



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
SUMMER, 2009

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Creating a culture of safety

Where do we go from here?

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16TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNEY – GET YOUR EARLY BIRD TICKETS NOW



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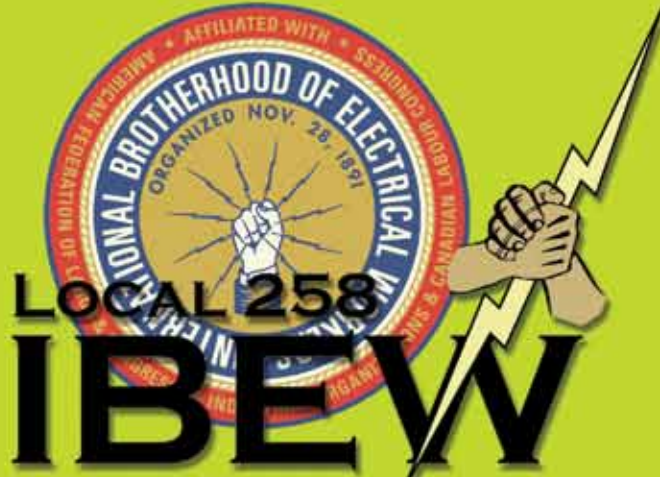
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THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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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Visit IBEW Local 258's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca or contact us via e-mail at info@ibew258.bc.ca.

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Cover photo: IBEW member Brad Masse installs a new guy wire on a new 60 kv dead end structure 60 L 95 near the Hope mud slide in June, 2009. Brother Masse is a 4th generation Journeyman Lineman and wrote in a recent e-mail to The Hotline, "I appreciate all this union has done for me throughout my apprenticeship. My family has been a part of this union for over a hundred years and I look forward to contributing to this tradition for many more."

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

Sparking a culture of safety

As a union that's always prided itself on putting safety first, one thing we've always agreed on with the company is that we're 100% behind safety – it's priority #1 that all of our members go home at the end of the day as healthy as when they came to work. You can be assured that we continue to do our best to firmly establish safe working environments for all of our members.

Safety in the workplace, though, is a two-way street – there is only so much the worker can do as an individual. They can rely on their training, experience and professionalism. And they can contribute to the culture of safety in the workplace. In our talks with members, we reinforce the fact there is no good reason why a safety rule gets broken. If we don't agree about a particular safety rule, we sit down, discuss, clarify and go over the meaning of the rule.

But it is the commitment, style and proficiency of the company that provides the leadership in ultimately determining the culture of safety in the workplace.

Saying that, we now have reservations about the way BC Hydro handles situations with safety violations.

In the eyes of many of the members I represent, it seems like BC Hydro sees any breach of the rules are to be dealt with by “the big stick” approach. With a recent incident in Invermere, it is clear the company is sending a message that it has no compassion for the well being of members who have been injured on the job and are still struggling to accept the results of the horrible accident that took place. Yes, there may have been a breach of safety rules along with a miscommunication and a mindset that what was being done was being done safely, but I can assure you, the members who got lit up didn't intend to get hurt, and now have to live with the trauma, the scars and the missing parts.

Nothing has changed in the union's commitment to safety in the workplace. We talk about it every day, we reinforce safety in all of our training, and we encourage members to come forward and talk about their concerns about safety issues with management. We trust one another and we look out for each other's backs. We know what we are doing. And we can accept blame when we have to.

But when the workplace lacks a style of management that shows leadership and engenders confidence in creating a culture of safety – we have a problem. When the employer loses the confidence of its workforce by being highly reactive and blaming workers alone for safety violations and accidents, workers get the message that safety is not a priority for the company. When mutual trust has been eroded, cynicism towards safety initiatives or programs will be the call of the day.

Safety needs to be a part of every day conversations at work and management needs to be seen as being sincerely committed to



Business Manager Doug McKay, center, joined with union brothers and sisters, including Unit Chair Gerry Pope, left, and Assistant Business Manager Dan Giesbrecht, right, in honouring workers killed or injured on the job at this year's Day of Mourning ceremony that took place in Vancouver on April 28th.

safety in the workplace. They need to listen to what is being said and they need to take what they hear seriously.

The big stick approach isn't working. Its time to take a good look at what is really taking place when it comes to safety at work. ⚡

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!

Dear friends,

This morning as I was having an attempt at "googling", I went looking to see if there was any more information about the helicopter crash in which Dirk (Rozenboom) and his partner were killed. To my surprise, there was your report on your successful golf tournament in memory of my son and his partner. On behalf of us all, grateful thanks. It is heartwarming to know the 'boys' are remembered by all.

If our health permits, we will come to Cranbrook this summer. Hope to meet some of you.

Again, our heartfelt thanks,
Gerrit and Marjorie Rozenboom

Dear Sister Michelle Laurie and fellow IBEW 258 members;
Thank you for your donation to Special Olympics Chilliwack. Your contribution was much appreciated by all the coaches, volunteers and most of all the athletes.

I am enclosing the letter I received (see below) from the president of Special Olympics Chilliwack.

Thank you again for your help and they hope they do you proud.

Sincerely yours,
Brother Mike Martinow



Dear Mike, Brothers and Sisters of Local 258,
On behalf of our association and Special Olympics Chilliwack I wish to thank you and your members for donating funds to cover expenditures to provide programs and facilities for our athletes.

Please allow us to visit you and thank your membership with a visit from one of our members and give you details on our progress from funds given

to us.

Without the dedication and care that your local, and the volunteers that support our programs, we would not be in existence.

Please extend our deepest appreciation to Michelle Laurie and all members of Local 258.

Thank you again and hope to hear from you again.

