



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
SUMMER, 2010

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Your 2010 Union Executive Working to serve you...

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**17th Annual
IBEW — BC Hydro
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Monday, September 20, 2010

Registration now open!



MEMBERS VOTE IN UNION ELECTION



PENSION CAMPAIGN GAINING GROUND



BCTC 'RE-MERGES' WITH BC HYDRO



BROTHER RICK DOWLING PASSES AWAY

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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
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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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Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney

Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Karen Porter

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

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

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock



Cover photo: Joining with Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay are some of the members of the union's Executive Board. From left, back row, Klaus Kraft, Unit #1 Chair; Tom Greenwell, Unit #4 Chair; Doug McKay; Gerry Pope, Unit #2 Chair; Colin Kenney, Unit #3 Chair; front row: Karen Porter, Unit #6 Chair; Michelle Laurie, President; Cathy Tagseth, Unit #5 Chair.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

We received the news on Monday, May 31, 2010, that long time IBEW member and Business Manager of Local 213, Brother Rick Dowling, had suddenly passed away that morning. As we gathered in the union office to share our shock and grief, I was again reminded of how quickly someone can be taken from their family, their colleagues and the community.

Brother Dowling was a great trade unionist and a respected and trusted member of the labour family in British Columbia. His warm smile and easy manner complemented his toughness when it came to standing up for workers. He was a loyal, reliable and hardworking Scottish gentleman who will be missed by all of us in the trade union movement.

Through the Public Sector Employers Council, the Provincial government imposed a two-year wage freeze on all 250,000 public sector employees. Those affected, including Local 258 members working at BC Hydro, will see a roll back in their real wages over the next two years, as inflation outpaces stagnant incomes.

In early April, IBEW Local 258 signed a rollover agreement with BC Hydro. Local 258 is the latest union to either roll-over an existing agreement, or negotiate a “net-zero” renewal agreement with a public sector employer. A rollover means the existing collective agreement remains in force — i.e. all wages and benefits are in the deep freeze until 2012. “Net-zero” means that some actual bargaining took place between the parties, but with no overall cost to the employer. For example, the government might give a wage increase under “net-zero” negotiations but only if the cost could be funded through claw backs in other parts of the collective agreement.

The government says MLA’s are subject to a similar wage freeze for the next two years. This is a bogus comparison since those same MLA’s saw their salaries balloon by a heart-stopping **34%** in 2007, jumping from \$76,100 to \$101,859 overnight. After that massive hand-out, who wouldn’t agree to a wage freeze.

But the bad news for the public, including public sector workers, just keeps coming. The HST is looming and there are recent



The late Brother Rick Dowling, International Executive Council Member of the IBEW and long time Business Manager of Local 213, shown above on the right, was a speaker at Local 258’s Activists Seminar last November. He passed away suddenly in May and will be missed.

hikes to ferry rates, camping fees and BC Hydro just raised its rates by 9%. I believe Local 258’s membership would support a hydro rate increase *if* the money were earmarked for infrastructure, the creation of home grown green technologies, or to improve the quality of service to rate payers. But it’s not. Nor will the 9% be used to off-set the impact of inflation on workers’ wages.

The 9% rate increase is undoubtedly destined for the public treasury. Over the years, billions of dollars from BC Hydro and ICBC are quietly siphoned off to the public purse. These crown corporations are supposed to operate at arm’s length from the government, but in practice these entities are annually required to cut the government a whopping 50%+ dividend from their net profits. BC Hydro and ICBC are effectively large cookie jars that are regularly hi-jacked to bolster sagging government revenues.

In reality the 9% rate hike at BC Hydro will just become a transfer payment from BC Hydro to the public treasury, and it is from that purse that those lucrative MLA pay increases will be paid. Moreover, the recent increase in the number of MLA’s (79 to 87) means their overall base salary cost grew from \$6 million in 2007 to \$8.9 million in 2009. Combined with the actual salary raises, that’s an overall base salary increase of **48%**.

Whenever Finance Minister Colin Hansen speaks, all I can hear is self-serving, self-preserving, double talk.

There is no integrity. 🚩



We've Got Mail!

Dear Michelle,

On behalf of the Kamloops and District Labour Council and Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way, I would like to thank you for participating in our Homelessness Action Plan Labour Focus Group. This focus group was held in part to provide input from Labour and was the first of several to be held before moving to a full Community Forum.

