give British Columbians a lesson in free enterprise. They issued each and every one of us 5 shares of stock in an entity called BCRIC. We all know how that ended. Well, maybe only really old people and retirees remember how that ended. Anyway, it didn't end well for a lot of people.

I've also been ruminating on a number of other weighty matters like why do we say "pair" of pliers or "pair" of scissors when there's plainly only one of them? And how come, when my shoe size is 10 ½ all the new shoes in my closet are size 12 or 13. I know my feet haven't grown. However, I'll have to leave those discussions for next time as this issues allotted space is about used up.

Please continue to work and play safely because, regardless of taxes, retirement is great. 🚗

## *Welcome to the IBEW!*



*The above members were initiated into the union at the April Unit 6 meeting held in Surrey, BC. Congratulations and welcome aboard!*

## **WCB launches Teleclaim service for injured workers**

Injured workers can now file their time-loss claims more quickly and easily with a new service through WorkSafeBC (the Workers Compensation Board of BC) known as Teleclaim.

**1•888•WORKERS**

(1•888•967•5377 or #5377 on your Telus, Rogers or Bell cell phone)

Workers who are injured at work and miss time as a result can now report their injuries to WorkSafe BC by calling the Teleclaim Centre. By doing so, you will be connected with a WCB representative who completes an injury report on your behalf.

The Teleclaim representative will help explain the claims process in an average 30 minute discussion, and can help obtain services to assist with recovery and return to work.

Teleclaim is available to workplaces throughout BC, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

# United Way Campaign to kick off in the fall

by Michelle Laurie  
Local 258 IBEW President



I am honoured to have recently been elected as Chair of the Board of the United Way of the Lower Mainland for the coming year. As you will know from my previous columns, I believe very strongly in supporting United Ways in

our communities, as they look to see the needs in each of our communities and work with agencies and organizations to find solutions to those needs.

United Way is the only charitable organization that the Canadian Labour Congress has partnered with – and that partnership exists because we have the same values and goals with respect to healthy, fair and inclusive communities. Labour understands very well the need to advocate and lobby to achieve results, and United Way has also embraced its advocacy role in our communities as it utilizes or undertakes research on the causes of crisis and need, as

it brings together people and organizations through funding projects designed to prevent crisis and overcome the needs.

In British Columbia, a province that is in the middle of a great economic boom, we still have the highest rate of child poverty in Canada – and children live in poverty because their parents are poor. This is shameful, and United Way of the Lower Mainland has set children as one of its priorities, meaning that we are supporting programs that ensure more children are ready to start school when they are six (currently one in four are not ready), and that young school children have programs that keep them engaged and teach them to cope with issues that face them in a positive manner. Our third major priority area is seniors – our goal: a community that allows seniors to maintain an independent life, while ensuring their security and well being are maintained.

Many members of IBEW Local 258 have now taken the Union Counselling Program courses – this program is a product of the partnership between Labour and the United Way, and focuses on members helping members to access services when they are in need. In the coming months, these Brothers and Sisters who have taken training will be coming together to discuss ideas about broadening the program within Local 258. ☑



## Union Counselling courses benefits members

Each year the CLC Winter School runs from mid-January to mid-February and during the course of the four weeks over 1,000 union members attend.

The CLC Harrison Winter School is also where the CLC Labour Participation Department of United Way of the Lower Mainland offer the Union Counselling

Program training courses. Each year two weeks of Union Counselling Level 1, a week of Union Counselling Level 2, a week of Unions in the Community and also

Critical Incident Stress training is offered.

Close to 100 union members take the Union Counselling courses each year then head back to their unions, workplaces and communities enthusiastic and eager to continue their involvement in their unions, workplaces and community. Many United Way Labour volunteers also attend the CLC Winter School as facilitators and help to raise the United Way profile at the school.

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**LOCAL 258**

IBEW LOCAL 258  
 AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS & CANADIAN ELECTRICIANS  
 REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



The Fernie Line Crew, shown above, from left are Dave Berard, James, Bruce Orr, Butch Pederson and Bill Laible.



Congratulations to Bruce Biatecki & Gerry Honeyman on being awarded 30 year service pins from Ray LaPointe, center.



Congratulations to Brother Matt Popp, left, on his recent retirement as he was presented with an IBEW jacket by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Larry Mistal, left, on his recent retirement.



Brother Ernie Lawton, left, was recently awarded his 40 year service pin from IBEW by Brother Colin Kenney.



IBEW Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay, right, with new initiate into Local 258 IBEW Brother Matt Collingwood at the Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack.



Unit Chair Leon Arishenkoff congratulates Brother Jim Rbienhart and awards him a 50 year membership in IBEW certificate.



Brother Ray LaPointe congratulates Brother Lindsay Partridge on receipt of his 30 year service pin award.



Brother Mel Futa, left, with Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff, on his recent retirement.