Jacques Lemieux
Local Coordinator, Chilliwack Special Olympics

Dear Dan Klassen,

Thank you again for attending my retirement send-off and presenting me with a plaque, jacket and union pin.

My thanks goes out to all my union brothers and sisters that I had the pleasure of meeting and working with over my 41 years of service with BC Hydro.

Yours fraternally
Bob Russell

Dear Michelle,

On behalf of the BC Power Pioneers Golf Club (Vancouver) members, I would like to thank you most sincerely for the \$500.00 towards our annual golf wind-up tournament dinner in September.

We are all retired and our club is self-supporting so we really appreciate receiving your donation and the support you have given us over the past many years. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,
Irene Bedard, President,
BC Power Pioneers Vancouver Branch

Dear IBEW Staff and Executive Board,

I would like to thank you very much for your thoughtfulness in sending a wonderful basket of fruit and goodies during my recovery from surgery. It was very much appreciated. Thank you again for your kindness and concern.

Sincerely,
Dan Klassen

Dear Michelle,

On behalf of the Burnaby Citizens Association and the Mayor's Golf Tournament, I want to thank you and your members for your ongoing support.

We would not have been able to have the success we did in our recent municipal elections without your help. Burnaby has a history of good government for the past twenty-one years, and with your support, we are able to carry on with this tradition.

Please feel free to contact us if there is anything we can assist you with. Together we will keep Burnaby strong.

Yours truly,
Paul McDonell
Councillor, City of Burnaby

Dear Susan and all other IBEW 258 members;
 Thank you so much for your generous donation. It was a great help in the purchase of trophies for each of the players.
 Sincerely,
 New Westminster Royals Hockey



Dear IBEW Local 258,
 On February 13, 2009, the University of Victoria Global Medical Brigades, a group of 25 students and medical professionals, traveled to Honduras from Victoria, BC. Within the country, we visited four rural villages whose access to health care ranged from limited to non-existent. Over 1,100 people were assisted and provided with essential medical aid. We also visited an elementary school and distributed children's vitamins, school supplies and tokens from Canada to almost 200 children.

Many long hours were dedicated to assuring our cause was realized; the other integral component was your generous support. This relief trip would not have come to pass without the considerate assistance of so many, including IBEW Local 258.

With that in mind, we would like to extend sincere thanks to you from all of us on the Global Medical Brigades Team, and, more importantly, from the great many Honduran citizens that benefited from your contribution.

Thank you again,
 UVic Global Medical Brigades

The University of Victoria Medical Brigades Team: Marilee Atkinson, Emily Pearson, Dr. Ronda Hauser, Dr. Don Mintz, Leah Greenwell, Melissa Umphrey, Kirby Pickard, Lindsay Zapshala, Donna Burkhard, Karen Albertson, Kate Mailer, Emelie Kozak, Jess Kozak, Emily Mintz, Andrew Mintz, Katie Mintz, Sara Tabet, Health Fleck, Sarah Edmonson, Graham Spencer, Alec Spencer, Niki Chunick, Keeli Husband, Brendan Leddy, Teresa Rodriguez, Jeff Thompson, Lara Miramontes

Dear Michelle & IBEW Local 258;

Thank you very much for your donation towards our well fought run at adding another MLA seat to our New Democratic party. Although I have already emailed or phoned you to express appreciation, I also wanted to send an official thank you letter.

Your support was very much appreciated during my recent campaign with Surrey-Panorama. With the help of the generous donation from your union, we were able to run a debt-free campaign including 2 ½ months of a fully functioning campaign office, leaflets galore, election signs, advertising, voice broadcasts and most of the other necessities important to be as successful as possible.

We did, in the long run, have a very strong showing. We ultimately took 40% of the 54% win, which was excellent in what was surely an uphill battle. I believe that next time round, with more resources and a fresh approach on all levels, we could win this seat!

It was an honour to be the MLA candidate for Surrey-Panorama and represent the working people's voices. An amazing journey, once again, made possible, due in part, by your generosity.

Thank you very much.
 Warm regards,
 Debbie Lawrance



Day of Mourning 2009

Workplace deaths and injuries continue to plague BC workers and their families



April 28, 2009, marked the 25th Anniversary of the Day of Mourning. With ceremonies taking place in 100 countries around the world, it was a day to reflect on the terrible toll of workers killed and injured on the job.

Last year, 160 workers in BC were killed or died as the result of an occupational disease. Since 2002, workplace fatalities and serious injuries have continued to increase.

“The Gordon Campbell government has done nothing to reverse the number of workers that are killed or injured on the job,” said BC Federation of Labour President, Jim Sinclair. “The government needs to seriously commit to worker safety through training, workplace safety inspections and by prosecuting employers who wilfully ignore worker safety and play fast and loose with worker’s lives.”

The Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) recently postponed the implementation of Working Alone Regulations that would have provided more safeguards for late-night retail workers. These regulations were implemented as a result of the death of Grant De Patie in a gas station gas-and-dash in 2005.

In the case of farmworkers, where six workers have died and many more seriously injured in the past two years, the government has consistently ignored the safety and employment standards of these workers and continues to refuse to hold a public inquiry into working conditions on farms.

A report recently completed by three Vancouver lawyers shows about \$1 billion has been cut from compensation paid out to injured workers and returned to employers through reduced employer contributions to the Workers Compensation system.

“Injured workers continue to suffer twice. First, through workplace injuries or death that are all too often entirely preventable. Secondly, through drastically reduced compensation and rehabilitation benefits that are causing real financial hardship on injured workers and their families,” Sinclair added.

The Federation is calling on the government to restore WCB compensation to pre-2002 levels.