One of the messages we wanted to send to the audience was why Labour should support this essential initiative. We felt it important to have a speaker with experience and proven leadership in the union movement. Equally important, this speaker should have a social conscience and a background of advocacy for social causes in the community. You are indeed that person we needed and the audience really appreciated your message. You continue to show that you are a great ambassador for us to United Way.

Thank you again for your participation.

Regards,

Bob LaVallee

Labour Program Coordinator

Thompson Nicola Cariboo United Way

Dear Local 258,

On behalf of the United Steelworkers, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to the National Solidarity Assistance Fund. Your contribution is making it possible for us to provide much-needed additional support to locals engaged in long, difficult strikes and lockouts all across the country.

As you know, Steelworkers are facing unprecedented attacks on collective agreements as employers, including a growing number of foreign multinationals, demand harsh concessions and are unwilling to negotiate in good faith. Thanks to your financial support, our members and their families can keep on fighting with dignity.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation.

In solidarity,

Ken Neumann

United Steelworkers

National Director for Canada

Dear IBEW members,

During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us...

Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

From the Malubag Family

In memory of Noel Cruzado Malubag

The Union of Hearts and Minds;

Thank you for your kind words. Hans was a wonderful man and we will miss him.

Sincerely,

Hannelle Himmell

Dear IBEW,

Thank you for the retirement gifts, they will get well worn.

Work was good, retirement is gooder.

Best wishes to all the brothers and sisters I have worked with over the years, you were great to work with.

Sincerely,

Curtis Matthews



Dear Michelle Laurie,

On behalf of The Conference Board of Canada, I would like to thank you for participating as a speaker at the May 4-5, 2010 meeting of the Council of Inclusive Work Environments.

In keeping with council tradition, in appreciation for your contribution to the meeting, we have made a donation in your name to the United Way.

I look forward to meeting you again in the future.

Best regards,

Elise Wohlbold

Research Associate

Manager, Council of Inclusive Work Environments

The Conference Board of Canada

Dear Ms. Laurie and IBEW LU 258,
On behalf of the Electricity Sector Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in sponsoring the British Columbia ESC Bright Futures Aboriginal Youth Camp.

It is our goal to have the children attending this summer's camp learn of the many career opportunities within the electricity and renewable energy industry in a fun and interactive manner, and to gain valuable problem solving and critical thinking skills which will assist them throughout their school years. This year's camp is taking place in Prince George at the UNBC Campus from July 26th to 30th. The camp will be delivered by Elephant Thoughts - visit their website at www.elephantthoughts.com.

Thank you again for your kind contribution and I look forward to working with you on this initiative.

Sincerely
Michelle Branigan
Executive Director (Acting)
Electricity Sector Council

Dear Local 258 Executive Board;
Thank you for the opportunity to represent Local 258 at the 2010 CLC Winter School at Harrison. The Human Rights course I attended was inspiring as well as interesting and useful. I am confident that this course has provided me with tools to be a better Shop Steward and hopefully, to better assist others in our union and in our community.

The Winter School always provides an opportunity to meet new friends and re-connect with many old friends and acquaintances and the labour movement in general. The various forums and guest speakers are always informative and inspiring and offer a perspective and insight rarely seen in the mainstream media.

I am sure that our union becomes stronger by offering this kind of opportunity for members to improve themselves, so once again, thank you.

Fraternally,
Barry Bell

STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

Please respect the union's picket line and **do not patronize** these businesses until the dispute is settled.

Canadian Office and Professional Employees (COPE) Local 378 VS. Hertz Car Rental

Major Issues: Job Security, Wages

Commenced: February 2, 2010

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 873 VS. BC Ambulance Service

Major Issues: Wages, Compensation, Classification

Commenced: April 1, 2009

United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), Local 1518 VS. Extra Foods Maple Ridge

Major Issues: Wages, Job Security

Commenced: December 15, 2008

Construction & Specialized Workers Union, Local 1611 VS. Wescon Enterprises (Trivern), Armstrong

Major Issues: Seniority, Benefits, Concessions

Commenced: July 25, 2001

LOCAL 258
IBEW




17th Annual IBEW — BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 20, 2010
Burnaby Mountain Golf Course
7600 Halifax Street
Burnaby, BC

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

Registration now open – details on page 14.

