



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
WINTER, 2009

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

With the government announcing there's no money for public sector wage increases, what's in store for

BARGAINING IN 2010?

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**LOCAL 258 MEMBERS SUPPORT
BURN UNIT WITH \$100,000 DONATION
FOR LOCAL RESEARCH**



**LOCAL 258 SHOP STEWARDS
ACTIVATED & READY TO GO!**

HOTLINE Winter 2009

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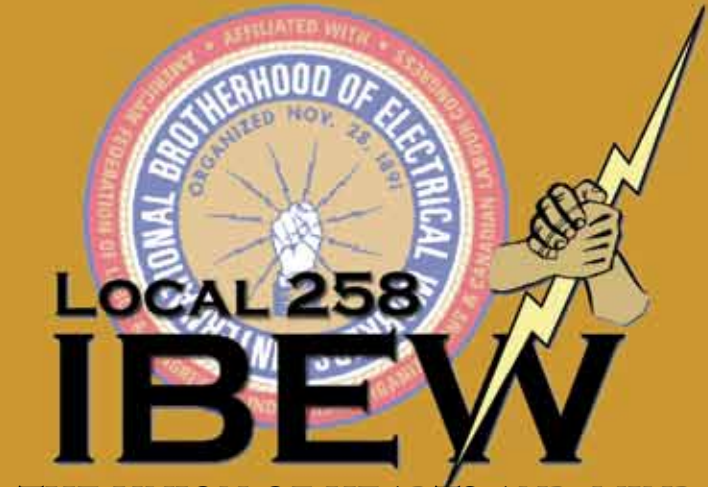
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THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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

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Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

Cover photos:



Local 258 IBEW members recently voted to approve a \$100,000 donation to support funding the VGH & UBC Hospital Endowment Fund. Presenting the cheque are, from left, Lois Budd, Michelle Laurie, Barb McInnis, Doug McKay, Dr. Aziz Ghahary, Dr. Nicholas Carr and Dr. Anthony Papp. See article page 10.



Local 258 Shop Stewards pose for a group photo with a replica of the cheque presented to the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. See article starting page 6.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

Recent legislation put forward by Health Minister Kevin Falcon that forced striking ambulance paramedics back to work under an imposed collective agreement while these professionals were in the middle of a vote for a new contract makes one wonder, has the definition of free collective bargaining in BC changed? Since when does a third party get to interfere in negotiations between an employer and its workers? After all, the paramedics were on strike against their employer, the BC Ambulance Service, but they were doing their jobs, protecting and serving British Columbians while continuing to work their shifts as required as an essential service. They were about to count the vote results from the last offer their employer made when suddenly, the government steps in and arbitrarily forces a new contract.

What kind of province do we live in when a government can do this? Oh, I forgot, we're in BC, where Gordon Campbell's Liberals do things like rip up collective agreements or force legislated conditions upon workers, while at the same time steadfastly refuse to increase the minimum wage (now the lowest in Canada) and give themselves huge wage increases. Quite the paradox.

With the stroke of a pen they can change the rules. As public sector unions representing almost 200,000 workers in this province head into contract negotiations in 2010, including over 2,000 of our own members who work for BC Hydro and the BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC), the situation looks grim. We anticipated this when we heard this fall's Throne Speech and it's claim there's not one cent in the budget for any wage or benefit increases this year or next year for BC's public workers.

Since then, we have discovered how serious this government is to ensuring public sector workers will get nothing in these upcoming negotiations (if you can call them that): they have mandated their Crown Corporations and their management groups to hold firm with zero percent. Given these circumstances, we have some tough decisions to make in the months ahead, and I will be looking forward to your opinions, feedback and solutions to help tackle this major roadblock being placed before us. Proposal forms have been distributed to all members of our Local who are heading into bargaining next year and we are about to give official notice to begin the bargaining process.

I know this is going to be a difficult set of negotiations for our members working at BC Hydro and BCTC. One thing is certain though: it is clear we are going to do the best we can in these circumstances. Our members at BC Hydro are facing a number of additional challenges as this government continues to make secret deals with their private power friends, causing ratepayers to dig even deeper while they restrict Hydro's ability to work in the best interests of the future for British Columbians. With the forced



Business Manager Doug McKay speaks to Shop Stewards at the Local 258 Activists Conference that took place in early November.

departure of Mr. Elton, the CEO (and he did not go willingly, I assure you), as well as the uncertainty of who his replacement will be, many questions are again being asked as to the future of this public jewel.

In early November we brought together over a hundred Local 258 Shop Stewards for our third Activists Conference in Surrey. It was great to see so many of our members enthusiastically participate in the training seminars, interact with our guest speakers and have some time to network and socialize. International Vice-President Phil Flemming traveled west from Toronto to speak with the activists and take part in the introduction to the Code of Excellence seminar presented by International Rep Laird Cronk. You can read more about the Conference starting on page 6 of this issue of The Hotline. Many thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work in organizing this successful event.

I had the opportunity to proudly represent our members recently when Sister Michelle Laurie and myself attended the Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit at Vancouver General Hospital where we officially presented a cheque for \$100,000 to the VGH & UBC Hospital Endowment Fund to support Research in Wound Healing. The work these professionals are doing in advancing treatments for wound healing as a result of burn injuries is groundbreaking and I am very grateful our members are supporting this initiative. It's an unfortunate reality that some of our members suffer terrible burn injuries as a result of workplace accidents and it is encouraging to know local research is working hard to help those who have to go undergo treatment and recovery from burn injuries.

In closing, it's hard to believe Christmas is right around the corner. And with the holiday season usually comes our winter storms. Please be safe when working and all the best to you and your families as we head into the holidays and the New Year. 🌨️



Dear Michelle & E-Board,

This year's IBEW Local 258 and BC Hydro's Annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada was another great success. As well as for those who participated and for the charity that has a long history with the IBEW.

More than 150 participants hit the links followed by an awards banquet and steak dinner. For the last 3 years our donation has gone up and this year we were able to raise over \$9,000. Your donation has gone a long way in helping the IBEW in reaching their fundraising goal for the MS Society of Canada.

Thank you for your continued support.

In solidarity,

Dan Klassen

Assistant Business Manager, Local 258 IBEW

Dear Michelle Laurie and Daniel Payne,

Once again, thank you so much for your support for your donation in support of the Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association 2009-2010 Handbook. On behalf of our 17 member associations, we appreciate your support for minor hockey on Vancouver Island.

We are in full swing organizing our leagues for this season and the Handbook will be distributed to all teams.

If you would like a complimentary copy, please do not hesitate to contact me and we will be very pleased to send one out to you.

Once again, thanks for your support!

Yours truly,

M. Herba

Executive Director

Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey

Association



Dear Cathy (Tagseth),

Thank you so much for the arrangement you made and have the lovely fruit basket delivered.

This pretty wholesome gift really has cheered me up.