Doug & Corrinne DePatie spoke passionately about their frustrations with the postponement of WCB regulations to provide more safeguards for late-night retail workers. Their son Grant died as the result of a gas station gas-and-dash in Maple Ridge in 2005.



IBEW Brothers Don McNabb and Dan Klassen at the Day of Mourning procession on April 28th.



Brother Tom Greenwell helped shoulder the load at Vancouver’s Day of Mourning ceremony.



Mr. Jagjit Sidhu, widower of one three farmworkers who were killed in a tragic accident on the way to work, spoke about the grief he and his family continue to deal with since losing his wife in 2007.

Local 258 IBEW claims victory in appeal court fight for injured worker

In a court battle led by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, against the Workers Compensation Board on behalf of a member injured as a result of a workplace accident, the BC Court of Appeal issued a 2-1 decision on April 30, 2009, striking down the mental disability policy provisions of the Workers Compensation Board (WCB) as unconstitutional.


Doug McKay, Business Manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, said, "This is a great day for workers in BC. The union led a good fight to protect the rights of our member, and all workers, through two decisions at the WCB, one decision at the Workers Compensation Appeals Tribunal (WCAT) and one decision at the BC Supreme Court. Finally, the Court of Appeal got it right."

claim was denied on the grounds that the triggering event was not traumatic enough. To be compensable, the traumatic event had to be on the level of a hostage taking or an armed robbery. Through its policy, WorkSafe BC limited the types of mental injury claims it would accept. WCB policy was meant to complement amendments made in 2002 by the Liberal government to the Workers Compensation Act.



physical...". The Court further noted, "There is a dearth of evidence that it is necessary to exclude claims that are otherwise proven to be genuine and work-related simply because the event giving rise to the incident is not 'traumatic' as defined by the policy."

The WCB policy provisions were found to be a breach of Section 15(1) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms because they treated workers with mental injuries in a discriminatory fashion compared to workers with physical injuries: see *Plesner vs. BC Hydro and Power Authority et al.*

McKay concluded, "We need to aggressively protect those who are injured on the job. The type of injury shouldn't matter. It's time for more understanding of mental health issues, not less." 

"This is a great day for workers in BC..."

*Doug McKay,
Business Manager,
Local 258 IBEW*

In 2003, the Appellant, Mr. Plesner, suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder when a major gas leak occurred at work with his employer, BC Hydro. Although the WCAT accepted the injury was real and that it occurred at work, Mr. Plesner's

In granting the appeal, the BC Court of Appeal concluded "workers with purely mental injuries are forced to meet a significantly higher threshold for compensation which is not required of those who suffer work-related injuries that are purely

VALLEY POWER & POWER FLAGGING REPLACING LIGHT POLE OUTSIDE IBEW 258 OFFICES IN BURNABY, BC



Asbestos-related occupational disease

A leading cause of workplace fatalities in BC and a global epidemic



Since 1994, almost 600 workers have died prematurely in British Columbia as a result of occupational disease from exposure to asbestos. It is estimated these numbers could actually be significantly higher as many workers diagnosed with asbestos-related disease go unreported to agencies such as the Workers Compensation Board, or claims for compensation are not accepted by the WCB.

As many workers are just beginning to learn the breadth of occupational diseases caused from exposure to asbestos, diagnoses such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, asbestos-related lung cancer and other respiratory diseases are becoming all too common place. As more workers head into retirement, increasing numbers are being diagnosed with these fatal diseases, as typical latency periods for these conditions range from 15 to 30 years after initial exposure to asbestos. Projections estimate up to 1500 or more BC workers will be diagnosed and suffer premature death in the next few years alone.

Asbestos has long been known to be a health hazard and has been described as “the grand-daddy of all occupational killers”. Affecting people who come in contact with it at all stages of the production process, the largest group of workers being diagnosed with asbestos-related disease are in the building trades. Occupations such as pipe fitters, plumbers, insulators, sheet metal workers, steam fitters, longshoremen, labourers, machinists, printers, papermakers, bricklayers, power engineers, heavy duty mechanics,

welders, production managers, tile setters, plasterers, carpenters, lathers, electricians, floor layers and steam engineers are just some of the occupations listed in statistics recorded by the Workers Compensation Board in BC over the last ten years for claims accepted as fatalities from asbestos-related occupational disease.

Other occupations recording fatalities include workers in health care, the tool & dye industry, bakers, forestry, mining, sales, carpet dye industry, retail industry, hotel & restaurant industry, accounting, education and workers in the shipping industry. Sadly, these fatalities will continue to be the legacy of asbestos.

Hazardous levels of exposure are often found in workers in shipbuilding, engineering, railway and the insulation industry. Construction workers have had their exposures from using asbestos-containing products, and the presence of asbestos-containing materials in public buildings such as hospitals and schools as well as private residences have exposed others to this deadly human carcinogen.

Many workers who may have handled asbestos aren't aware of

its long term impact as symptoms of asbestos-related occupational disease don't develop for many years after exposure, with many workers developing these diseases after they retire. It is estimated that the number of cases of asbestos-related occupational disease could, in fact, be as high as three times what is currently being reported.

Although asbestos is no longer used in building construction in Canada, it is still present in many workplaces and homes, and is regularly encountered by workers in the home renovation business.


World-wide, there is a global epidemic of asbestos-related disease, unfolding in primarily industrialized countries. But with the export and increased use of asbestos in underdeveloped countries, these numbers are expected to increase, setting the stage for another epidemic in the coming decades, according to a report published in the International Journal of Occupational Environmental Health.