In Memory of Brother Rick Dowling



International Executive Council Member Business Manager, IBEW Local 213, Burnaby, BC

Eighth District International Executive Council member Richard Dowling, who gave the Brotherhood more than four decades of solid service and leadership, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at home on May 31. He was 67 years old.

Business Manager and Financial Secretary of Local 213 since 2002, Brother Dowling was a progressive leader and organizer known for his easy smile and dedication to the labour movement. He was a visionary leader of the IBEW in British Columbia and served on the Executive of the BC Federation of Labour. He was also a tireless member of the United Way Campaign Labour Committee.

Under Brother Dowling's direction, his local gained in membership from 4,000 to 5,000. At the time of his unexpected passing he had been looking forward to hosting the 38th IBEW Convention in Vancouver next year.

Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay said Brother Dowling was a stalwart trade unionist who could always be counted on. "We'll be missing Rick's contributions, ideas and ability to get the job done. The labour movement has lost a great leader, and I know I'll miss his sense of humour."

First District International Representative Laird Cronk said Dowling embodied the best qualities of an effective leader:

"To me he was the perfect guardian of the local union. He made everything a little bit better, a bit more secure. You had confidence that everything was under control when Rick was at the helm."



IBEW International President Edwin D. Hill said:

"It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Brother Dowling and thank him for his many years of dedication to the trade union movement. I pray that God will watch over his family during this challenging time."

Rick was elected to the International Executive Committee at the union's 37th Convention in Cleveland in September, 2006. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Local 1928 Business Manager Mike MacDonald nominated Dowling for the position. Addressing the delegation, MacDonald said:

"Because of Rick's vast experience and his character of a solid and compassionate trade unionist, I am certain he will be a strong voice for Canada and a valued member of the IEC."

Brother Dowling relocated to Canada from Scotland in 1967 and was initiated into Vancouver Local 213 the following year. He served on several local and regional committees and became an ABM in 1973. He was appointed as Business Manager and Financial Secretary in 2002 and won election to the position the following year and re-election in 2006. In this new role, he represented workers in diverse sectors such as utility, inside construction, electrical manufacturing, communications and cable television.

Loving husband, father and grandfather, Rick touched and influenced the lives of many. He always led by example, demonstrating honesty, trust, integrity, empathy, reliability, humility and excellence.

As The Hotline goes to press, a "Celebration of Life" for Brother Rick Dowling will take place at the Operating Engineers Hall in Burnaby, BC. Donations can be made to the United Way of the Lower Mainland.

Shop Steward Training course takes place in Surrey

IBEW Local 258 Shop Stewards travelled to Surrey in April to take part in a union training session focusing on educating them in their roles as workplace representatives of the union for their co-workers on the shop floor.

Facilitated by union staff, the Shop Steward 'students' spent the day learning about collective agreements and ways to assist members in dealing with workplace issues including helpful procedures and familiarity with contract language. They also learned about helpful communication techniques to assist in clarifying workplace situations that may require further action.

Local 258 members participating in this training session ranged from brand new Shop Stewards to some who have had more experience on the job. Many thanks to those who took the time to learn more about their rights in the workplace.

Participants:

Walter Greely

Don Klassen

Brian Statler

Greg Peachy

Gordon Goudie

Jesse Adams

Kat McCawley

Mike Perry

Sean Quinn

Facilitators:

Dan Klassen, ABM Local 258

Dan Giesbrecht, ABM Local 258

Nicole Biernaczyk, Organizer, Local 258

SHOP STEWARD

A Shop Steward is the union's representative on the shop floor who interacts with members in the workplace. The Shop Steward enforces the collective agreement and protects the rights members have acquired through negotiations and other union actions.

Do you know your Shop Steward?



BARGAINING REPORTS

ABM Susan Longva reports

A new three-year collective agreement has been ratified by members working at Hobart PMI Food Group on Annacis Island.

Shop Stewards Mike Hatada and Bud Omstead worked on the negotiations with ABM Longva and achieved significant improvements in contract language, benefits and wage increases. As well, the company has returned dispatching to BC after having moved it to Alberta.

The agreement is now being proofed and should be available soon.

After a prolonged stand-off with the employer over benefits, members working at Schneider Electric recently ratified a new three-year collective agreement featuring wage increases and victory in securing the benefit plan members wanted. The new agreement was negotiated by Shop Steward Simon Creamer, Roland Soehn and ABM Longva. The previous agreement expired in March of 2009.