Derick

To the IBEW Executive Board & members:

I want to thank you very much for contributing the kind donation for the Artist Camp in the Muskwa-Kechika Conservancy Area.

My computer is dying so I haven't processed many photos, but will send a story to the Hotline shortly.

Thanks again for contributing to this opportunity for me.

Your sister,

Val Utgaren

Dear Brothers & Sisters & Executive of IBEW 258,

Thank you very much for your donation of \$500.00 towards prizes for the Hydrecs campaign.

We're having to increase employee participation by offering incentive prizes to people who donated through Hydrecs. We only have 22% of employees donating through Hydrecs and once again IBEW 258 has stepped up by donating for these incentive prizes.

Thanks again,

Brother Ed McEwen

Northern Hydrecs Rep

Dear Dan (Giesbrecht),

I received the very nice gift basket the other day from my IBEW Brothers. I would just like to say thanks and that being laid up so long can be a little depressing. Your phone call and the gift helped to lift my spirits and was much appreciated. From myself and my family we would like to say thanks to you and the rest of the IBEW members.
Bruce McGillivray

Dear members of Local 258 IBEW and Ms. Susan Longva,

Thank you so much for your kind contribution to our Scrabble Fundraiser.

The money will be used in support of elderly, impoverished women in Africa who are raising some of the 13 million children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic. It will be sent, through the Stephen Lewis Foundation, to grassroots projects that are working creatively to rebuild lives and restore hope.

In appreciation,

Janine Reid

Coordinator, Royal City Gogos

Dear Sister Michelle Laurie,
Thank you for your help in making this year's Labour Day Picnic a success.

Over one-thousand people attended the event, many from the local community, and it proved to be a great way to celebrate Labour Day and to showcase the labour movement in the community. Labour Councils and affiliates contributions - particularly volunteers - helped make the day a real success, and we couldn't have done it without that support.

Thanks again for helping to make the picnic a success, and I hope you'll be part of it again next year.

In solidarity,

Jim Sinclair

President, BC Federation of Labour



Dear Local 258 IBEW;
Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$500. With your help and the help of other good friends we have been able to make a difference in the lives of many people who are suffering through hard times.

Sincerely,

Betty Nilson,

Friends of Hudson's Hope Society



Dear IBEW - Karen Porter & Cathy Tagseth,
Units 5 & 6,

We are very pleased that our daughter Meg McInnis has applied for and received a Tom Forkin Scholarship this year. Not only will the scholarship be directly contributing to her future career efforts. It also serves as a refreshing reminder to our home, friends and colleagues, that the solidarity of organized labour is a direct contribution to our community and social network.

Rob Wilmsmeier

Dear Ms. Laurie,

It was a nail biter but we won! When all the votes were counted we retained the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows constituency for the NDP by 274 votes.

Citizen participation in the democratic process is unfortunately waning, as seen by the low voter turnout across the province. Nonetheless, it remains as important as ever to be involved in the political process to ensure that we gain the best possible governance for BC.

Thank you again

Michael Sather, MLA

Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows



DAVID SPENCE, SON OF PLT TODD SPENCE

Congratulations to David Spence who graduated in June 2009 from Dover Bay Secondary School on Vancouver Island. In September '09 David enrolled at Vancouver Island University in a General Arts Program. To help with his tuition and other education costs, David received \$6,250 from the trust account set up by Local 258 members in memory of his late father, Todd Spence. David's interests include music, rowing, surfing, mountain biking and snow boarding. We wish David much success in his new post-secondary pursuits. We are very proud of you.



**"IBEW LOCAL 258
IN TRUST FOR DAVID
& ANNIKA SPENCE"**

....IN MEMORY OF TODD SPENCE.



Shop Stewards gather for Local 258 Activist Conference



Local 258 members from across the province gathered in Surrey in early November at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel where they took part in the 3rd Activists Conference directed at Shop Stewards.

The three day event featured a Shop Steward training component, guest speakers, networking opportunities and lots of time to learn.

Participants listened to guest speakers including IBEW First District International Vice President Phil Flemming and BC Federation of Labour president Jim Sinclair. Read more about the Conference on the next few pages of The Hotline.



Conference features Shop Steward Training classes

Local 258 Shop Stewards attending the Activists Conference in Surrey in early November took part in one of two custom designed classes where they learned techniques and procedures to assist them in their roles as Shop Stewards in their workplaces.

Local 258 ABMs Dan Klassen and Dan Giesbrecht were the facilitators providing an overview of the role of the Shop Steward to those who had not previously attended the Activist Conference. In this class, participants learned about the history of Local 258 and discussed, in-depth, the various aspects of representing their union brothers and sisters in the workplace.

Students reviewed the importance of communication and how leadership skills can be further developed to enhance their abilities to assist union members on the shop floor. Effective relationships with management and comprehending the collective agreement were recognized and discussed as vital components of an effective shop steward's toolbox.

Participants had the opportunity to share their experiences and ask questions in an atmosphere of learning and support

Local 258 President Michelle Laurie and Legal Counsel Rebecca Murdock led a class of seasoned Shop Stewards in a more detailed seminar focusing on the law and the role of the Shop Steward. Guest speakers were Tony Glavin and Will Clements from Fiorillo, Glavin, Gordon Barristers and Solicitors. Glavin delivered a workshop on 'Past Practice' with Clements presenting a power point presentation on 'Discipline and the Shop Steward'.

Segments on 'Duty of Fair Representation' and 'Disclosing Private Information' were also featured as well as an interactive presentation on legal research techniques of labour board decisions. *(see more next page)*



Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen



Local 258 ABM Dan Giesbrecht



Local 258 Legal Counsel Rebecca Murdock



Tony Glavin



Will Clements





*Local 258 President
Michelle Laurie*



*Local 258 Business Mgr.
Doug McKay*



*International Vice President First District
Phil Flemming*

Conference speakers highlight agenda



*IBEW International
Executive Board member
Rick Dowling, Local 213*

A busy day of guest speakers highlighted the second day of the Local 258 Activists Conference.

Welcomed by Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay and President Michelle Laurie, attendees heard from International Vice President First District Phil Flemming who described the advances the union is making in Canada as membership has increased by 13% since 2001 as a result of successful organizing drives, with Local 258 seeing an increase of 7% last year alone.

Rick Dowling from Local 213 and International Executive Council member welcomed the delegates and described the work underway by the International in organizing the upcoming Convention that will take place in Vancouver in 2011, the third time in the union's history this event will happen in Canada.

Jim Sinclair from the BC Fed spoke about the future of labour in BC and emphasized the importance of reaching out to all workers. The Fed's Minimum Wage campaign continues with tens of thousands signing petitions demanding the provincial government raise the minimum wage to \$10 an hour.

Lauris Kleven, Business Manager from Local 2034 (Manitoba Power) described the challenges the union underwent this year as they took on the fight for a new collective agreement with their employer that resulted in the first strike in the union's 50 year history with Manitoba Hydro.