Over 40 countries have banned the use of asbestos, but Canada continues to mine and export this toxic substance, used mainly in the manufacture and use of cement in developing countries where there is little or no awareness of the potential harmful effects. There is an international call for Canada to end its asbestos industry, but political will appears to be weak, with the federal government using millions of dollars of public money to support the Chrysotile Institute (formerly the Asbestos Institute), a Canadian public relations group aimed at promoting the sale and

use of asbestos. The Institute has been accused of spreading misleading information, yet it continues to enjoy financial support from the Canadian government, as well as being given preferential opportunities at Canadian embassies in over 60 countries abroad to hold promotional events featuring industry-friendly experts as keynote speakers.

As Canadians begin to acknowledge the seriousness of this potent toxic mineral, classified as a human carcinogen, 85 scientists from across Canada signed an open letter in October, 2008, calling on political leaders to end what they see as the increasing politicization of science by the Canadian government.

Although provincial compensation boards across the country have standards and procedures in place for workers who are being exposed to asbestos, many developing countries do not. And with victims developing symptoms many years after exposure, knowledge about the potential harmful effects of exposure to asbestos and related occupational disease is a first step in dealing with this public health catastrophe.

If you have symptoms of respiratory disease and think you may have had exposure to asbestos during your working career, you should consult with your doctor to review your work history and report any exposure to asbestos you think may have occurred. Ask to have a Workers Compensation file opened and head from there. 

Sadly, many of our members worked with asbestos long before there were any regulations – handling, breathing and being covered in those toxic fibres in generating stations, on ships, and around boilers and other insulated equipment. Since the effects of exposures often do not become evident for many years after the initial exposure, many workers do not experience symptoms or effects until after retirement. All members who have been exposed to asbestos fibres are reminded to be especially wary of chronic illnesses, and to keep their doctors aware of any exposure history. For instance, respiratory problems should be investigated if they carry on – let your physician(s) know that you worked with asbestos so that they can analyse the condition with the appropriate scrutiny. If there is any indication that you have a condition related to asbestos exposure, make sure you file a WCB claim as soon as possible (if you need assistance with this process, please contact Michelle Laurie at the union offices). Please pass this message on to any retired workers you know or come in contact with.

16th Annual IBEW — BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT

Shotgun Start
at 1:30 pm

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

Monday, September 21, 2009
Burnaby Mountain
Golf Course
7600 Halifax Street
Burnaby, BC

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

Entry Fee: \$110
includes golf cart,
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!*

For tickets, 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



IBEW Local 258 launches Union Member-to-Member Counselling & Referral Service

Caring. Concern. Confidential.

These are three words that are at the core of IBEW Local 258's member-to-member counselling & referral service being launched this summer by the union to provide a union-based peer support resource that members can easily access for help with workplace, personal or family problems.

As part of the long-standing partnership between organized labour and the United Way, Local 258's "Hearts & Mind" counselling and professional referral service is operated by union members who have volunteered or been appointed by the union to take specialized training through the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) United Way Union Counsellor courses.

By learning helpful communication techniques and interview skills, with a focus on privacy and

confidentiality, trained union counsellors serve as the link between a worker who may be concerned about personal, family or workplace situations and appropriate professional or local community resources that can help. Dealings with members are kept *strictly confidential* and referrals to helpful resources are completely voluntary.

Examples of concerns union counsellors can assist with are personal or family member difficulties with alcohol or drug abuse, gambling addiction or marriage or interpersonal relationship problems. Issues causing you concern with your performance at work, such as stress, burnout, trauma and harassment, are also areas where help is available.

Any union member who wishes to speak in confidence with a trained counsellor can simply pick up the phone now.

Mission Statement

IBEW Local 258 trained union counsellors are:

- united in providing resource options for members and their families in their time of need, and
- dedicated to maintaining a safe and confidential referral service to all of our members.

(See next page)

Trained Counsellors are available to help now!

IBEW Local 258's trained counsellors are now available to help you find the tools you need for the challenges you face.

From left, back row, are Fred Ruttan, Dan Klassen, John Hendricks, George Carter, Barry Kinsley, Michelle Laurie. Front row, from left are Cathy Tagseth, Karen Porter, Lisa Cardarelli.

To arrange to speak with a union trained counsellor, in confidence, during regular office hours (Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) please contact the IBEW Local 258 office at 604-520-3308; toll-free 1-877-520-3305 or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.



PROBLEMS AT HOME OR AT WORK? NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE?



Trained union counsellors are now available to help you with issues that may be affecting your well-being, home life and/or work performance.

To arrange a completely confidential phone call to talk with someone who can help, call IBEW Local 258 at 604-520-3305 (Lower Mainland), or Toll Free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours.

Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.

IF WE CAN'T HELP YOU, WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN.



Western Climate Initiative


Labour partnership seeks to protect workers in offering workable solutions for regional Cap and Trade initiatives

In an effort to represent the interests of more than 4 million workers and their families from both Canada and the western United States, labour leaders from British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Washington state, Oregon and California have put forward design suggestions for regional Cap and Trade planning at public sessions being held by the Western Climate Initiative (WCI).

Recognized as a key stakeholder by the WCI, the labour partnership is unanimous in its support for moving towards a more sustainable economy and planet in an equitable and effective way to address climate change. They have been seeking ways to balance, protect and increase good paying local jobs on domestic soil within an effective Cap and Trade program and have been meeting with top officials of the WCI to discuss their concerns. As a result, four key issues have emerged:

- the associated costs to business to implement Cap and Trade can't drive any more jobs overseas or to other jurisdictions with less stringent environmental regulations;
- new jobs that will be created in the green economy must be family-wage jobs with benefits and worker protections;
- in transitioning to a new economy, workers who may lose their jobs must be protected by measures that take into consideration financial support for those workers;
- there must be safeguards put in place to prevent corporations or speculators from gaining windfall profits from using Cap and Trade programs as get-rich-quick plans.

