



# HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
WINTER, 2008

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



## Activists' Conference a complete success!

*Workshops, guest speakers and opportunities to meet  
highlight weekend educational event for IBEW Local 258 members*

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**ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS!  
SCHEDULES IN THIS ISSUE**



**READ ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING  
TO PUBLIC POWER IN BC**



**CALL FOR 2008 TOM FORKIN  
EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

**HOTLINE** Winter 2008

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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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Editor, Layout & Design: Michelle Boudreau, Leopard Print Communications Inc.



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

### **Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers:**

Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair: Leon Arishenkoff

Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Barry Bell

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva, Don McNabb

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff: Eileen Baldwin, Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Judith Haugen, Geri Watson

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

**FRONT COVER PHOTOS:** The Local 258 IBEW Activists' Conference for Shop Stewards and Elected Members held in November, 2007, featured a variety of activities. Clockwise from top left: ABM Dan Giesbrecht with Brother Dean Kotaras at the Conference Dinner; Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour was one of the featured guest speakers; members participating at one of the many workshops; and, ABM Greg Fanning was the keeper of the prize winning tickets at the Social Dinner event. Read the report on the Conference starting on page 6.

*Cover photos by Michelle Boudreau.*



## VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

The last few months have been very rewarding as I see more and more members of our Local take advantage of opportunities to get more involved with our union and more involved in their communities.

We had a great turnout at the Union Activists' Conference held in November with Shop Stewards and Local 258 members travelling from across BC to Surrey to take part in this two-day seminar. Many thanks and appreciation goes to the organizers who put this event together, Sister Michelle Laurie, Brother Jim Greenwell, and our union's legal counsel, Rebecca Murdock. Members had the chance to listen to high quality speakers and interacted in the exceptional workshops, and had a good time socializing at the dinner. The feedback I've been getting from those who attended is that this is a very worthwhile gathering, and gives us all a stronger sense of solidarity as union members while helping us learn how to be more active in our communities through our union connection.

It's also been good to see a number of our members take classes in union-sponsored labour education at the annual Canadian Labour Congress Winter School held in Harrison Hot Springs this year. Local 258 had a large group of members attending the week long classes, including Sister Michelle Laurie who taught the WCB class, and I would like to thank the following members and Assistant BM's for stepping forward to advance their activism through learning: John Heinrichs, Chris Carter, Mike Hatada, Karen Porter, Chris Graff, Natalie Gidora, Murray MacDonald, Jan Kehl, Barry Bell, Fred Ruttan and Barry Kinsley and ABMs Dan Klassen and Susan Longva.

As our Local's motto says, we are "The Union of Hearts and Minds". I take this motto to heart, and take pride in seeing the hard work our members do at their jobs and in their communities. Many of our members take time outside of work to volunteer with organizations like the United Way, donate their time for worthwhile efforts like St. Paul's Hospital Foundation "Lights of Hope", and participate in supporting amateur sports. It is this kind of activism and interaction that reinforces the type of communities I know we all want to live in.

In saying the above, I would like to continue to voice my support and appreciation for our current activists and encourage those who think they may want to play a larger role to join with us and take advantage of the opportunities we can extend to you by getting more involved with your union. I know we all work very hard and many of us have family commitments and leisure activities we enjoy, but the strength we have as union members through our unique connection with one another and our ability to make positive change in our workplaces can be extended to strengthen and improve our communities.



*Brother John Heinrichs, Sister Karen Porter and Business Manager Doug McKay are shown above from left at the November meeting of the Fraser Valley Labour Council, chartered last year to represent union members working in British Columbia's Fraser Valley. Sister Porter has been elected to serve as Treasurer and Brother McKay sits on the Council's Executive. Brother Heinrichs is the union's delegate to the Council. To find out more about the FVLC, visit their website at [www.fvlc.ca](http://www.fvlc.ca).*

As you may know, 2008 is shaping up to be a year of political elections – there's the possibility of a federal election at any time, and there are municipal elections happening across BC in November. Next year is the contest when we go to the polls to elect a new provincial government. So there is lots of opportunity to get involved in political action to help set the foundation from which to build healthy and vibrant communities for us and our families.

On the provincial scene, there's lots to be motivated by to get involved in a more meaningful way - the Campbell government's piece by piece privatization of BC Hydro, threats of new carbon taxes, increased electricity rates, the sell-off of water licenses to private power producers and the give-away of BC Rail, to name a few things. If we want to change the course of where this current provincial government is taking us, we have to do something more than sit around and talk about it. As someone famous once said, "The world is controlled by those who show up", so I think now is the time for each of us to really think about the roles we can play, both as individuals and together as a union, to participate in our local political organizations, so at the end of the day, we can use our collective strength to make sure we have a fair playing field to build the type of communities we want. When we work together, and our hearts are in it, I know we can achieve great things. I see it every day in the members of this "Union of Hearts and Minds".



# We've Got Mail!

Dear Brother Doug McKay,  
On behalf of our community and the thousands of people who will benefit from your union's gift, thank you.

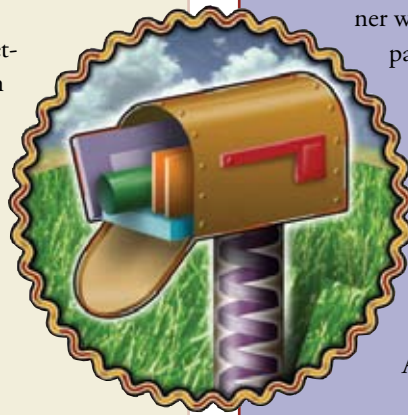
Your gift provides critical resources to help improve lives and build a strong, healthy and caring community.

Your gift will be carefully invested where support is needed most. United Way works to prevent problems and create lasting solutions. We do this through research, community dialogue, policy reviews, communications, fundraising and investment, and evaluation.