Joel Harden from the Canadian Labour Congress Research Department gave an informative presentation about the current campaign that has recently got underway demanding improved retirement security and pension benefit improvements for Canadian workers.

Rick Smith, co-author of "Slow Death by Rubber Duck" and Executive Director of Environmental



*BC Federation of Labour
President Jim Sinclair*




*Joel Harden, PhD,
Senior Researcher,
Canadian Labour Congress*

Defence Canada gave delegates a surprising look at the everyday pollutants and the ease with which they accumulate in the human body. Delegates took home complimentary copies of his book, a Canadian bestseller, now available in bookstores.

Dr. Jim Boyle and Lois Budd from the Burn Unit at Vancouver General Hospital thanked Local 258 members for their generous donation to support wound healing research and gave a glimpse into the work they do to help burn victims recover at the province's premier burn unit.

The day closed with a very informative presentation from John Michalski, lawyer, who presented a workshop on "Last Will & Testament" that provided delegates with detailed information on how to prepare their personal documents, including Power of Attorney and Representation Agreements.

Delegates had an opportunity to socialize together on Saturday evening as they enjoyed a dinner banquet prepared by the unionized staff at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel, followed by entertainment from comedian Tim Nutt, one of Canada's premier comedians. Funds were raised during the dinner for this year's United Way's Labour Participation Campaign. 



Local 258 Shop Stewards who work in Traffic Control had an opportunity to gather together at this year's Activist Conference. They were joined for a group photo by ABM Susan Longva and Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay.



Dr. Jim Boyle & Lois Budd, VGH Burn Unit



Lauris Kleven, Business Mgr. Local 2034 IBEW, Manitoba



John Michalski, Barrister & Solicitor

Introduction to IBEW's Code of Excellence

IBEW International Rep for BC & the Yukon, Laird Cronk, led the delegates in a Sunday morning session that focused on looking forward into the future and the challenges that unions face in our industries across North America.

He led a workshop introducing the IBEW's "Code of Excellence" program that has recently been refined after being developed to overcome the challenges many of our members are facing from non-union contractors.

The Code is an agreement between managers and the IBEW to increase labour-management cooperation and professionalism in the workplace.

For more information about the IBEW's Code of Excellence, visit the union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.



Donation will help burn survivors in so many ways

Local 258 visits BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit at Vancouver General Hospital

The life of a burn survivor changes from one second to the next. Just like that. The journey for a patient from initial burn injury to burn survivor is a long and painful one. It is sustained by hope, conviction, unparalleled courage and the support of donors like Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

On October 16, union President Michelle Laurie and Business Manager Doug McKay presented Barb McInnis, Director, Major Gifts and Planned Giving of VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation, with a generous \$100,000 donation to the Chair in Burn and Wound Healing Research Endowment. This important contribution will help ensure that secure funds are available to retain scientific leadership so that the important discoveries made by BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn and Wound Healing Laboratory can be translated into treatments that benefit patients.



Left to right are: Lois Budd, Doug McKay, Michelle Laurie and Barb McInnis as they toured the Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit and stopped to recognize the plaque acknowledging Local 258's contribution.

During the event, Michelle and Doug heard from Dr. Nicholas Carr, Head of the Division of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Aziz Ghahary, Director, BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn and Wound Healing Lab-



On behalf of Local 258 members, union President Michelle Laurie and Business Manager Doug McKay present the cheque to the VGH & UBC Hospital Endowment Fund to support Research in Wound Healing. From left to right are: Lois Budd, VGH Burn Unit Patient Services Manager; Michelle Laurie, Barb McInnis, Director, Major Gifts & Planned Giving, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation; Doug McKay; Dr. Aziz Ghahary, Director, BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn and Wound Healing Laboratory; Dr. Nicholas Carr, Head of the Division of Plastic Surgery; and, Dr. Anthony Papp, Medical Director, Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit.

oratory and Dr. Anthony Papp, Medical Director, Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit, about the transformational work they are doing as a result of Local 258's generous contributions and how grateful they are to be the recipients of this support.

The group also heard from Dr. Ghahary as he described the work he and his lab have been doing over the past few years. His ground breaking research has isolated a protein known as KDAF that turns off the healing efforts of skin cells, in effect, preventing heavy scarring. He and his research team are currently in the pre-clinical stages of developing an ointment that would deliver this protein to wounds at the critical moment in the healing process. Dr. Ghahary's team is also developing an alternative to a skin graft: a new type of non-rejectable biological skin substitute that provides wound coverage and pro-

motes healing.

Confronting the challenges imposed by a lifetime of pain or disfigurement, as well as physical mobility issues, is just the beginning for most burn patients. During a tour of the unit led by Lois Budd, Patient Services Manager, Michelle and Doug learned about the journey of a burn survivor and how they must struggle to heal not only physically but also how to deal with the emotional and psychological trauma, which can be equally painful and daunting. Michelle and Doug were also able to view the recognition plaque that is mounted in the Unit that acknowledges Local 258's support of the Chair in Burn and Wound Healing Research Endowment.

Under Dr. Ghahary's guidance, the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn and Wound Healing Research Laboratory team is poised to lead the world in burn and wound healing treatments.



Plaque mounted in the Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit at VGH that recognizes Local 258 members' generous contribution.

Thanks to the generous donation of \$100,000 from Local 258 – IBEW, the Burn Unit's doctors, nurses and researchers are able to ensure this work continues well into the future, making a difference in the lives of burn survivors across British Columbia. 📧

Labour Volunteers Clean Up at Fraserside Community Services



On a beautiful Friday, September 25, 2009, a group of labour volunteers came together once again to participate in the annual Vancouver Sun United Way Day of Caring project. The volunteers represented United Way of the Lower Mainland's Campaign Labour Committee, Labour Committee of the Board, union counselors, labour loaned representatives, Labour Council representatives and United Way Labour Department staff.

The labour group was matched this year with Fraserside Community Services. The project took place at a house in Delta that supports young adults who have a primary mental health diagnosis and experience challenges in maintaining housing. Using a client-centered approach that builds on individual strengths, the residents gain living skills focused on self-sufficiency and self-efficacy while maintaining and further developing their family and community support systems. The program also employs a "harm reduction" approach to substance abuse with a commitment to recovery and relapse prevention on the part of the individual. The program helps the young adults gain life skills and develop. Workers at the agency are represented by BCGEU.



This year's project was to help revitalize the outside of the house, specifically repairing and staining the deck which is where the young adults like to hang out. At the orientation session the agency described the services they provide and thanked the labour volunteers for their support. The volunteers enjoyed taking a day out of their regular routine to make a difference in their community. They expressed that if programs like Day of Caring didn't exist, some of this work wouldn't get done. They also especially enjoyed being able to be "hands on" and to meet the clients, staff and volunteers from the agency. All in all, it was another day well spent and enjoyed by all. At the end of the day many of the volunteers said, "See you again next year".