The labour partnership has expressed their concerns that corporations and businesses will ultimately transfer production - in other words, jobs - outside the WCI jurisdiction if costs to implement the necessary changes required under a Cap and Trade program are too high. To protect workers and their families, they have made a recommendation to the WCI to include a carbon tariff on both foreign and domestic imports into the WCI jurisdiction in an effort to stop the bleeding of jobs to foreign jurisdictions (both domestic and offshore) where inferior pollution standards exist. By including a carbon tariff within the Cap and Trade structure, business costs associated with implementing necessary changes to accommodate emission allowances can provide an additional incentive to keep local workforces employed.

IBEW Local 258 President Michelle Laurie recently participated in a series of meetings and workshops hosted by the Oregon Federation of Labour where labour leaders continue to seek effective ways to tackle climate change within a regional Cap and Trade program while protecting and increasing jobs in a balanced, fair and sustainable way. It was reported that no agreement was reached in subsequent meetings with WCI officials, but both sides agreed they must continue to work together to find innovative ways to cut carbon emissions and protect jobs. 

What is Cap and Trade?

Cap and Trade is a market-based approach, regulated by government, aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) by setting overall emission targets (cap) for facilities and then distributing emissions allowances in specific measured amounts that can then be traded (auctioned, freely allocated or a combination of both) by the facilities. Cap and Trade is seen as a critical and effective component of a comprehensive solution to climate change.

The Western Climate Initiative began in February 2007 when the Governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon and Washington signed an agreement directing their respective states to develop a regional target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, participate in a multi-state registry to track and manage greenhouse gas emissions in the region and develop a market based program to reach the target. The Premiers of British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Governors of Montana and Utah have since joined the original five states in committing to tackle climate change at a regional level. The WCI Cap and Trade Program will cover emissions of the six main greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride) from the following sectors of the economy: electricity generation, including imported electricity; industrial and commercial fossil fuel combustion; industrial process emissions; gas and diesel consumption for transportation; and residential fuel use.

Supporting labour and community partnerships

Protein for People Project



Thousands of British Columbians, through no fault of their own, are dependent on food banks to provide them with food in order to survive.

One of the most critical shortages in the diets of people dependent upon food banks is dietary protein found in such foods as meat, fish, eggs and dairy products. A protein deficient diet causes people to suffer from all manner of diseases related to malnutrition.

The Protein for People Project reaches into the community through its partnership with food banks and helps provide protein food to those who so desperately need it.

Without adequate incomes, families cannot afford a healthy diet. Most disturbing, children make up over 45% of people served by the food bank system.

Research confirms a healthy diet is critical to a child's physical and mental development.

Research also confirms that the cost of supporting healthy eating is offset by an enormous cost savings in our health care system.

From the labour of those on BC's fish-boats and those working in the canneries that process BC wild salmon for market, combined with cash donations from sponsoring unions and their members across the province, organized labour's Protein for People Project has been able to supply thousands of cans of high quality wild BC salmon to those in need in our communities.

The Protein for People Project is a non-profit society based in Vancouver run primarily by volunteers and retired union members. They work closely with food banks in helping to address the multiple barriers faced by individuals and families who rely on food banks to feed themselves and their families. Food bank clients are single parents, children, workers earning wages below the poverty line, seniors, disabled workers, students, new immigrants, unemployed and underemployed workers.

This spring, the Protein for People Project purchased more than thirteen thousand 213 gram cans of salmon that were packaged with the society's new logo and delivered to the Surrey Food Bank for redistribution to various food banks

across the province. The canned salmon was purchased from salmon wholesalers in BC and paid for by donations and sponsorship monies received from supportive unions and their members.

"This is the most efficient and cost effective method of distributing the fish," said John Radosevic, president of the Protein For People Project.

The Food Bank Association of BC determines the share each member food bank will receive, based on the number of people using their services in each community. According to Marilyn Herrmann, Executive Director of the Surrey Food Bank, this is the best way to ensure that each food bank gets a fair share.

In addition to providing a regular donation of canned salmon, the Protein for People Project, through its formal and informal labour links to community agencies and services, helps provide valuable information about issues like housing, employment, health, financial services and other community resources for clients using food banks.

For more information on what you can do to help support the Protein for People Project, visit their website at www.proteinproject.ca

IBEW PICNIC 2009 Everyone is Welcome!



Sunday, September 13th
Semiahmoo Fish & Game
1284 184th Street, Surrey
11:30 am to 3:30 pm



Get Together with Friends & Family for:

- Barbecue - free food, prizes & games!
- Show & Shine - bring your custom or interesting vehicle
- Children's entertainment
- Cribbage Tournament
- Fish Hatchery, Nature Tours and more...



BYOC - Bring Your Own Chair



If you have any ideas to make this event more successful or if you can help out, please call Barry Bell at 604-572-7376.


Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Local 258 IBEW's website, located at 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 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 minimum 4.0 megapixel 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 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.



The above photo was sent to The Hotline by Brother Brad Masse, a newly topped out journeyman lineman who took the photo of work on a BC Hydro project this spring. If you have original artwork or photos you would like to share, please send to hotline@shaw.ca.

Send your photos via e-mail to:
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

I have recently been advised that another issue of The Hotline is imminent. As usual, a deadline was attached to the advice, and here I am once again operating under pressure to meet the deadline. Fortunately it is raining this morning, because deadlines are always harder to meet during sunny weather. Further, as I have stated before, retirees don't handle deadlines at all well.

While I have, as always, been diligent in my ruminations, I am not sure that any of the profound opinions developed would be of great interest to the readership of this publication. I am therefore somewhat at a loss for words on this rainy morning. Perhaps if I just get started something will come to mind.