We're committed to providing children a good start in life and keeping them on track so they will succeed in their teen years, and supporting seniors to stay active and independent.

Together we're creating a measurably better tomorrow, where everyone's potential can be realized and everyone has something to contribute. Thank you for believing in our community. Thank you for believing in possibility.

In solidarity,  
Michelle Laurie  
Dileep Athaide  
2007 Co-Chairs,  
Campaign Labour Committee  
United Way of the Lower Mainland



Dear Local 258 IBEW,  
I would like to thank my IBEW brothers and sisters for the gifts that I received at my retirement party. Many thanks to Leon for his kind words to Lorraine and myself.  
Jim Partridge

Dear Doug McKay, Business Manager,  
Thank you very much for your donation to the 2007 Hudson's Hope Fireworks.

The fire halls appreciate donations like yours in order to make this event a grand success for the community.

This year the Hudson's Hope and Beryl Prairie Fire Halls were able to raise \$1,229.55 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Sincerely,  
Your Volunteer Firefighters

Dear Dan Klassen,  
Assistant Business Manager, Local 258 IBEW,  
The 2007 Asplundh Canada ULC Christmas Dinner was a great success, and enjoyed by all who participated.

Your donation helped to make the event a big hit. We would like to express our appreciation for your generous donation.

Thank you and we hope to have your continued support next year.

Yours truly,  
Remo Maddalozzo  
Vice President,  
Asplundh Canada ULC

Dear LU258 IBEW,  
I would like to thank everyone in the Union Hall for the good friendships over the years and all the other members I've met or worked with. Now I'd like to use some of Ken McEwen's advice and begin some of my own Ruminations.  
Gordon Hiebert

*Editors Note: Brother Hiebert is a former Unit 5 Chair and Executive Board Member who recently retired.*

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

## Call for submissions

# Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Student Scholarship

Once again, it is time for Local 258 IBEW's annual Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship essay contest. This Scholarship was created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President, Brother Tom Forkin, and is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258. Up to three individual scholarships of \$1000.00 each will be awarded this year.

The essay topic for 2008 will be: "What are the economic and environmental impacts of private power production in British Columbia?". The essay should address the impacts on ratepayers, provincial income, job opportunities and a comparison of environmental issues in a public vs. private energy marketplace.


Submissions must be a minimum of 1,000 words in length, and submitted with a cover letter explaining the applicant's educational plans and career goals. Submissions must be submitted in an electronic format, provided either on a CD-ROM, or via e-mail to [info@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:info@ibew258.bc.ca). If you are submitting via e-mail, you must include "Tom Forkin Scholarship" in the subject bar.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered in, or plan to register in, a full-time post-secondary educational institution. Applicants must have a letter-grade standing of C or better, and copies of the letter-grade standing must be included with the application letter. Mature students may have this requirement waived if approved by the Executive Board.

Application letters and essays can be sent to:

Tom Forkin Scholarship  
Local 258, IBEW  
7535 – 6th Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2



All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2008. The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by May 16, 2008. Successful applicants will be notified immediately. Scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrolment is provided. 



## *Local 258 holds successful Activists' Conference in Surrey*



*BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair was one of the guest speakers at the well received Activists' Conference.*

Local 258 IBEW Shop Stewards and Elected Members gathered in Surrey in November for a two-day Activists' Conference put on by the union that featured guest speakers and interactive workshops focusing on union activism.

Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour, was the first of an impressive list of guest speakers. In a very moving speech, Sinclair spoke about the challenges many workers in this province are facing, and covered issues including the Campbell breakup of BC Hydro, apprenticeship training, temporary foreign workers and the minimum wage.

Sinclair reminded delegates that when Gordon Campbell started breaking up BC Hydro, the first people to get raises were management. In his criticism of the ongoing privatization of this Crown Corporation, he couldn't have described the situation any better than when he said, "We have gone from being owners of the house to renters".

Delegates heard about the challenges workers in BC are facing with skills training as many apprenticeship programs are showing dropping completion rates since the BC Liberal government changed the structure of apprenticeship training after they were elected in 2001. The complex temporary foreign workers situation was highlighted and Sinclair reinforced that organized labour is not against foreign workers, but in favour of increased immigration opportunities for skilled workers, not a system where 40,000 temporary workers are brought into the province and nobody

knows where they are or follows up on reports of exploitation.

In an encouraging moment, Sinclair told the delegates the labour movement is the best thing workers ever found – solidarity means we take care of one another and it is through the labour movement that we take care of our communities. "If the folks in the lunchroom don't make it happen, you can be certain the guys in the boardroom won't do it", he said. "Working people never got a thing you didn't fight for and we have to keep fighting to keep what we've won".

MLA Doug Routley (Cowichan-Ladysmith), the Official Opposition Critic for Apprenticeship & Training, was sincere in telling delegates that the ideological approach of the Campbell Liberal government is effectively disabling our ability to take care of our future. Through the liquidation of our public resources to private companies to the waste of human capital as aboriginal communities continue to experience massive unemployment, Routley warned Campbell's policies are pushing the starting line back for British Columbians.

IBEW's Lead Organizer for Western Canada, Brother Jerry Larson, travelled from Edmonton to address the delegates and described the ongoing organizing efforts by the union. With funding that was approved at the IBEW convention in 2006, many of the necessary elements are now in place, including the hiring of an Organizer for the BC/Yukon/Nunavut area who will be focusing

*(cont'd on next page)*

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on specific targets that have been identified as organizing opportunities. He called for the need to focus on further membership development and invited delegates interested in field organizing and helping to establish internal committees to take this opportunity to step forward and participate in this difficult but very rewarding experience.