Clockwise from top left: Labour community volunteers pose for a photo at the Labour Day of Caring where they offered their skills to assist Fraserside Community Services. Center: Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen helps out with repairing the backyard deck. Bottom: Labour volunteers give a facelift to the well worn backyard deck with some needed staining.



Local 258 raises funds for MS Society of Canada with Annual Golf Tournament

On a beautiful sunny day in September, dozens of avid golfers showed up to support Local 258's annual tournament to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

This year's tournament was another great success, both for those who participated and for the charity that has a long relationship with IBEW. Many thanks go to BC Hydro as a major contributor to this event.

Golfers enjoyed 18-holes at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course, followed by an awards banquet and dinner at the publicly owned facility.

Each year, proceeds from the tournament are donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has had a long standing relationship with this non-profit Society that goes back many years when Brother Jim Wolfgang, a long standing IBEW member who has MS, initiated the union's involvement.

Brother Wolfgang began his career as a construction electrician with Local 230 and in 1958, became an Assistant Business Manager with the Local before taking on the role of International Representative working out of the Toronto office.

Brother Wolfgang was initially diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in the mid-60's and continued to work until his doctor advised him to retire in 1985. It was then he became involved as a volunteer with the MS Society, and has contributed to the successful relationship between IBEW and the non-profit charity organization.

Many thanks to Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen who organized this year's event (again!) that raised \$9,550 for the MS Society of Canada.

Janet Palm, President of the BC & Yukon Division of the MS Society in Canada, expressed the group's appreciation of "the steady and caring support of IBEW Local 258 over the years. The IBEW's contribution has a great impact on the lives of people dealing with MS" in a letter sent to the union when the cheque was presented in October.

Thanks to all those who participated and we'll see you again next year! 🏌️

*Clockwise from top left:
At the cheque presentation
to the MS Society, from left:
Bev Matsu, Coordinator;
Paula Springman, Director of
Development; Dan Klassen,
Local 258 IBEW; Janet Palm,
President MS Society of Can-
ada (BC & Yukon Division);
Mark Davison, Local 258
IBEW.*

*Brother Murray MacDonald,
retired Local 258 Vice president, joined
with the golfers this year to help out on
the course.*

*Local 258 Business Manager Doug
McKay greets golfers at the post-event
dinner banquet at Burnaby Mountain
Golf Course.*

*For many years, Brother Dan Klassen,
center, has been the lead organizer for the
union's annual golf tournament. He was
joined this year by volunteers from the
MS Society of Canada to help with the
set-up and organizing the banquet dinner.*





Canadian IBEW Locals hold Annual Progress Meeting



Local 258 elected members and representatives attended the All Canada Progress meeting this summer. From left are Business Manager Doug McKay; Senior ABM Jim Greenwell; ABM Dan Klassen; International Vice President Phil Flemming; President Michelle Laurie and Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers First District (Canada) held its annual progress meeting in Charlottetown, PEI, this summer and heard from speakers including IBEW President Edwin Hill, newly elected Nova Scotia NDP Premier Darrell Dexter, IBEW member and PEI MLA Robert Mitchell, CLC President Ken Georgetti and Senator Mike Duffy.

Over 200 delegates, representing all facets of the electrical industry, attended the conference to discuss issues that concern industry and its workers.

The theme for this year's meeting was "Building Successful Relationships". A training component on "conflict resolution" was also featured at this year's meeting.

International Vice President Phil Flemming from the IBEW First District told members that the union is succeeding in growing its membership in Canada but we still have many challenges to face.

Next year's meeting will take place in Saskatoon as the IBEW prepares for its International Convention that will take place in Vancouver at the Trade & Convention Centre in 2011 where over 5,000 delegates will be visiting the city. 📧

Thanks from the kids at Camp Jubilee!

Your continued support is much appreciated!

Dear Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

Despite difficult economic times, your support this year helped send over 320 deserving kids to camp this year. Look at the smiling faces!

Through all our efforts, kids have the opportunity to experience independence, self-improvement and new challenges. Most of all – FUN!!!

Thank you again for your support in our effort to 'Send a Kid to Camp'.

You have made a significant difference in the lives of so many kids in the community.

Sincerely,

Dave Duckworth

Camp Director



Out of 326 sponsored campers:

313 were regular campers
aged 7 - 16

4 went to Counsellor in Training
age 14 - 16

9 were in Wilderness Leadership
age 16 - 18

62% of summer campers
this year were
partially or fully subsidized

Congratulations on taking part
in this important campaign!





The Team!



The Big Winners!



Show & Shine



The Show & Shine Winners!



Unit 5 & 6 Picnic enjoyed by all!

On behalf of Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, and myself, we would like to thank everyone who helped out with the Unit 5 & 6 picnic this year. Once again we were blessed with sunshine and blue skies to create a beautiful backdrop for a grand day of activities and fun. Our biggest thanks go out to all of you who came out and helped us enjoy the day.

In solidarity,
Karen Porter
Unit 6 Chair



The Races!



Unit 1 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MASSET Where: Line Room/Plant When: 4:30 pm		<i>Thurs</i> FEB 11th								<i>Thurs</i> OCT 21st		
PRINCE RUPERT Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 10th				<i>Wed</i> JUN 9th				<i>Wed</i> OCT 20th		
QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm						<i>Thurs</i> JUN 10th						
SMITHERS Where: Line Room When: 5:00 pm	<i>Wed</i> JAN 12th		<i>Tues</i> MAR 9th		<i>Tues</i> MAY 11th		<i>Tues</i> JUL 13th		<i>Tues</i> SEP 14th		<i>Tues</i> NOV 9th	
TERRACE Where: Best Western Inn When: 7:00 pm		<i>Tues</i> FEB 9th		<i>Tues</i> APR 20th		<i>Tues</i> JUN 8th		<i>Tues</i> AUG 10th		<i>Tues</i> OCT 19th		<i>Tues</i> DEC 14th