We returned to British Columbia from sunny southern California about mid-April along what I now call "The Casino Trail". Actually, pretty well all trails are now Casino Trails. In the past, it seems people had to head for the state of Nevada to find casinos. Not any more. Casinos seem to abound in all the western states of our neighbouring country to the south. This has changed Catherine Dear's focus somewhat. Shopping malls and factory outlet stores have been replaced by casinos as major attractions. Now I don't want you to get the idea that our travel plans are determined solely by the availability of casinos. However, if the day's driving ends in proximity to a casino, then why not? Again referring to the past, casino operators used to offer RVers overnight parking in crowded asphalt parking lots with few, if any, facilities. Nowadays, some of the best upscale RV parks we have stayed in, complete with all facilities and amenities, are provided by casino operators at very reasonable rates. Catherine Dear can go happily off to play casino while I spend quality time with Sesame the dog and the TV remote.

After getting home, we discussed the possibility of our customary springtime wander around BC. Due to the usual backlog of doctor and dental appointments, as well as some necessary chores around the condo, we decided to defer our wanderings until after Labour Day, when school children have returned to their studies. However, the camper sits loaded and ready to go at a moments notice should the need arise.

I want to assure everyone that I have not been idle. There have been two roofing projects on buildings across the street that required observation and supervision from our balcony. A building is being constructed kitty-corner from our apartment and the construction method is one I have not seen before and thus is in need of frequent observation and supervision. As well, our high-rise building is being painted, requiring an enormous commitment of my time in overseeing the job. Monitoring the com-

mercial and recreational traffic on the Fraser River continues as a major responsibility. These are just some of the onerous tasks faced by this retiree on a daily basis.

To further ward off idleness, Catherine Dear organized a multi-unit "yard sale" for our building. I mention this only to share with you the heart wrenching decision I made to pass on my stereo tuner/amp, tape deck, turntable and speakers that had been with me since early 1971. Well, the speakers hadn't been around that long as I upgraded them about 1990 or thereabouts. Nonetheless, all components were treasured members of the household and travelled with us through the moving process. The only other experience that caused as much distress with regard to valued possessions was when moving resulted in the loss of my chain saw at a similar yard sale event. All these years later I still suffer separation anxiety when I see a flyer advertising chain saws or when I visit a friend whose chain saw is proudly exhibited on or near his work bench. I must confess though to some self-serving interest in regard to the disposal of my stereo equipment. See, I have been planting seeds of the need to upgrade for some time now. However, it is more difficult, from a negotiations point of view, to justify the need for new equipment when adequately operating components are on site. The absence of such components may now allow the seeds to grow and flourish into a fully flowered need for new sound reproduction equipment. In doing preliminary research for anticipated negotiations, I discovered, through discussion with a friend in Hitchcock, Texas, the availability of a turntable that can be plugged into the computer so that my vinyl albums can be converted to CDs and something called MP3. Even though I don't know from MP3 (technologically I have just come to grips with CDs) I reckon that acquisition of such a device would fill any idle time that may occur once the painting project is complete. Back in the day when cassette tapes were on the leading edge of technology, I used to dispel idle time by taping programs made up of selected cuts from my vinyl collection so that I could enjoy the music while driving in the car. Now it seems I'll be able to do the same with CDs. It'll probably take me a few years to understand and make use of MP3, whatever that is.

I have been ruminating for about a year or so on the application of the carbon tax to automobile fuel. I'm pretty sure I'm missing a critical element in understanding this endeavour to save the planet. It appears that the plan is to reduce the use of automobiles by raising the price of fuel to unaffordable heights. But, the government says, the tax is "revenue neutral" and the extra money spent on fuel will be returned to the consumer. So, the carbon tax collected when I buy fuel will be returned to me and

(cont'd on next page)

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

(cont'd from previous page)

thus I will be able to defray the higher cost of the fuel and be in the same financial position (or better according to our benevolent government) as if the tax had not been applied in the first place. I'm not really sure how this encourages me not to drive my car. Also, we are told the major determiner of fuel prices is not greed, but is that bedrock upon which capitalism is built, supply and demand. If the critical element I'm missing is there, and government is successful in taxing people away from the gas pumps, it would seem to follow that the demand for fuel would fall, thus increasing the supply. The rules of capitalism would then require the oil companies to reduce the price of fuel in order to entice consumers to purchase more fuel and keep the profit margins up. Again, the logic of the whole exercise eludes me. My rumination circuits are now in overload. I think it's time to check on the progress of the painting and the building construction across the street.

Please continue to work and play safely because retirement is a great way to fill idle time. ☑



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

WCB Teleclaim service for injured workers

1•888•WORKERS

(1•888•967•5377 or #5377

on your Telus, Rogers or
Bell cell phone)

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.

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 though Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