*A series of workshops were featured in the agenda for Local 258's weekend conference for Shop Stewards and Elected Members. "Power UP - Workers' Health & Safety Rights" was facilitated by Ana Rahmat of the BC Federation of Labour and had many members participating.*

The highlight of the morning was a detailed presentation by Dr. John Calvert, author of the book "Liquid Gold: Energy Privatization in British Columbia" (see page 22). Dr. Calvert has been working very hard to focus British Columbians' attention on the current state of power generation in this province and he gave a very educational talk about what has happened, what is happening now and what will happen in the future as a direct result of this government's ideological pursuit of privatization of our publicly-owned power resource.

Calvert emphasized that there is no evidence that power produced by private developers will result in any benefit to British Columbians, in fact, the very opposite will occur. Through the government's policies, BC Hydro is no longer allowed to build any infrastructure to provide power to meet future demands, but they are still responsible for ensuring future power demands are met and are being forced to buy into long term purchase agreements with private power producers. The result will be highly inflated costs for ratepayers as these long-term contracts come into effect.

Calvert also went into great detail, as he has done in his book, describing the "give-away" of water licenses in BC that have been sold off at an alarming rate over the past few years to private power producers. Many of these small companies establish

contracts to sell power back to BC Hydro in the future, and then resell these "liquid gold" assets, including the contracts, to a concentrated group of private companies. The methods used to maneuver this transfer of public ownership of our resources has been facilitated by legislation put in place by the BC Liberal government that prevents local municipalities from having any effect on the decisions to proceed with construction, legislation that has been denounced by the Union of BC Municipalities.

As well, Calvert reported that the required environmental assessments that need to be done prior to permits being issued for the construction of private run of the river projects are also being called into question as not one application to proceed has been denied.

Calvert was hopeful in reporting public support for efforts to change what is happening is building and he has been encouraged by the Union of BC Municipalities condemnation of the BC Liberal government's actions in selling off our publicly-owned resources. 🇺🇸



*Photo above: Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay presented Brother Clark Fergusson with a certificate acknowledging his actions in helping to save the life of Sister Barb Boyles when she suffered a life threatening medical condition while at work.*

*Photo below: Conference delegates enjoyed the opportunity to socialize at the dinner event that featured entertainer Todd Butler.*



*Doug Routley, NDP MLA Cowichan-Ladysmith, Official Opposition Critic for Apprenticeship & Training*



*Brother Phil Flemming, IBEW First District International Vice President*



*Dr. John Calvert, Associate Professor of Public Policy at SFU*



*Brother Jerry Larson, IBEW Organizing Director, Western Canada*



## BCTC workers ratify new collective agreement

After many months of difficult bargaining, Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell reports IBEW members working at the British Columbia Transmission Corporation have ratified a new collective agreement that has achieved wage increases, benefit improvements and more flexible contract language dealing with the effects of members transferring to the new control centres in Langley and Vernon. Members also achieved greater flexibility in their benefit plans in this round of negotiations.

The previous contract for the 100 members working at BCTC expired at the

end of March, 2007. The new contract provides members with retroactive pay and benefits. The workers ratified their new agreement on January 7, 2008, by a margin of 70%.

Senior ABM Greenwell would like to thank the members of the Bargaining Committee and the members working at BCTC for their support, involvement and determination in this round of bargaining. "Now we can begin to focus us on the move to the new centres in Langley and Vernon, and the union is hoping potential challenges our members will face with this move will be minimal," says Greenwell. ☑



## Two new union committees seeking participants

By Michelle Laurie  
Local 258 IBEW President

At the Elected Members' Workshop held at November's Local 258 Activists' Conference in Surrey, we held a brainstorming session on how to raise the level of engagement of our members with our union. As a result, we recognized two specific areas where we feel our Local 258 members can benefit at this time, and are happy to announce the formation of two new Union Committees.

The Local 258 Safety Committee will deal with a broad range of safety issues that arise and impact our members across all sectors. This Committee will focus on issues such as training, regulatory matters and communication with members in their workplaces.

The Local 258 New Member Orientation Committee will develop methods to

educate and engage new members, specifically about our Local, and more generally about the labour movement.

Each Committee needs representation from each of Local 258's sectors – Manufacturing, Utility, Private Outside Line, Utility Arborist and Traffic Control – who will be responsible for developing a mandate for activity going forward.

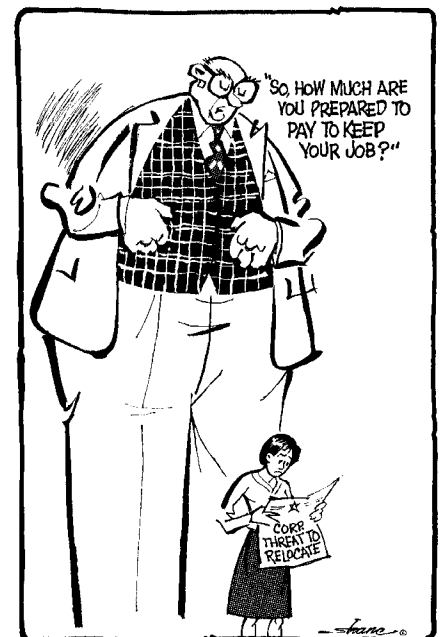
If you are interested in participating on either of these new Committees, this is your opportunity to get involved! Please consider putting your name forward to get engaged with your union and share your experiences and your skills and abilities. Please contact Michelle Laurie, Local 258 IBEW President, either via e-mail at [mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca); in writing to the union office; or, by telephone at 604-520-3305. ☑

## Hydro withdraws illegal strike application

By Rebecca Murdock  
Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel

On January 28, 2008, the BC Labour Relations Board conducted a hearing into BC Hydro's illegal strike application against Local 258. In an unusual step, BC Hydro sought an order against the union and the workers allegedly involved in a work stoppage at GMS in late November. Pursuing orders against employees individually is rare at the BCLRB and signals a more aggressive labour relations stance by BC Hydro than in the past.