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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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 2 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 2 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
PRINCE GEORGE Where: Royal Canadian Legion When: 7:00 pm	<i>Wed</i> JAN 13th*	<i>Tues</i> FEB 16th*	<i>Wed</i> MAR 10th*	<i>Tues</i> APR 13th*	<i>Wed</i> MAY 12th*	<i>Tues</i> JUN 15th*			<i>Wed</i> SEP 15th*		<i>Tues</i> NOV 16th	
DAWSON CREEK Where: George Dawson Inn When: 7:00 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 17th				<i>Thurs</i> JUN 17th						<i>Thurs</i> DEC 16th*
FORT ST. JOHN Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm		<i>Thurs</i> FEB 18th					<i>Thurs</i> JUL 15th*			<i>Wed</i> OCT 13th*		
HUDSON'S HOPE Where: Pearkes Centre When: 4:30 pm				<i>Wed</i> APR 14th				<i>Thurs</i> AUG 12th*				
FORT NELSON Where: Woodland's Inn When: 7:00 pm					<i>Tues</i> MAY 18th					<i>Thurs</i> OCT 14th		
QUESNEL Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm	<i>Thurs</i> JAN 14th					<i>Wed</i> JUN 16th					<i>Thurs</i> NOV 18th	
WILLIAMS LAKE Where: Elks Hall When: 4:30 pm									<i>Thurs</i> SEP 16th		<i>Wed</i> NOV 17th*	
100 MILE HOUSE Where: BC Hydro Line Room When: 7:00 pm			<i>Thurs</i> MAR 11th									
BELLA COOLA Where: TBA When: 7:00 pm					<i>Thurs</i> MAY 6th					<i>Thurs</i> OCT 7th		

* 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

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Unit #6 Chair: Karen Porter

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

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Assistant Business Managers:

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Susan Longva, Don McNabb

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,
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Unit 3 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 3 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BRIDGE RIVER Where: Lunch Room B2 When: 5:30 pm	<i>Tues</i> JAN 12th*				<i>Tues</i> MAY 11th				<i>Tues</i> SEP 7th		<i>Tues</i> NOV 9th	<i>Tues</i> DEC 14th
KAMLOOPS Where: IBEW #993 Hall When: 7:00 pm	<i>Wed</i> JAN 13th				<i>Wed</i> MAY 12th*				<i>Wed</i> SEP 8th		<i>Wed</i> NOV 10th	<i>Wed</i> DEC 15th
VERNON Where: Army & Navy Club 2500 46th Avenue, Vernon When: 7:00 pm	<i>Thurs</i> JAN 14th		<i>Thurs</i> MAR 11th*		<i>Thurs</i> MAY 13th		<i>Thurs</i> JUL 15th*		<i>Thurs</i> SEP 9th			<i>Thurs</i> DEC 16th*
MICA Where: Curling Rink When: 6:00 pm	<i>Mon</i> JAN 18th				<i>Mon</i> MAY 17th				<i>Mon</i> SEP 13th*		<i>Mon</i> NOV 15th*	
REVELSTOKE Where: Hydro Dam Conf Room When: 4:15 pm	<i>Tues</i> JAN 19th				<i>Tues</i> MAY 18th				<i>Tues</i> SEP 14th		<i>Tues</i> NOV 16th	
CASTLEGAR/TRAIL Where: Castlegar: Fireside Inn Trail: Terra Nova Hotel When: 7:00 pm		<i>Tues</i> Trail FEB 9th*		<i>Tues</i> Castlegar APR 13th		<i>Tues</i> Trail JUN 8th		<i>Tues</i> Castlegar AUG 10th*		<i>Tues</i> Trail OCT 12th*		
CRANBROOK Where: Labour Temple When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 10th		<i>Wed</i> APR 14th*		<i>Wed</i> JUN 9th				<i>Wed</i> OCT 13th		
INVERMERE Where: Legion Hall When: 4:30 pm		<i>Thurs</i> FEB 11th		<i>Thurs</i> APR 15th		<i>Thurs</i> JUN 10th*				<i>Thurs</i> OCT 14th		

* denotes Official Meeting

LOCAL 258
IBEW



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www.ibew258.bc.ca





Unit 4 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 4 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

* denotes Official Meeting

LOCAL 258
IBEW



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Unit 5 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 5 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BURNABY Where: Union Hall, 7535 Sixth St., Burnaby When: 5:00 PM	<i>Thurs</i> JAN 14th*	<i>Thurs</i> FEB 11th*	<i>Thurs</i> MAR 11th*	<i>Thurs</i> APR 15th*	<i>Thurs</i> MAY 13th*	<i>Thurs</i> JUN 10th	<i>Thurs</i> JUL 15th*	<i>Thurs</i> AUG 12th*	<i>Thurs</i> SEP 9th*	<i>Thurs</i> OCT 14th	<i>Wed</i> NOV 10th*	<i>Thurs</i> DEC 9th*
SECHLT Where: Seaside Centre, Sechelt When: 5:00 pm			<i>Wed</i> MAR 17th			<i>Wed</i> JUN 16th*				<i>Wed</i> OCT 20th*		

* denotes Official Meeting



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Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

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- Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2
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Unit 6 Meeting Schedule 2010

UNIT 6 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
LANGLEY Where: Steelworkers Hall, 9292 200th Street, Langley, BC When: 7:00 pm	<i>Tues</i> JAN 12th*	<i>Tues</i> FEB 9th	<i>Tues</i> MAR 9th*	<i>Tues</i> APR 13th	<i>Tues</i> MAY 11th*	<i>Tues</i> JUN 8th	<i>Tues</i> JUL 13th*		<i>Tues</i> SEP 14th*	<i>Tues</i> OCT 12th	<i>Tues</i> NOV 9th*	<i>Tues</i> DEC 14th
CHILLIWACK Where: Best Western 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack When: 7:00 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 10th*		<i>Wed</i> APR 14th*		<i>Wed</i> JUN 9th*		<i>Wed</i> AUG 11th*		<i>Wed</i> OCT 13th*		<i>Wed</i> DEC 15th*

* denotes Official Meeting

Unit 6 meeting location change

By the time you are reading this you will be aware that our Unit 6 Surrey meetings have moved to Langley. The Millwright union decided to sell their building, leaving us without a meeting place.

So, we went looking for another union hall for our meeting and we found the Steelworkers Hall on 200th Street in North Langley. It is easily accessed from

Highway 1 and from the Golden Ears Bridge, and only a few minutes from our old location. Hopefully we will all find this location as successful as our last location.

In solidarity,
Karen Porter
Unit 6 Chair



LOCAL 258 IBEW

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**WISHING YOU
ALL HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!**

**FROM YOUR UNION
OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE,
REPS AND STAFF.**



"THE UNION OF HEARTS & MINDS"



"I find hosing to be therapeutic and it also provides ample time for rumination."

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

by Ken McEwen
Retired Local 258 member

When the notification came that another issue of the Hotline was looming I was on the road somewhere in central Oregon. Now that I have reached sunny Southern California I can attend to my responsibilities. I hope I can get the job done in time to meet the editor's deadline. As I've mentioned before retirement and deadlines don't mix well, especially when the retiree has attained status as a journeyman procrastinator. The only other time procrastination is jeopardized is when Catherine Dear determines that a particular task must be done immediately. It seems I've learned to hear and obey directions from both the Hotline editor and Catherine Dear.