ABM Dan Klassen reports

Negotiations for a new collective agreement for members working at Davey Tree recently concluded and members are currently voting in a mail ballot. Many thanks to Mark Grinell and Dan Giesbrecht for participating on the union's bargaining committee. Results of the vote will be reported in the next issue of The Hotline.

Members working in traffic control on Vancouver Island at Ace Flagging and High Road Traffic are preparing for negotiations with their collective agreements expiring in the near future.

ABM Dan Giesbrecht reports

Bargaining has been completed for 242 IBEW members working in the utility arborist industry at Asplundh Canada in BC and a new collective agreement has been signed.

Featuring wage and benefit increases as well as increases by the employer to employee RRSP contributions, improvements were also achieved in the extended benefit package. Shop Stewards Tim Mitchell and Von Rywaczuk joined with ABM Giesbrecht in negotiating the new three-year agreement. 



IBEW Local 258 members working at Allteck and Valley Traffic help out with Lights of Hope take down at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

BC Transmission Corporation ending – workers to return to BC Hydro


With the passage of the new 'Clean Energy Act' in the legislature by the BC Liberals this spring, the government reversed the move to separate BC Hydro's transmission system out of the crown corporation and have "re-merged" BCTC back into BC Hydro.

BCTC was moved out of BC Hydro in 2003 with the government proclaiming the break up was vital to BC's economic interests. Workers have been through a lot with the separation of transmission responsibilities out of BC Hydro. What is

most troubling, though, about the whole deal is the cost to the taxpayer of Executives and Board members and new digs at the high-end Bentall Centre in downtown Vancouver. The whole exercise has been reported to have cost upwards of \$65 million over the short seven year lifespan of the Crown Corporation.

Now, workers will be back with BC Hydro – for some, it will be for the first time. IBEW members working at BCTC will become BC Hydro workers effective on or about July 5 and the union has

received notice under Section 54 of the Labour Relations Code ensuring the transition will be a smooth one.

The union is committed to working with IBEW members as BCTC is re-merged into BC Hydro. Issues pertaining to benefits, pensions and seniority will be addressed. The good news seems to be career opportunities and job security will be enhanced with the return to BC Hydro. And the rumours that BCTC was going to be privatized can, perhaps, be put to rest. 

Union election results

Local 258 would like to thank all those who participated in the recent union elections, held by mail ballot and counted at the union's offices on Monday, May 31, 2010.

President Michelle Laurie would also like to extend thanks to the Election Board – Ken McEwen (Judge); Brian Haugen, Jack Scoles, Dan Giesbrecht Sr., Ted Groves, Rick Gerrard, Klaus Kraft and Burke Lundy (all Tellers) for the time they volunteered to count the ballots. It is an onerous but critical job, and they carried it out efficiently and professionally – on behalf of all the members, thanks to them all for their ongoing commitment to their union! 📧



Local union elections took place by mail ballot this spring, with votes being counted at the union office in Burnaby on May 31, 2010.

Union Officers

Business Manager & Financial Secretary:

Candidates: Doug McKay, Ben Blanchette

Successful Candidate: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie (Acclaimed)

Vice President: Tony Brand (Acclaimed)

Treasurer: Larry Byhre (Acclaimed)

Recording Secretary:

Candidates: Dale Haines, Doug Hill, Leon Arishenkoff

According to Local Bylaws, there will be an election runoff between Dale Haines and Leon Arishenkoff for this position, to be counted June 29.

Unit Chairs and Executive

Unit #1 - North Coast

Unit #1 covers the geographical area from Burns Lake to the west and north of Bella Coola.

Unit Chair: Klaus Kraft (Acclaimed)

Unit Vice Chair: Shane Zemenchik (Acclaimed)

Unit Recorder: Chad Watrich (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: Brian Cline (Acclaimed)

Andy Andersen (Acclaimed)

Unit #2 - Central Interior

Unit #2 covers the geographical area east of Burns Lake and north of 100 Mile House, including Bella Coola.

Unit Chair: Gerald Pope (Acclaimed)

Unit Vice Chair: Ed McEwen (Acclaimed)

Unit Recorder: Carolyn Lawrence (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: Travis Koehn (Acclaimed)

Mike Mant (Acclaimed)

Unit #3 - Southern Interior

Unit #3 covers the Southern Interior including the Kootenays.