Business Manager Doug McKay attended the hearing along with three Assistant Business Managers and two Shop Stewards from Hudson Hope. After a half day hearing, BC Hydro withdrew its application as part of a settlement package. Under the settlement, the parties agreed to education commitments regarding their rights and obligations under the Labour Relations Code. ☑





## *IBEW members volunteer to support St. Paul's Hospital Foundation "Lights of Hope"*



*Members of Local 258 IBEW donated their time in November to put up the lights for St. Paul's Hospital Foundation "Lights of Hope" in Vancouver.*

Volunteer members of IBEW Local 258 and Local 213 worked together this past November as they helped put up the lights for the annual St. Paul's Hospital Foundation fundraising event in Vancouver.

Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen was there as local volunteers did the electrical work for the decorations that provide the backdrop for this stunning display of Christmas lights in front of the hospital on Burrard Street in downtown Vancouver.

This year's event raised more than \$2.3 million. Since its inception in 1998, the Foundation's "Lights of Hope" has raised more than \$8 million for equipment, research and patient care at St. Paul's Hospital, and members of IBEW 258 have been there volunteering to help since the beginning. 📧



### **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 Lesli or Judith 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**

## *To The Hotline via the internet...*

Thanks to the unidentified member who forwarded the following photograph via e-mail asking the question, "What do idiots look like?!!"

If you have an interesting photo or story you would like to share in The Hotline, please forward via e-mail to [hotline@shaw.ca](mailto:hotline@shaw.ca) or mail to Local 258 IBEW, The Hotline, 7535 Sixth Street, Burnaby, BC, V3N 3M2.





# Unit 1 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE

### MASSET

Where: Line Room/Plant

When: 4:30 pm

### PRINCE RUPERT

Where: Line Room

When: 4:30 pm

### QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY

Where: Line Room

When: 4:30 pm

### SMITHERS

Where: Line Room

When: 5:30 pm

### TERRACE

Where: Carpenters Hall

When: 7:00 pm

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MASSET		14th								9th		
PRINCE RUPERT		13th				11th				8th		
QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY						12th						
SMITHERS	15th		11th		13th		15th		9th		12th	
TERRACE		12th		8th		10th		12th		7th		9th



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

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Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

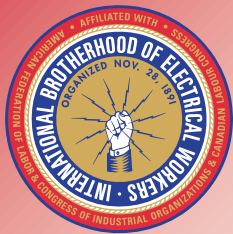
Assistant Business Managers:

Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen,  
Susan Longva, Don McNabb

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371



# Unit 2 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 2 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>PRINCE GEORGE</b> Where: Royal Canadian Legion When: 7:00 pm	16th*		12th*	9th*	14th*	17th*			10th*		18th	
<b>DAWSON CREEK</b> Where: Labour Temple When: 7:00 pm		19th					17th*					11th*
<b>FORT ST. JOHN</b> Where: Northern Grand Quality Inn When: 7:00 pm		20th*				19th				14th*		
<b>HUDSON'S HOPE</b> Where: Pearkes Centre When: 4:30 pm				10th				14th*				
<b>FORT NELSON</b> Where: Woodland's Inn When: 7:00 pm						20th				15th		
<b>QUESNEL</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm			13th		15th				11th		20th	
<b>WILLIAMS LAKE</b> Where: BC Hydro Line Room When: 4:30 pm	17th					18th					19th*	
<b>100 MILE HOUSE</b> Where: TBA When: TBA					15th							
<b>BELLA COOLA</b> Where: TBA When: TBA					8th					2nd		
* denotes Official Meeting												



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7535 Sixth Street,  
 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371





# Unit 3 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 3 MEETING SCHEDULE

### BRIDGE RIVER

Where: Lunch Room B2

When: 5:30 pm

### KAMLOOPS

Where: IBEW #993 Hall

When: 7:00 pm

### VERNON

Where: Army & Navy Club

2500 46th Avenue, Vernon

When: 7:00 pm

### MICA

Where: Curling Rink

When: 6:00 pm

### REVELSTOKE

Where: Hydro Dam Conf Room

When: 4:15 pm

### CASTLEGAR/TRAIL

Where: Castlegar: Travel Lodge

Trail: Terra Nova Hotel

When: 7:00 pm

### CRANBROOK

Where: Labour Temple

When: 4:30 pm

### INVERMERE

Where: Hydro Line Room

When: 4:15 pm

\* denotes Official Meeting

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>BRIDGE RIVER</b> Where: Lunch Room B2 When: 5:30 pm	15th*				13th				9th		11th	
<b>KAMLOOPS</b> Where: IBEW #993 Hall When: 7:00 pm	16th				14th*				10th		12th	
<b>VERNON</b> Where: Army & Navy Club 2500 46th Avenue, Vernon When: 7:00 pm	17th		13th*		15th		10th*		11th		13th	11th*
<b>MICA</b> Where: Curling Rink When: 6:00 pm	21st				10th				15th*		17th	
<b>REVELSTOKE</b> Where: Hydro Dam Conf Room When: 4:15 pm	22nd				20th				16th		18th*	
<b>CASTLEGAR/TRAIL</b> Where: Castlegar: Travel Lodge Trail: Terra Nova Hotel When: 7:00 pm		Trail 12th*		Castlegar 8th		Trail 10th		Castlegar 12th*		Trail 7th		
<b>CRANBROOK</b> Where: Labour Temple When: 4:30 pm		13th		9th*		11th				8th		
<b>INVERMERE</b> Where: Hydro Line Room When: 4:15 pm		14th		10th		12th*				9th		