Just prior to leaving on our annual journey south I discovered a new feature on my computer. It is called "speech recognition" and is kind of fun to play with. I am manufacturing this column using speech recognition therefore any mistakes or typographical errors are the fault of the computer and not the operator. See, I don't have to fiddle with the keyboard and find all those little letters, I just have to talk to the computer and it writes down what I say. There is, however, a learning curve for both the computer and me. The computer has to learn to understand my speech patterns and pronunciation and I have to learn to issue commands that the computer can recognize. All in all, dictating to the computer is easier than trying to find all those little letters that seem to change places every time I take my eyes off the keyboard. Anyway, let's see how this works for this column.

I don't know if I've whined about the chores that attend our arrival in California before but if I have perhaps it was long enough ago that you've forgotten. See, when we had the big motor home my responsibilities were to back it onto the lot, connect the water, electric, sewer and then find my chair and a beverage. Now we have a park model trailer permanently situated on our lot and the arrival duties Catherine Dear and I share require shoveling, sweeping, vacuuming, washing and dusting both the exterior and interior of the unit. This process takes days instead of minutes. The time to complete is extended even more when I shift into my warm weather mode of operation which is to move slowly, rest often and quit early. There is one positive aspect to the cleaning regimen and that is I get to spend considerable time with a hose in my hand directing a stream of water at the dust and sand that summer has accumulated on the driveway, patio and deck. I find hosing to be therapeutic and it also provides ample time for rumination. Then, of course, the camper needs to be cleaned. I spent the better part of the day removing the road grime collected in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and California. The camper is now fit to take its rightful place among all the shiny vehicles that ply the roads in sunny Southern California.

A good part of the aforementioned road grime was collected in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon where we endured

rain, snow, sleet and hail. Nevada and a Northern California were considerably drier. Also, we were subjected to very cold temperatures. If you'll forgive me, at this point I'll use American measures because that's where we are. Most nights the temperature plummeted to the mid-twenties in Fahrenheit degrees. The wind also blew at just below gale force. To be comfortable outside one needed to don a sweater, jacket, toque, earmuffs and gloves. Of course, long pants were also necessary. Now that I'm in sunny Southern California shorts a T-shirt are all that's required in the way of cover-up. I much prefer the shorts and T-shirt mode of dress.

A lot of my ruminating while hosing had to do with the upcoming Olympic winter games. In all the news I see there's still no mention of athleticism or sports. The focus of the Olympics seems to be exclusively on anticipated economic gains for certain segments of our society and the costs to be borne by the remainder. It seems to me that rather than an opportunity for some to make buckets of money the Olympics should be about providing athletes who are finest at their chosen sport a venue to compete for world recognition. It's probably for the best if I don't report the entirety of my conclusions on the Olympics reached while hosing and ruminating.

Another subject of water induced ruminating has to do with the automotive industry and the instruments installed in cars and trucks. Perhaps it's a result of my trade and training but I like to know what's going on in the engine room in real terms. Little hash marks across the face of a dial do not satisfy my need to know the coolant temperature in degrees (I'll accept either Fahrenheit or Celsius) or the oil pressure in recognizable increments of pounds per square inch or metric equivalent. I have also observed that fuel gauges are not linear. One would assume that a vehicle could travel the same distance on a quarter of a tank of gas regardless of which quarter is being used. I find this not to be so. The top quarter of the tank provides many more miles of driving than the bottom quarter of the tank does. It is obvious that further hosing and ruminating is required to resolve this issue.

(cont'd on page 25)


Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Visit your Local 258 IBEW website, located at www.ibew258.bc.ca on the internet, to find current updates in union issues.

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



Retirement Security

Let's make it work *for everyone*

The labour movement believes that Canadians should not have to "fend for themselves" in retirement. After a lifetime of work, making a positive contribution to our country's development, all Canadians deserve security and dignity in retirement.

Over the past year, Canada has been hit hard by the deepest economic downturn the world has seen since the 1930s. Hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs have been lost and the retirement savings of countless Canadians put at risk by the financial meltdown and corporate bankruptcies.

Many today, even those with jobs are wondering if and when they can ever retire. They have good reason for concern.

Recent events have exposed major faults in our pension system. Our public pensions – Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) plus the Canada Pension Plan - provide a secure income in retirement. But even the maximum value of those pensions falls far short of what people need to maintain a decent standard of living after retirement.

The private portion of our pension system is in deep trouble

About one in five private sector workers belong to a private pension plan. Very few non-unionized workers, with the

noted exception of managers and professionals, are covered by plans. Many of the plans which do exist are on shaky financial ground because of low interest rates and the recent collapse of stock markets. Some workers have discovered that when their plans get into financial trouble, there is little help available.

RRSPs have failed to deliver

RRSPs are often billed as the solution to our pension woes. They are supposed to fill the gap left for those not covered by private pension plans – but RRSPs have failed us. The average worker approaching retirement today has saved only enough to buy a monthly pension of about \$250 per month.

RRSPs have not worked because many Canadians cannot save enough to overcome the built-in hurdles of high administrative fees (which in Canada are among the highest in the world) and highly variable and uncertain financial returns.

It's time for change

Decision-makers can hear the growing

calls for pension reform in Canada, despite the strong and loud opposition from vested interests in the financial industry. Employers who sponsor pension plans also recognize that supporting decent pensions through public rather than private arrangements would lower their costs and help level the competitive playing field between them and businesses who have offered no pension plans for their workers.

People should not be left to fend for themselves in retirement. It's time for a change in emphasis toward public pensions and toward greater security for people who belong to existing employer plans.

That's why the Canadian Labour Congress is proposing three key reforms that would benefit all workers, improve retirement income security, and gear Canada's pension system to better fit the needs of a changing economy.

The CLC Plan: Retirement Security for Everyone

Double benefits for the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)

We propose to phase-in a doubling of the proportion of average earnings replaced by CPP from 25% to 50% over seven to ten years, to \$1,635 per month. This would be financed by a modest increase in worker and employer premiums (3% spread over several years).

The benefits of investing in a stronger Canada Pension Plan are clear:

- The CPP already covers 93% of working Canadians and offers an accurate sense of the income they can expect in retirement.
- The CPP is highly risk tolerant because of its size and it has the lowest administration fees of any pension plan in the country.
- The CPP is highly portable – no matter how many times they change jobs, workers will still be covered. Why shouldn't we build on this successful model?

Increase low-income (GIS) pensions by 15%

This would give low-income seniors up to an additional \$110 per month, enough to move virtually all seniors above the poverty line.

Introduce a national system of pension insurance

An insurance floor should be set for defined pension plan benefits through a system funded by contributions from pension plan sponsors. This would be a federal initiative covering federally-regulated pensions but Ottawa should enter into negotiations with the provinces to create a national system. ☞

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

by **Ken McEwen**

Retired Local 258 member

(cont'd from page 23)

I wanted to discuss cell 'phones and twittering as well as the cost of hearing enhancement devices at this time. I also had some thoughts about the use of the term "Up To" in advertising. You know, like when they say, "This product will provide up to 10 hours of operation ..." What does that mean? If you only get six hours of operation does that fall in the promised "Up To" ten hours? Anyway, as I have used up the allotted space whining about cleaning I'll have to defer those discussions until next time.