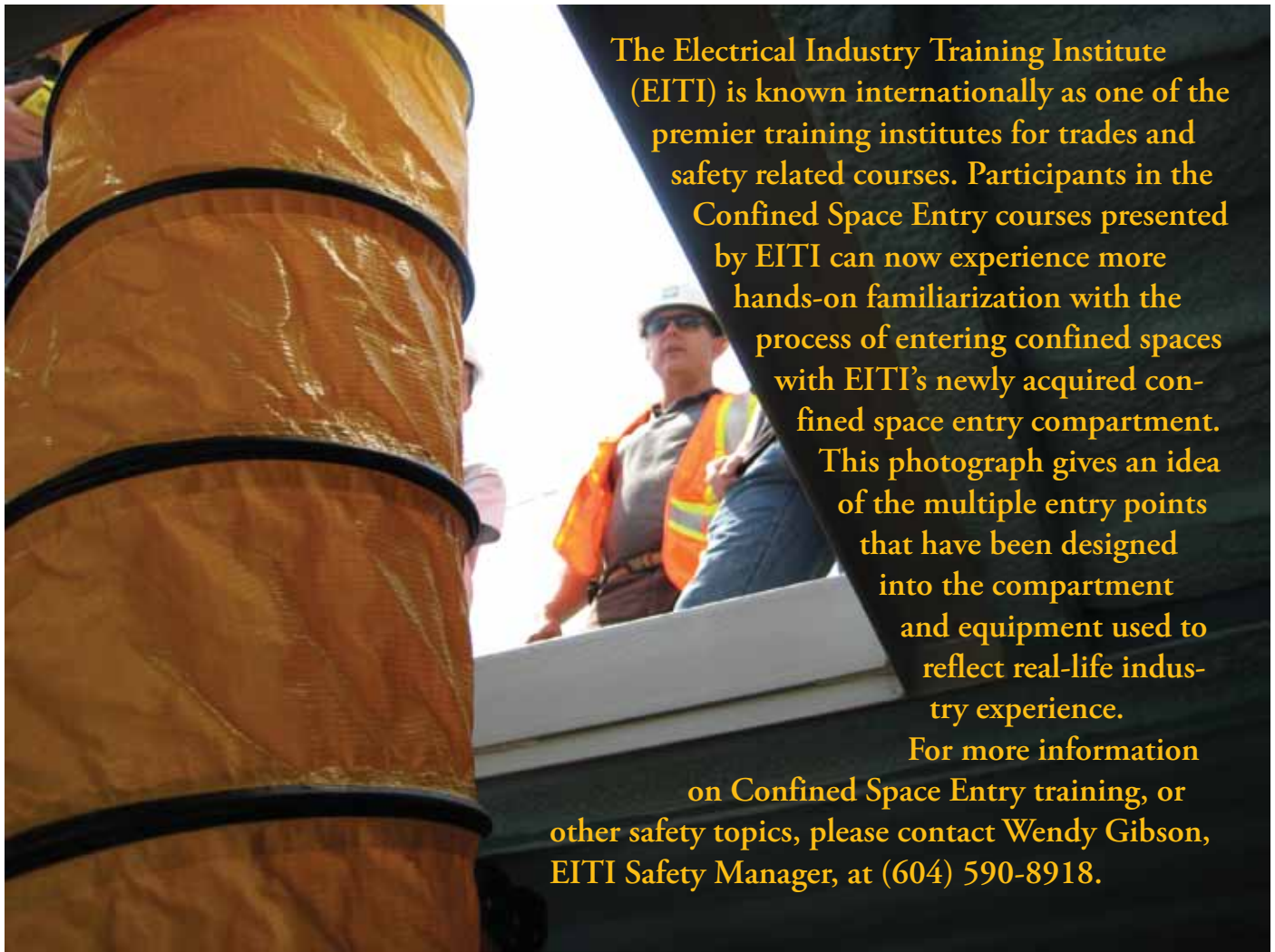
HAVE YOU MOVED?

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



The Electrical Industry Training Institute (EITI) is known internationally as one of the premier training institutes for trades and safety related courses. Participants in the Confined Space Entry courses presented by EITI can now experience more hands-on familiarization with the process of entering confined spaces with EITI's newly acquired confined space entry compartment. This photograph gives an idea of the multiple entry points that have been designed into the compartment and equipment used to reflect real-life industry experience.

For more information on Confined Space Entry training, or other safety topics, please contact Wendy Gibson, EITI Safety Manager, at (604) 590-8918.

Attention Shop Stewards

IBEW Local 258 is in the planning stages for this year's Shop Steward & Activist Seminar that will be taking place in early November in Surrey, BC.

Please watch your mailboxes for information on how to register and make travel arrangements.

A full report on the Seminar will be featured in the next issue of The Hotline.

BOYCOTT: Old Dutch Snack Foods

May, 2009 - All IBEW First District Local Unions, including Local 258, is supporting the call to endorse a national consumer boycott against Old Dutch Snack Foods Ltd., manufacturers of potato, corn and party snack products.

The boycott is at the request of United Food and Commercial Workers International Union and is in support of 170 locked out members of UFCW in Calgary, Alberta. The union members are waiting for Old Dutch Snack Foods Ltd. to negotiate a fair and equitable collective agreement.

The current agreement expired more than a year ago, and on March 29, 2009, the company locked out 170 members of UFCW Local 401. The company did not agree to have all union members pay dues and they refused to negotiate a rand formula as part of the collective agreement with the union.

Product boycott includes all Old Dutch products as well as the following private label products:

- President Choice - Western Grocers
- No Name - Western Grocers
- Great Value - WalMart
- Compliments Value - Sobeys
- Safeway Blue Bags - Safeway
- Co-op Krunchie - Co-op
- Cyclone - Overwaitea

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

LOCAL 258

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL, ELECTRONIC & COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS
 AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS UNIONS
 REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



Congratulations to Brother Stuart Poppy topped out Line Apprentice and long time Shop Steward and Lineman Brother Jamie Dodgson working at Allteck.



Brother Caleb Clement and Brother Tyrone McDonald, topped out Line Apprentices working at Arctic Power.



From left, Brother Scott Peebles; Brother Adam Lee, topped out Line Apprentice; ABM Dan Giesbrecht; Brother Bob Coulter and Brother Dinos Galos, topped out Line Apprentice, from BC Hydro.



Congratulations to Brother Conrad Krytenburg on his retirement from BC Hydro. ABM Dan Giesbrecht presents retirement goodies.



Brother Floyd Combs received his 40 year service pin award from Unit 6 Chair Karen Porter.



Congratulations to Brother Mike Sawatsky, topped out Line Apprentice working at Allteck.