Unit Chair: Colin Kenney (Acclaimed)

Unit Vice Chair:

Candidates: Trevor Williams, Dean Kotaras

Successful Candidate: Trevor Williams

Unit Recorder: David Berard (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: Ross Mackintosh (Acclaimed)

Davin Zobel (Acclaimed)

Unit #4 - Vancouver Island

Unit #4 covers Vancouver Island.

Unit Chair:

Candidates: Tom Greenwell, Paul Hulme

Successful Candidate: Tom Greenwell

Unit Vice Chair: Fred Ruttan (Acclaimed)

Unit Recorder: Burke Lundy (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: No Candidates for both positions

Unit #5 - Greater Vancouver

Unit 5 covers the geographical area that includes the Sunshine Coast and the Lower Mainland, north of the Fraser River to Powell River and east to Pitt River.

Unit Chair:

Candidates: Cathy Tagseth, Mark Davison

Successful Candidate: Cathy Tagseth

Unit Vice Chair: Chris Soles (Acclaimed)

Unit Recorder: Burke Lundy (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: No Candidate for both positions

Unit #6 - Fraser Valley

Unit #6 covers the geographical area of the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley south of the Fraser River and east from Pitt Meadows to Hope.

Unit Chair: Karen Porter (Acclaimed)

Unit Vice Chair: Chris Carter (Acclaimed)

Unit Recorder: Rick Gerrard (Acclaimed)

Unit Executive Members: Tim Mitchell (Acclaimed)

Walter Goodwin (Acclaimed)

Taking action to improve retirement security for Canadians

Labour's pension reform campaign spreads the word



Nicole Biernaczyk
Local 258 Organizer

Armed with more than a million leaflets, trained activists set out across Canada in May to spread the word about a better way to improve retirement security for Canadians.

Organized by the Canadian Labour Congress that represents more than 3 million workers across Canada, the pension reform campaign is part of an overall strategy

to convince government that pension reform needs to focus on making improvements to the CPP and putting in place security measures to ensure retirees aren't living in poverty at the end of their working careers.

IBEW Local 258 Organizer Nicole Biernaczyk was one of the activists who worked on the recent campaign and reported she participated in 42 local meetings with labour union members, union Executive Boards and local MLAs and MPs. "It has been a whirlwind campaign," said Sister Biernaczyk. "We worked our

butts off for 3 weeks across the lower mainland and distributed more than 11,000 brochures, but most importantly, we had the chance to speak with Canadians who are very concerned about not only their retirement, but what's in store for their children and grandchildren when they look forward to retirement."

Nicole added she knows that convincing the government isn't an easy task, that's what has motivated her over the past few weeks. "Once people know they can actually do something to effect change – and important change like pension reform – you see them take action, and that has been a very satisfying part of the hard work that went into this campaign," she said.

A 'public consultation' organized by MP Ted Menzies (Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's parliamentary assistant) took place in Richmond in early May where more than a hundred workers, including Local 258's President Michelle Laurie, told the government representatives that the CLC's recommendations to improve the CPP need to be instituted now. Although many workers have been lobbying their MPs and MLAs, there are also many reports of strong opposition from the banks and financial institutions that make big profits from RRSP sales – despite bank economists admitting the RRSP approach has failed in securing retirement income.

What can you do to help improve retirement security for Canadians?

**DOUBLE
CPP BENEFITS**

**BOOST
SENIORS'
GUARANTEED
INCOME
SUPPLEMENT
BY 15% NOW**

**INSURE
PRIVATE
PENSIONS**

CALL YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Tell them you support the CLC's position on phasing in the doubling of the CPP. Ask them to support it.

CALL YOUR MLA

Ask them to support the CLC's proposed change to the CPP. Visit Canadianlabour.ca to get further information and assist with future actions.

JOIN THE FACEBOOK PAGE "Retirement Security for Everyone".

TALK TO CO-WORKERS in your workplace and ask them to call their MPs and provincial government representatives. Ensure this campaign is discussed at your union meeting.

WRITE A LETTER to your local newspaper.

DOUBLE CPP BENEFITS

For more than a generation, wages have failed to keep pace with the cost of living and most Canadians haven't saved what they need for retirement.

Those who have are finding the RRSPs and investment funds they bought have come up short.

The best way to help today's workers save enough money for tomorrow is by increasing what everybody gets from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) as a share of their total retirement income. And, because

the CPP operates independently from government, there is no cost to taxpayers – in fact there is the potential for governments to save over time.