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



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Susan Longva, Don McNabb

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371





# Unit 4 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 4 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>VICTORIA</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm	15th*			8th			15th*				12th*	
<b>GANGES</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm	16th			9th*						15th		
<b>DUNCAN</b> Where: Cowichan Valley Inn When: 7:00 pm	15th				MTG. AT 4:00 PM 13th					MTG. AT 4:00 PM 14th*		
<b>QUALICUM BEACH</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		12th			11th						13th	
<b>PORT ALBERNI</b> Where: Clutest Haven Marina When: 4:00 pm		MTG. AT 7:00 PM 13th*				11th			11th			
<b>NANAIMO</b> Where: Nanaimo Legion #256 When: 4:00 pm			MTG. AT 6:30 PM 12th*		14th*			12th*				MTG. AT 6:30 PM 10th
<b>PORT HARDY</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm			11th						10th			
<b>COURTENAY</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		12th				10th			9th*			9th*
<b>CAMPBELL RIVER</b> Where: Maritime Heritage Centre When: 7:00 pm		12th				10th			9th*		9th	

\* denotes Official Meeting

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
 President: Michelle Laurie  
 Vice-President: Tony Brand  
 Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
 Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
 Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
 Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
 Unit #3 Chair: Leon Arishenkoff  
 Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
 Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
 Unit #6 Chair: Barry Bell

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
 Assistant Business Managers:  
 Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen,  
 Susan Longva, Don McNabb  
 Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371



# Unit 5 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 5 MEETING SCHEDULE

### BURNABY

Where: Union Hall,  
7535 Sixth St., Burnaby  
When: AS LISTED

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

17th*		13th*	10th*	15th	12th*	17th*	14th*	11th	9th*	13th*	11th*	

### SECHLT

Where: Seaside Centre, Sechelt  
When: 5:00 pm

\* denotes Official Meeting

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
President: Michelle Laurie  
Vice-President: Tony Brand  
Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
Unit #3 Chair: Leon Arishenkoff  
Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
Unit #6 Chair: Barry Bell

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

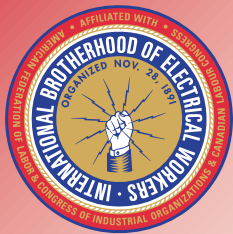
Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
Assistant Business Managers:  
Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen,  
Susan Longva, Don McNabb  
Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371







# Unit 6 Meeting Schedule 2008

## UNIT 6 MEETING SCHEDULE

### SURREY

Where: Millwrights Union Hall,  
#202-14625 108th Ave., Surrey  
When: 7:00 pm

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
SURREY	15th*	12th	11th*	8th	13th*	10th	15th*		9th*	14th	12th*	9th
CHILLIWACK		13th*		9th*		11th*		13th*		15th*		10th*

\* denotes Official Meeting



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
 President: Michelle Laurie  
 Vice-President: Tony Brand  
 Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
 Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
 Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
 Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
 Unit #3 Chair: Leon Arishenkoff  
 Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
 Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
 Unit #6 Chair: Barry Bell

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
 Assistant Business Managers:  
 Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen,  
 Susan Longva, Don McNabb  
 Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371

*Appliance Repair Technicians locked out since October, 2007*

# IBEW 213 dispute with Sears continues

The lockout of members of IBEW Local 213 who work as appliance repair technicians at Sears that began on October 1, 2007, continues as the union generates support from the labour movement and the public in an effort to expose this anti-union employer and their attempts to break the union.

The lockout began after Sears tried to impose terms on the long term workers as the union was negotiating revisions in the collective agreement. Sears demanded no scheduled wage increases for four years, split work weeks without two consecutive days off, the elimination of certain overtime premiums, and removal of a pre-existing paid holiday.

In the union's most recent newsletter, IBEW 213 Business Manager Rick Dowling describes the support BC's labour movement has shown since the lockout began. A full boycott of Sears is now in

*Sears has 3800 retail stores across Canada and the US and has a long history of anti-unionism. As far back as the 1930's, Sears has been a leader in fighting unions and has gone as far as instituting psychological testing of their potential employees to probe them for pro-union attitudes. Sears provided seed money to the first nationally known union busting agency in the US, the Labor Relations Association, and Wal Mart owner Sam Walton reportedly modeled his anti-union retail empire on Sears policies.*

*Currently Sears continues its anti-union stance. "Union avoidance experience" is a qualification for Sears managers, and in the mid-90s, the retail chain sponsored Fraser Institute Conferences in both Alberta and Ontario, where they promoted the adoption of right to work laws supported by the Klein and Harris governments.*

*Sears is also represented on the Board of Directors of the Retail Council of Canada, a leading member of the anti-union group Labourwatch.*

effect. BC's labour movement is showing their support for the locked out workers with a cheque for \$20,000 presented to IBEW 213 just before Christmas, money that was equally divided up amongst the locked out workers, and helped raise their morale with this strong show of support and solidarity for the workers.

Unfortunately, there have been a small number of members who have crossed the picket line and are now working for Sears as scabs. They have been charged under the IBEW Constitution and the union is currently awaiting a decision by the trial board. Sears has also allowed the scabs who returned to work to not pay any union dues.

Local 213 Assistant Business Manager Rav Ghuman reports that picketing continues at the Underhill location in Burnaby and any type of support is welcome. Leafleting is also taking place throughout Metro Vancouver, with growing support coming from across Canada and the United States. He reports Sears is continuing their "scare tactics" by threats and terminations.

Over four months after it began, the lockout continues with the union asking North American workers to boycott Sears stores in order to get this employer back to the bargaining table. ☑

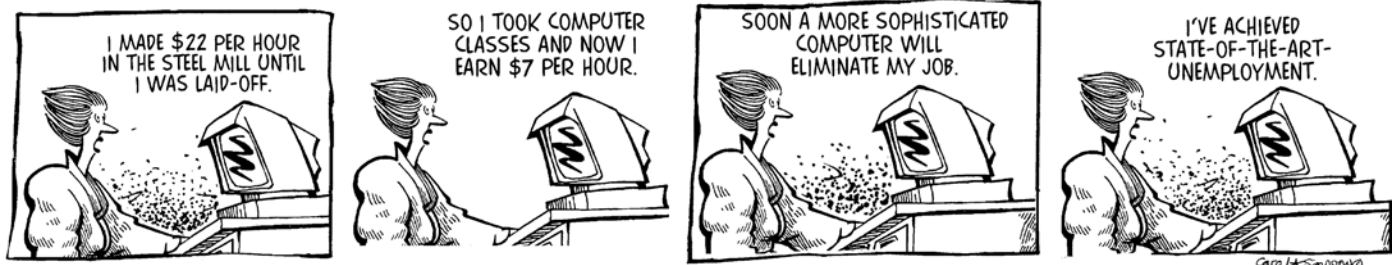
## How can you help?