Please continue to work and play safely because even though some cleaning may be required retirement is worth getting to. ☞



Brother Rod Peever is shown above accepting his IBEW Apprenticeship Completion Certificate from Brother Wayne Roberts, Edwards Powerline Ltd. in Williams Lake.



Brother Mark Davison, left, presented retirement goodies to Brother Chris Hall at a luncheon in his honour at Burrard Thermal Generating Station on Oct. 30. Chris retired after 20 years of service to the IBEW and BC Hydro.

WCB Teleclaim service for injured workers

1•888•WORKERS

(1•888•967•5377 or #5377

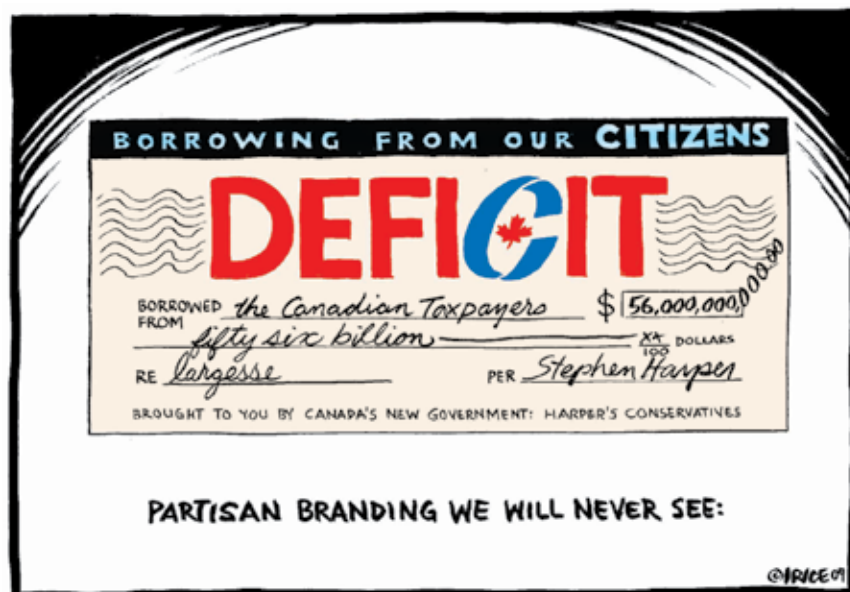
on your Telus, Rogers or
Bell cell phone)

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.



PARTISAN BRANDING WE WILL NEVER SEE:

Police and workers clash

LabourStart/CALM

ON OCTOBER 10, thousands of Mexican federal police seized control of hundreds of installations of the state-owned Central Light and Power Company (Luz y Fuerza del Centro), which supplies electricity to Mexico City and several neighbouring states.

Minutes later the government announced that the company was being liquidated and the 40,000 unionized workers dismissed.

If allowed to stand, the government's decree could lead not only to the privatization of the country's electrical industry, but also to the destruction of the Mexican Electrical Workers' Union (SME) and elimination of its members' contract and pension benefits for 15,000 retirees.

The SME is one of Mexico's oldest independent trade unions with one of the best contracts in the country. It has been playing a leading role in the fight against privatization and proposed regressive reforms to the federal labour law.

Its destruction would represent a major setback for Mexico's independent labour movement and for all Mexican workers. Maquila Solidarity Network is running an online action in support of the Mexican electrical workers <http://en.maquilasolidarity.org>

December 6

OXFAM Canada/CALM

Twenty years ago on December 6, a 25 year-old man named Marc Lepine walked into the University of Montreal's School of Engineering Building with a semi-automatic rifle.



Once inside the school, Lepine began a shooting spree during which he murdered 14 women and injured 13 others: nine women and four men. Lepine believed it was because of female students that he was not accepted to the engineering school. Before killing himself, he left an explanatory letter that contained a tirade against feminists as well as a list of 19 prominent women whom he particularly despised.

The 14 women who died in the massacre were: Anne-Marie Edward, Anne-Marie Lemay, Annie St. Arneault, Annie Turcotte, Barbara Daigneault, Barbara Maria Klueznick, Genevieve Bergeron, Helen Colgan, Maud Haviernick, Maryse Laganiere, Maryse Leclair, Michele Richard, Natalie Croteau and Sonia Pelletier.

These women became symbols—tragic representatives—of injustice against women. Women's groups across the country organized vigils, marches and memorials. There was an increase in support for educational programs and resources to reduce violence against women. Both federal and provincial governments made commitments to end violence against women. In 1991, the Canadian government proclaimed December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S FIRST GENERAL STRIKE

BC's first general strike was prompted by the death of Ginger Goodwin, miner, social activist, organizer, community and labour leader, advocate for working people and anti-war proponent. Shot by a single bullet fired from a constable's gun near Cumberland on Vancouver Island in 1918, Goodwin's death resulted in widespread community grief, with a mile-long procession of mourners attending his funeral. That same day, workers in Vancouver put down their tools and sparked BC's, and Canada's, first general strike.

The year before his death, Goodwin led an unsuccessful strike in Trail for smelter workers seeking an eight-hour workday. As secretary of his local union and vice-president of the BC Federation of Labour, his outspoken opposition to the 1914-1918 war brought him to the attention of the authorities.

Unfit for active duty due to lung problems, Goodwin was nonetheless deemed "fit for service in an overseas fighting unit". He fled to the hills near Cumberland as a draft dodger, but was tracked down and shot a short time later.

Goodwin's gravesite in Cumberland has become the gathering place for an annual memorial service that takes place in June honouring Goodwin and the struggles of miners.

In 1996, under an NDP government, a section of the highway nearby was named "Ginger Goodwin Way", but the sign was taken down in 2001 when the government changed.



Photo by IBEW member Ron Norgaard



OUR IBEW CHAMPIONS

Brother George Carter, left, proudly sports the Gold Medal he won playing for Canada in the over 60's Basketball at the World Masters' Games held in Sydney in October.

Brother Dave Hicks, right, a BCH lineman from Surrey, visited the union office recently to display the medal and trophy he was recently awarded at the World Arm Wrestling championships held in Italy. Congratulations to Brother Carter & Brother Hicks!



Business Manager Doug McKay, left, congratulates Brother Ron Berg at his retirement from working as a mechanic at Ruskin for BC Hydro.



Brother Xuanwei (Ray) Chen, left, is being congratulated by union president Michelle Laurie after being sworn in as a new member at the Unit 5 meeting in August.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft congratulates Brother Jim Rae on his recent retirement.



Congratulations to Brother Beau Harrold, left, who won the watch draw. Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff is pictured on right.



Brother Paul Merryweather, left, was recently awarded his 20 year IBEW membership pin by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff, left, congratulates Brother Perry Swain on his recent retirement.