Brother Joel Batch, topped out Line Apprentice, receiving his certificate from Business Manager Doug McKay.



Congratulations to Brother Don Best, a 30 year member, on his retirement from BCTC.



Congratulations to Brother Gary Quast on his retirement.



Congratulations to Brother Pat Dawson, topped out Line Apprentice working at Allteck.



Congratulations to Brother Dustin Paloposki, topped out Line Apprentice working at Valley Power.



Brother Dave Delmonico, left, congratulates Brother Gracjan Nowakowski, topped out Line Apprentice working at Arctic Power.



Brother Peter Quanstrom recently retired from BC Hydro. As well as being a 37 year member, Peter was a long serving shop steward. Presenting is Sr. ABM Jim Greenwell.



Brother Sean Davis was recently awarded Line Contractor Apprentice of the year. He is shown at the podium with Robin Lucas, Chair of the Joint Line and Sr. ABM Jim Greenwell.



Congratulations to Brother Ed Peters on his retirement as he was presented with some goodies by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Scott Gwilliam, center, on completing the Lineman Apprenticeship. He is with Brother Goan Yim, left, and Brother Dwayne Robinson.



Congratulations to Brother Bob Morton on receipt of his 20 year service pin award presented by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Larry Byhre on receipt of his 30 year service pin award presented by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Dave O'Connor, right, on being awarded his 30 year service pin by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Stu Renn, left, on his retirement from BC Hydro. ABM Dan Giesbrecht presents retirement goodies.



Congratulations to Brother Robin Reed on his retirement from BC Hydro. Presenting with goodies is Sr. ABM Jim Greenwell.



Congratulations to Brother Terry Vickers on his retirement as he was presented with some goodies by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



From left are Brother Frank Williams, Brother Scott Gwilliam and Brother Hasso Behn.



Brother Len Cebulak and Brother Del Gerry are shown above being congratulated by Unit 3 Chair, Leon Arishenkoff on their retirements.



Congratulations to Brother Bob Verhoeve, right, on receipt of his 35 year service pin award.



Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff awards Brother Steve Jens and Brother Ken Walters with their 35 year service pins.



Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff presents Brother Steve Oryschak with a 45 year service pin award. Congratulations!





From left are: Brother Brian Tuson, Brother Bob Bridges, Brother Dan Jensen, Brother Tyson Friske, members of the Electrical Crew from Prince George Construction Services. This photo was taken after the completion of the Transformer T1 Replacement Project at Falls River Generation Facility.



Congratulations to Brother Dave Delmonico on his retirement from BC Hydro.

UNIT 2 MEMBERS AT THE MOBERLY OPEN



Is safety becoming meaningless?

First of all, I want to thank you for supporting your Executive Board's recent request to approve significant donations to burn and electrical injury research. Although we cannot eliminate the horrific effects of electrical contact and burn injuries, the important research of both the BC and Ontario foundations will do much to improve physical and psychological outcomes for workers who experience such devastating accidents. When we make these donations as an organization, we are publicly defining our position as leaders in protecting and fighting for injured workers.

Safety – we hear the word so much at work I wonder if it begins to lose meaning to us. We have focused on safety issues in this Hotline, and I know that for many of you there has been an increased pressure/focus by your employers to pay attention to safety. Everyone is seeking ways to ensure you go home at night without injury. Of course, there is no magic solution, no simple word or phrase that will eliminate accidents in the workplace, and asking you to be safe is becoming dangerously like the Walmart greeter saying “have a good day” – it is said so much that it is on the verge of becoming meaningless, even though the intended concept is so critical to us all.


As I marched with the hundreds of other workers on the National Day of Mourning for Workers Injured and Killed on the Job this year, the sheer volume of the representative coffins we carried frightened me. Why is it that we have not been able to reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries across the province and indeed the country? Three times as many Canadians were killed on the job last year as were murdered. Along with the mourning for these workers, we need to find outrage against the apparent ineffectiveness of the protections for workers. Part of

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



our ongoing battle here in British Columbia has been the lobby to force more effective enforcement of WCB regulations, and to ensure meaningful penalties are in place so the financial consequences for employers who fail to follow regulations that will protect their workers are significant enough to prevent the behaviour.

You've heard me get on my soapbox before about the importance of the “Brotherhood” in our name - that one word embodies for me our responsibility to each other, our true concern for the well being of each other, on and off the job. It is who we are, and it is the thing I am most proud of about our union - our genuine respect and support of each other, even though we have differences of opinion on many things, we know the value (and the power) of our collective behaviour. The extension of this collective characteristic is that each of you, as you perform your workplace duties, remember your responsibility to each other, take care of each other and listen to those who are reaching out to protect you in the workplace, even if our methods of communication are different and not always perfect. If we get this right, I know each of you will go home every day intact, enjoy the summer sun in the company of family and good friends, and every once in a while, take the time to reflect on the benefits of working with brothers and sisters who care that you continue to experience that enjoyment. 

Sister Michelle Laurie, along with a number of IBEW 258 Executive Board members and hundreds of workers, participated in this year's Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job ceremonies that took place in Vancouver at the Art Gallery on April 28. For the complete report, see page 6.



The election may be over, but the battle to **STOP PRIVATIZATION** continues ...



**THANK YOU
IBEW 258 FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!**

Learn more about the movement
to protect public power
and BC's pristine wilderness



www.citizensforpublicpower.ca

www.bcguardians.ca



YES

Send me more information about BC Citizens for Public Power and BC Guardians.

Please print clearly.

Name

Address

City

Province


Postal Code

Phone #

Email

Cut this form on the dotted line and mail it to: **BC Citizens for Public Power**
604-207 W Hastings St. Vancouver BC V6B 1H7

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

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