Please help by telling Sears you support the locked-out technicians. For those who have access to the internet, LabourStart has begun an e-mail campaign directed at Sears. The on-line campaign can be found at <http://www.labourstart.org>. There is also a link from Local 258's website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca)

**Local 213 is asking that you DO NOT BUY any Sears merchandise during this dispute.**

Letters to show your disapproval can be sent to the following address:

Sears Canada Inc.  
National Customer Service Centre  
c/o President's Office,  
500 College Street East  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5L3



# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By **Ken McEwen**

The sun is shining right now on Super Bowl Sunday in southern California. However, Ginger has been telling me to expect rain by noon. In case you haven't met Ginger, she is the weather person on one of the local TV stations. If it should rain, that will



make the fifth rain event here in the Coachella Valley since November. The locals are quite excited because the average annual rainfall for the area of 5.3 inches has already been met and there are five months left in the reporting season. Any more rain will put us (I'm kind

of a semi-local) over the average. That hasn't happened for three years. The desert is already greening up.

It is colder here this winter as well. For the past few weeks we haven't seen anything higher than 67 US American degrees. Ginger tells me that we are running about 10 US American degrees colder than normal. Nonetheless, my daytime attire is still shorts and a T-shirt. Whenever I moan too much about being cold, Catherine Dear refers me to the Weather Channel on TV. That helps keep things in perspective as the rest of North America appears to be much colder, and rainier and snowier. I keep waiting for Global Warming to occur.

Politics is another big subject on the local TV. Something called "The Primaries" is happening down here. That seems to be a process where contenders of the same political persuasion go on TV programs to bash each other and solicit votes to determine who may be chosen at their upcoming national convention to represent everybody of that political persuasion as a candidate for president of the United States of America. I find the whole thing very confusing. Perhaps you have to be born into it.

An added phenomenon here in the Valley is how everyone has become elated because gasoline prices have dropped to around \$3.10 per US gallon. To me that just shows how well we have been conditioned by the major oil companies. Can you imagine a few years ago, experiencing excitement for being allowed to pay \$3.10 for a US gallon of gas? I read in the newspaper yesterday (I get the paper for the crossword puzzles but every now and again nosiness overcomes and I read some of the stories) that Exxon Corp.

topped all US companies and posted record NET profits for the year of 44.6 Billion dollars. My ruminations on this have caused me to again conclude that effects like supply, demand, events in the Middle East, South American presidents or production in the Alberta oil patch have no bearing on the price of gasoline. It seems the only consideration is ever increasing profits for the major oil corporations.

And now, as Monty Python says, for something completely different. We haven't traveled anywhere out of the Valley this season although the shopping opportunities of Quartzsite, Arizona still loom. We have just stayed home and picked oranges and grapefruit and fed birds. Catherine Dear feeds birds. Actually, Catherine Dear feeds everything. Well, except people. People can fend for themselves. It's the other creatures that need feeding. If I was younger and a profit motivated investor I would certainly invest in bird food stocks. It's hard to conceive how many tons of seed those small feathered creatures consume. I have often ruminated on what they do with all that seed. I know what they do with a good part of it. They convert it to droppings ("droppings" is an euphemism that we use for bird excrement) that need to be swept off the patio. They also do the dropping thing in the bird bath which I have to clean daily. If that bird bath was a people pool the health department would shut it down. I guess birds aren't as fussy as people.



Regular readers of this space may recall that in the last issue I nattered about being subjected to medical testing. I found the process to be somewhat interesting in that, although I live in New Westminster, I had to attend Eagle Ridge Hospital in Coquitlam for one test procedure and Richmond Hospital for another test procedure. I know of a fellow who lives in Chilliwack and had to travel to the Royal Columbian Hospital for testing. That's in New Westminster. Perhaps there is a rule that you can't be tested in the community of your residence. At any rate, I passed the tests and am free of the medical community for the time being.

Well, that's it for this time. It looks like Ginger's rain may be on the way. I'll have to hunt up a pair of long pants before I take Sesame (the dog) out for her afternoon stroll. Please work and play safely. Retirement is the best occupation I have ever had. 🌧️



## *A BIG Thank You to IBEW Local 258*



*Revelstoke Avalanche Team Photo.*



A BIG Thank You to IBEW Local 258 for the generous donation towards our hockey tournament held January 18-20, 2008.

The tournament was a big success, we had 8 teams for the weekend, two teams from Calgary, West Vancouver, Nakusp, Clearwater, Penticton, Kelowna and Revelstoke. The Revelstoke Avalanche and the West Vancouver team played in the final game, with West Vancouver out scoring the home team to take first place.

Thanks again from the Revelstoke Avalanche!

Brother Greg Brule

*Photo at left: At the Final Game, Mrs. Vigue, Revelstoke Citizen of the Year, dropping the puck, Revelstoke Avalanche vs West Vancouver.*

## **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.


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

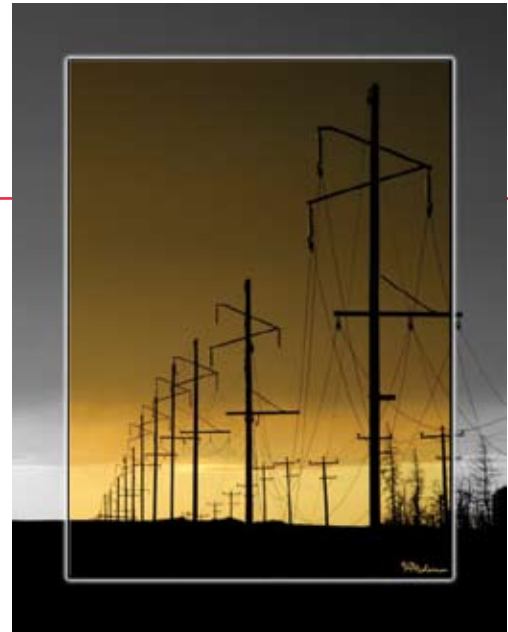


Local 258 IBEW's website, located at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) on the internet, has recently been revamped.