Unit 2 Vice Chairman, Ed McEwen, right, receives his 30 year service pin from Unit Chair Gerald Pope in Prince George.



ABM Don McNabb, left, presented Brother Don Barnes with a retirement jacket in Williams Lake. Congratulations Brother Barnes on your retirement earlier this year.



Unit 2 Chairman, Gerald Pope, center, presents 35 year service pins to Brother Wayne McCarthy, right, and Brother Martin Conrad, left, at the June Prince George meeting.



Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth congratulates Brother Charles Gallagher on receiving his 30 year IBEW pin.



Members of Local 258's Executive Board visited the Gordon M. Shrum Power Station outside Hudson's Hope in the spring of this year. One of Canada's largest hydroelectric generating facilities, GMS is the underground generating station located at the WAC Bennett Dam on Wil-liston Lake in northeastern BC. From left are Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair; Travous Quibill, BC Hydro, Operator at GMS; Tom Greenwell, Unit 4 Chair (seated); Michelle Laurie, Local 258 President; Leon Arishenkoff, Unit 3 Chair; Karen Porter, Unit 6 Chair and Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair. Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope was the photographer.



Brother Bob Jackman, left, with Brother Grant Muir and his graduated lineman apprentice certificate.



Unit 2 Chairman, Gerald Pope, initi-ates new member Deborah Welwood at the June Dawson Creek meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Gerry Honeyman, who was awarded his 35 year IBEW membership pin by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.

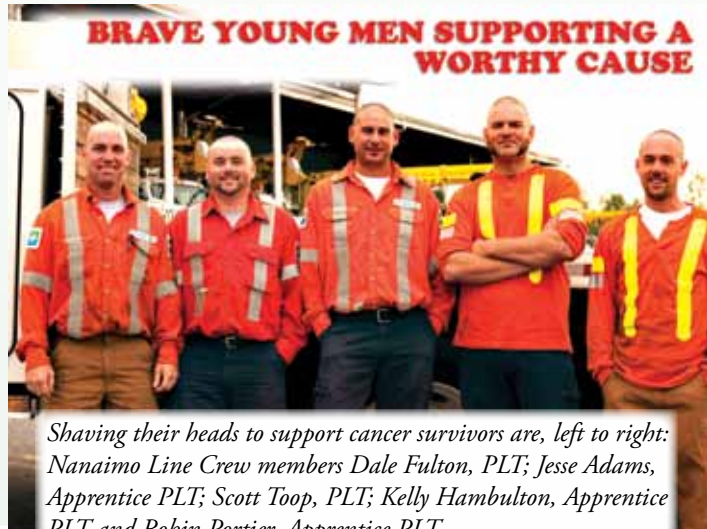


Congratulations to Brother Ed Jensen on his retirement. Brother Jensen is shown above with Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff as he received his retirement jacket.



Congratulations to Brother John Rogan on his retirement, shown above with Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.





Shaving their heads to support cancer survivors are, left to right: Nanaimo Line Crew members Dale Fulton, PLT; Jesse Adams, Apprentice PLT; Scott Toop, PLT; Kelly Hamblton, Apprentice PLT and Robin Portier, Apprentice PLT.

Abbotsford Air Show 2009

Local 258 IBEW was there!



Many thanks to Brother John Heinricks and the Abbotsford Fire Venturers for making sure Local 258 had the opportunity to participate in this well-attended public event.



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The struggle never ends

We are ending the first decade of this millennium already! Seems like only yesterday we were panicking about what disasters might occur when we hit Y2K. Well, we didn't have the technology meltdown that was feared, but we have certainly had some horrifying changes since then – embroiled in a war that doesn't seem to have an end point, an economic downturn that has plunged millions into bankruptcy and despair while still making financiers rich, governments at many levels that continue to take us farther and farther away from a focus of social welfare as they stick to their mantra of “free market everything” in spite of the evidence that system just doesn't work.

The economic disaster has had some horrific impacts on retirement funds and pensions in particular. The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) is now waging a campaign to make our Canada Pension Plan (CPP) more relevant for the average working person. In a perfect world, all workers in Canada would be able to rely on this national pension plan for a realistic retirement income. The campaign is directed at doubling CPP benefits – it is a very important start, and would protect future generations from companies letting their pension plans go bankrupt. At our recent Activists' Seminar, Brother Joel Harden from the CLC provided our Shop Stewards and elected members with information to help us participate in this fight to create a secure retirement income for all Canadians, and I urge all others to read more about it. We are featuring an article in this issue of The Hotline on page 25 and you can also find out more at <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/action-center/retirement-security-for-everyone>.

Our own provincial government (safe with a majority for a few more years), has once again taken the gloves off, overriding the (supposedly) independent regulator, the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) when the decisions weren't going the way government wanted them to. What was wrong, you ask? Well, the BCUC had the gall to review the evidence and determine that all this purchasing of private power isn't in the best interest of the citizens of BC – it is too costly! The BCUC determined that we should keep the Burrard Thermal plant operational because it would be more efficient. Well, that apparently doesn't sit well with Premier Campbell – after all, those private power producers are his friends, and the free market solution is always best, right? So he overruled the BCUC... then, he removed the CEO of BC Hydro. Hold on to your wallets and watch out for those electricity bills! Go to <http://www.citizensforpublicpower.ca/> for more information and to find tools you can use to help fight the changes.

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



More recently, the provincial government created legislation that imposed a contract on striking Paramedics while they were in the middle of voting on a negotiated offer. These men and women (members of CUPE 873) had been on strike for several months, but never removed services from the public, and were not creating any risk to anyone's health or safety. All they could do was try to let the public know about their battle with an unreasonable employer by putting “ON STRIKE” banners on their ambulances and uniforms. There was no need to legislate the Paramedics back to work – they never stopped working. It is a clear message from the Liberal government, though, about how they intend to treat workers, and how they intend to continue to ignore bargaining rights, in spite of the Supreme Court decision in 2007 that slapped them for interfering in the collective bargaining process – this, as nearly all public sector workers head to the bargaining table in the new year.

The government hasn't limited their aggression to workers though, with cuts to health authorities, school districts, community and social agencies of all sorts. In the long term, we need to correct our government to remember social justice priorities, but please also remember, as this year's United Way campaigns are underway in your communities, that your contributions are doubly important when so much government funding is being cut. United Way works locally with agencies throughout your community to improve the overall well-being of all within the community – similar to our objectives as a union, which is why United Way is the only charitable organization that has a formal partnership with the CLC. As always, I am tremendously proud to be a part of such a strong local union, with demonstrated concern for the health of all of our communities. Keep up your caring, your activism, and your support of the issues that make our towns, province and country a place that we will be proud to hand over to our children and grandchildren. This is a time of year when we recall friends and bring family close – I wish for all of you a very Merry Christmas, full of love, laughter and good cheer! 🎄

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.bcgardians.ca



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