**\*\* A special note of thanks to Brothers Greg Fanning, ABM, and Leon Arishenkoff, Unit 3 Chair, for sending photos to The Hotline.**



*Congratulations to Brother Orest Woloshynn, right, on receipt of his 40 year service pin.*



*Brother Colin Kenney, right, congratulates Brother Rolly Scott, left, on his recent retirement.*



*Unit 6 Chair Barry Bell, right, presents Brother Hugh Wolner with a 50 year service award plaque at the June membership meeting. Congratulations Brother Wolner!*



*Congratulations to Brother Butch Pedersen on the occasion of his recent retirement. Butch is shown above with Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Greg Fanning, left, and Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff, right.*



*Congratulations to Brother Clayton Keys on receiving his Lineman Certificate.*



*IBEW Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay with retired Brother Ed Henderson at the Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack.*



*Congratulations to Brother Mel Futa, left, on being awarded his 30 year service pin award by Brother Colin Kenney, right.*



*Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff awards Brother Ron Janzen on his 20 year service pin award.*



*New initiates to IBEW Local 258 are, from left, Caitlin Harmalla, Samantha Pobl and Tamare McKim at the June Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack.*





**Three Generations**

Children are born traditions are passed the love continues on

*Congratulations to Dan, Christian and Bob Bridges - three generations of IBEW members!*

*Congratulations to Brother Leo Hunter on his retirement after 42 years as an IBEW member. He is shown above with ABM Susan Longva.*

*Local 258 Vice President Tony Brand, left, congratulates Tyler Thompson on his recent graduation as a PLT.*

*Brother Don McInnes was recently awarded a 60 year service plaque from Brother Barry Bell, Unit 6 Chair.*

*Congratulations to Brother Basil Dodgson of Cranbrook on receipt of his 55 year service award plaque.*

*Congratulations to Brother George McHugh on your recent retirement.*

# EQ LENDING

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## Showing strength in the face of tragedy

This has been a difficult year so far for our local – three members killed while doing their jobs. These were senseless deaths that occurred completely outside of the control of the brothers who were taken from us so brutally. Sometimes, even when you follow all the right safe practices, other factors intervene and tragedies occur. For brothers Terry Mitchell, Dirk Rozenboom and Rob Lehman, that was certainly the case, and it is outrageous. Outrageous that lives can be cut short for no good reason. Outrageous that families have to remake themselves and find a way to carry on in spite of the terrible hole that has been blown in their lives and in their hearts.

We can only reach out to those families and offer our support as they try to heal. As friends, co-workers, union brothers and sisters, you have done that in great numbers and with great compassion, and it makes me, once again, very proud to be part of this brotherhood. Our ability to understand the strength we can find by coming together, by holding out our hands to help steady, to help stand, to hold on through crisis makes us a strong union. It is not because we have joined, or because we carry a card in our pocket, it is because we know we are connected through our common work, common aspirations and common need for a safe, just workplace and society.

The families of Terry, Dirk and Rob have all called or written to express sincere thanks for your support and concern. Thanks to each of you, also, who supported the motion to establish trust funds for the young children of our brothers who died in the course of their work over the past few years. It will help ease some of the financial burden as those children mature and take their first steps to independence.

Another great example of members coming together to support a brother in need were the Local 258 members who gave up a Saturday and their labour to help Darin and Cindy Knutson and their family! See the article on page 13 of this edition of The Hotline.

There has been very little response to our request for members interested in a multi-sector Safety Committee of the Local Union, or the New Member Orientation Committee. For those who have expressed interest, thank you for your patience – the next step is for me to start



*IBEW members helping members as Brother Darin Knutson's family discovered. Front row: Mats Anderson, James McDonald, Frank Baldassi, Steve Nichols, Cindy Knutson, Alicia Knutson, Dan Klassen, Pete Prystai. Back Row is Robert Tetrault, Nigel Barrett, Bruce Cuthbert, Chris Graff, Dan Laity, Ian Letkeman, Ryan Chalmers, Anthony Dunne, Dan Solbrekken, Bruce Stevens.*

## From the Back Corner

Report from  
Michelle Laurie,  
President, Local 258 IBEW



tapping shoulders to make sure that we do have representation from each sector – beware!

This spring, we mailed a ballot to members to vote on a significant donation to BC Citizens for Public Power. You responded resoundingly (89%) in favour! Our support will allow this important organization to continue its vital role of advocating for a publicly owned and controlled electricity system in British Columbia. BC Citizens for Public Power has organized “More Power to You” – a conference for activists organizing to protect public power in British Columbia – scheduled for October 4 and 5 this year. Keep your eye on [www.citizensforpublicpower.ca](http://www.citizensforpublicpower.ca) for details and registration info, if you are interested.

Our government has already committed billions of our tax dollars to private Independent Power Producers (IPPs) over the next several years, and we must ensure that both the public and our politicians know that this “race to the marketplace” is not what we want here in BC. For a look at what private projects may be in the planning or development stages in your community, have a look at <http://www.ippwatch.info/w/>, a web site that lists all of the wind and water licenses that have been applied for, granted, and/or are operating in the province.

And finally, in a further attempt to shut down public outcry about various issues (including the “Energy Plan” aka “Destruction of Public Power”), the provincial government passed Bill 42 in the final days of the spring sitting of the legislature. This Bill, known as the “Gag Law”, will significantly limit any organization’s ability to communicate any opposition to any legislation or government activity from mid-February next year until the provincial election on May 12. Do you think the BC Liberals may be worried about their record?






Find out more about how the BC Liberal government  
 is selling our energy future to private interests —  
 and how you can join with other British Columbians to stop them.

[www.citizensforpublicpower.ca](http://www.citizensforpublicpower.ca)



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