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. 



*The above photo was sent to The Hotline by Harvey Pedersen, a Local 258 member who is an avid photographer and is currently working outside the trade. This photo was taken by Harvey when he was working near Three Hills, Alberta.*

## Do you have photos for The Hotline?

The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. Well, we would like you to share more of those photos — 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 original 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.*

**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



**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**LOCAL 258**

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS & CANADIAN ELECTRICIANS  
 AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS UNIONS  
 REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, left, initiated new members Brother Alex Wright, center, and Brother Mike Richard, right, into Local 258 IBEW at the October Unit Meeting held in Masset on the Queen Charlotte Islands.



Congratulations to 50 year member Brother Ernie Fulton who was awarded a certificate and service pin by Unit 6 Chair Barry Bell.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, right, and Unit 1 Vice Chair Paul Russell, left, welcome new member James Lowe, Prince Rupert, as he is initiated into Local 258 IBEW.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, center, presented 15 year service pins to Brother Terry Nazaruk, left, and Brother Ed Brigden, right, in Terrace at the October, 2007, Unit Meeting.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, left, presented Brother Bill Woodworth, right, with his 30 year service pin award at the October Unit Meeting held in Masset. Ten year service pins were also awarded to Brother James Grosse and Brother Danny Youngson.



Welcome to new members of Local 258 IBEW who were initiated at the Unit 6 meeting held in Surrey in January. Congratulations to Brother Steve Nichols, Brother Jim Barber, Brother Dan Parkinson, and Brother Dave Bell.



Brother Barrie Williamsen, left, receives his IBEW retirement plaque and jacket from Shop Steward Ray Hern in Bella Coola.



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope congratulated new member Brother Rod Honrade, Meter Tech., at the Prince George meeting in September.



Congratulations to Brother Al Beeson, right, on being awarded his 40 year service pin by Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope at the January meeting.



Brother Andy Anderson, left, received his 10 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope at the January meeting.





Welcoming new members into Local 258 IBEW, from left, are Brother Cody King, Brother Justin Cole and Brother Pat Bania with Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope.

# Welcome New Initiates!



Local 258 IBEW welcomed new members into the union at the Unit 6 Meeting held in Surrey in November. Standing in back row, left to right: Ken Kainth, Jason Barham, Rick Brooks, Jordyn Ruckstuh, David Goss, Greg Foster, Kim Duchak, Danny Chan. Front row, left to right: Trevor McKimm, Rachel Lamont, Liz Guest, Lisa Cardarelli-Suppanz.



From left are Brother Ellis Boon, Brother Gerald Pope, Unit 2 Chair, Brother Gerald Brown and Brother Don Schultz, who were presented 30 year service awards by Brother Pope.



Congratulations to Brother Wayne Werk on his recent retirement.



Brothers Brady Prentice and Rob Batch from EITI man the booth at the Prince George Trade Show in January, 2008.



Brother Rob Shoemaker, newly topped out Lineman, received his IBEW Apprenticeship Completion Certificate and congratulations from ABM Don McNabb in Dawson Creek.



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope congratulated new member Brother Chris Smith, Apprentice Lineman, after his initiation in to the union at the Quesnel Unit Meeting in November.



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, left, presented retired member Fred Richardson with a union jacket and service pin at the November Unit Meeting in Quesnel



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, left, presented Brother Ahren Chapple with his 10 year service pin at the Quesnel meeting in November.

# LIQUIDGOLD

## Energy Privatization in British Columbia

Book Review by Bill Tieleman  
Reprinted from 24 Hours  
newspaper with permission  
from the author.

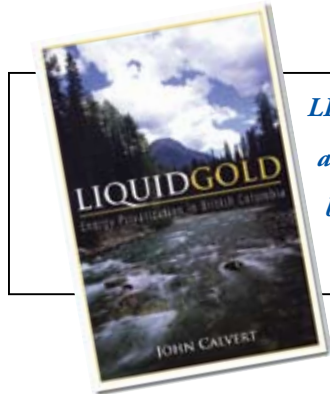
*I hope that I am not the only member in the house alarmed by this road now taken towards the privatization of BC Hydro.*

*Former BC Liberal MLA  
Paul Nettleton, 2002*

Did you know that the BC Liberal government has undertaken the most massive privatization in Canadian history, worth up to \$60 billion?

Did you know that the BC Hydro is already paying more for the 10 per cent of electricity produced by private energy corporations than the 90 per cent supplied through public power facilities? And did you know that provincial electricity rates will likely double and even triple because of the government's decision to privatize future energy production?

Probably not, but those facts are convincingly laid out in a new book about what author John Calvert argues is BC's impending electricity disaster.



**LIQUIDGOLD is available at leading bookstores across Canada.**

Liquid Gold: Energy Privatization in British Columbia [Fernwood Publishing, \$24.95] explains how the government has quietly privatized electricity production, taking that role away from publicly owned BC Hydro and giving it to multinational corporations and friends of the BC Liberal Party.

It's an ironic tale, given that right-



*Political commentator Bill Tieleman was a guest speaker at Local 258's Activists' Conference held in Surrey in November.*

wing former Social Credit premier W.A.C. Bennett nationalized private electricity production in BC in 1962 to create publicly-owned BC Hydro and now Premier Gordon Campbell is reversing a move which gave the province the second-lowest power rates in North America.

Calvert outlines an almost-secret policy: He shows that BC Hydro's residential consumers are subsidizing the construction of private power facilities by paying higher electrical rates - and that once these high-cost contracts end, the companies can export their power to U.S. markets.

Liquid Gold shows that long-term contracts signed by BC Hydro with so-called "independent power producers" are already worth \$15.6 billion for just one-third of future energy needs. If the other two-thirds also come from IPPs as planned, the total cost could exceed \$60 billion.

And that will mean skyrocketing BC Hydro rates as our power supply eventually becomes part of the continental energy market, where consumers in San Francisco already pay triple BC's electricity rates.


Calvert, a Simon Fraser University professor, says the story hasn't gotten the attention it deserves because the BC government has deliberately obscured it by talking about buying "green" power rather than privatization.

But Calvert says that wind power and run-of-the-river projects are often environmentally problematic and are not being adequately regulated.

And the book also shows that between 1994 and 2006 alone, BC Hydro provided the government with \$8.8 billion in revenue.

Sadly, Calvert fears the energy privatization may soon be irreversible due to long-term contracts and international trade agreement restrictions.

[Disclosure: I provided Calvert with my master's thesis on BC Hydro and he is a board member of BC Citizens for Public Power, one of my clients.]

*Bill Tieleman is one of BC's best known communicators, political commentators and strategists. He writes a politics column Tuesdays in 24 Hours newspaper. He can be heard on Mondays at 10 a.m. on CKNW AM 980's The Bill Good Show. Bill has been Communications Director in the BC Premier's Office and at the BC Federation of Labour. He owns West Star Communications, a consulting firm providing strategy and communication services for labour, business, non-profits and government. *



## Protecting our communities

# Public ownership of our energy resources

Just as we all function in our communities based on different aspects of our lives - family, workplace, town, trade, leisure interests, politics, faith, etc. - issues that arise in one area can have an impact in the many different circles of interest that make up our life. Currently, one such issue is electricity. Many of us work around it and with it, but all of us use it and need it in our daily lives.

Over the past few months, you will have seen John Calvert's book, "Liquid Gold", at your union meetings or perhaps on the lunch table where you work. I would encourage you to make an effort to read this well researched book. The focus of the book is about matters that affect each of us in our communities, as ratepayers and as the owners of BC Hydro.

The BC Liberal government has created a rapid path to privatization of our publicly-owned electric utility that is going to cost us billions of dollars – cost us, cost our children, and cost their children for generations to come. Through privatization, British Columbians have been committed to buying electricity from private power producers at ten times what it costs to produce it as a publicly-owned resource. We have been tied to these purchases over the long term – from 20 to 40 years – and at the end of the day, we will own nothing, and we will have no guarantees that these private power producers will even continue to sell to us, and most assuredly, sell to us at reasonable prices.

You might be wondering, why would anyone do this – take a profit-making public utility and sell it off, piece by piece, for nothing in return? Have we, as British Columbians, asked for this? Have we indicated that we want our supply and cost of electricity to be controlled by the global market? Have we sought to hand over our publicly owned power generation resource and its profits to private interests, especially considering the growing demands for power coming from the millions of consumers living not too far south of us in the US?

Well, the answers to these questions appear to stem from an ideological belief by the BC Liberal government that the "open market" is best, and that any regulation, even those that provide protection and benefit for our communities and the public at large, is bad. Well, maybe that ideology is realistic if you are a corporation interested only in making a profit – but should every aspect of the communities we live and work in be about profit? Should all of our basic needs be up for sale to the highest bidder?

It's very interesting that while our communities are being told our electricity rates are going up, the BC Liberal government has been cleverly spinning private power generation and ownership as an "environmental" issue – subtly trying to convince us that private energy producers will be more environmentally friendly, and that green energy can only be private energy.

As a province, we should be investing in research and develop-

## From the Back Corner

Report from  
Michelle Laurie,  
President, Local 258 IBEW



ment of a responsible, secure and reliable green energy supply, with British Columbians reaping all the benefits of ownership, not corporate shareholders whose *only* interest is the financial bottom line: the "profit margin".

But look at what is happening. As the BC Liberal government "talks" green, they are busy selling off every water license in the province to private power developers, many of them owned or controlled by offshore interests. BC Hydro is being forced to sign contracts to pay artificially and ridiculously inflated prices for future private power. Many of these private power projects will produce small amounts of energy, but the negative environmental impacts of their construction and operation is enormous and is already having harmful effects on communities throughout the province.

Realistically, there is no perfect way to create energy without having some impact on the environment, but wouldn't it be wiser if BC played a lead role in environmental stewardship and move forward with securing a realistic, comprehensive and environmentally responsible energy plan that also provides direct financial gains and benefits for all British Columbians? Instead, we are letting small private companies build "run of the river" projects all over BC while neglecting the environmental destruction they bring with them.

To add insult to injury, British Columbians will be paying through the nose for generations as private power producers get rich through exorbitant pricing, or by selling their investments to even bigger corporations that are amassing continent wide ownership and complete control of the electrical grid, all driven by the demand for greater profit.

Private power generation isn't about making us "self sufficient" or "green" – it is only about making a few people very rich at the expense of each and every British Columbian for generations to come.

If you are concerned about this issue, for any reason, I encourage you to get active and play a role in changing this path we are on. Many communities are now organizing and beginning to speak out on the issue of private power production and I encourage you to do your part. A good starting point might be the BC Citizens for Public Power, an organization your union supports. See the ad on the back page of this issue of The Hotline, visit the union's website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca), or give me a call at the office to find out more about what you can do in your community to help protect one of our most precious publicly-owned resources, before it is gone forever. ☑




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)



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

CANADA		POSTES
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Postage paid		Port payé
Addressed Admail		Médiaposte avec adresse
<b>3262510</b>		