Higher and secure pension savings mean seniors will be less likely to rely on income supports like the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or provincial and local social supports for medicine, housing and food.

This is promising news for the 70% of Canadians without RRSPs. It's even better news for the 33% of Canadians with no retirement savings at all (beyond what they contribute to the CPP).

BOOST SENIORS' GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT BY 15% NOW

More than a third of all seniors with public pensions (OAS and CPP) have incomes under \$15,000/year.

Workers close to retirement age who've been let down by the current system and don't have enough saved need help now so they don't fall into poverty.

The CLC is recommending a one time 15% in-

crease to the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) – the top-up to Old Age Security (OAS) for Canada's poorest seniors.

The cost is minimal (\$1.1 billion) and would shrink over time, thanks to higher retirement incomes through our plan to boost the CPP – a reasonable investment to ensure all seniors have dignity in retirement.

It also means savings for provincial and local governments, as fewer seniors would need to rely on social supports for the basics.

INSURE PRIVATE PENSIONS

Insurance for essential things is common in Canada – houses, our bank accounts, our vehicles and our jobs. The CLC plan recommends insurance for

pension savings – one of the most important assets a worker owns.

Recent events prove the need for pension insurance. The CLC plan calls for the federal government create a new insurance system to protect pension benefits up to a maximum of \$2,500 each month, with premiums

as low as \$2.50/year for each plan member. It's completely affordable.

The plan also calls for the federal government create an agency to "adopt" private pension plans abandoned in corporate bankruptcy, so workers are guaranteed that the money they've already paid into those plans doesn't get lost.

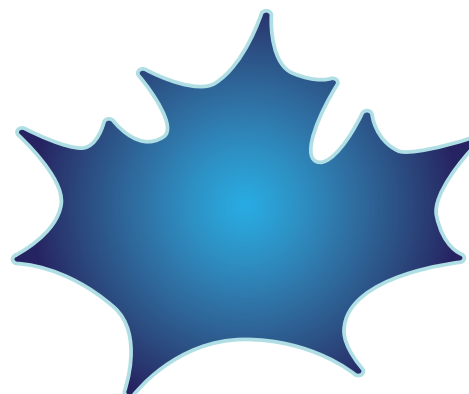
Private pension plans are an important part of Canada's retirement income system. Requiring pension plans to carry insurance is a fair trade-off to ensure that workers' pension assets are protected against future market disasters.



RETIREMENT SECURITY

LET'S MAKE IT WORK *for everyone*

Read more at www.clc-ctc.ca



Local 258 IBEW recognized with United Way Community Spirit Award



Local TV celebrity Pamela Martin presented the United Way's Community Spirit Award to representatives of Local 258 at a breakfast ceremony that took place in April. From left are Pamela Martin; Michelle Laurie, Local 258 President; Doug McKay, Local 258 Business Manager and Dan Klassen, Local 258 ABM.

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Klassen appointed Labour Campaign Co-Chair


Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen has been appointed as this year's United Way/Labour Campaign Co-Chair alongside COPE 378 Vice President Gwenne Farrell. Together they will be a part of the Campaign Labour Committee of union members who sit on the United Way Board of Directors and guide the work of the Labour and United Way partnership that dates back over thirty years.

"I am pleased to have been appointed to serve on the Campaign Labour Committee with Sister Farrell," said Brother Klassen. "There is such a huge potential to make a significant contribution to improving our communities through the Labour Campaign and it's an excellent way to get our members involved. The social issues facing children and seniors in particular deserve the attention and support the United Way can help provide."

The UW/Labour Committee co-

ordinates Labour's involvement in the annual United Way campaign launched each fall. The Committee helps United Way reach union members in workplaces and union offices ensuring lasting change in the community.


Each year, unions support United Way by selecting or endorsing a member to join the Loaned Representative Program for 16 weeks. These Loaned Representatives become the champions of the United Way campaign, working closely with volunteers in unions and workplaces in support of their workplace campaign. This year, IBEW Local 258 has appointed George Carter as its Loaned Rep to the campaign.

With the campaign scheduled to start in the fall, Local 258 members are encouraged to watch out for the opportunity to give in their workplace either through direct giving opportunities or through workplace campaigns. 

Local 258's strong contribution to the United Way of the Lower Mainland has been recognized with a Community Spirit Award, one of numerous awards presented at the 2009 Scotiabank & United Way Community Spirit Awards breakfast held in Vancouver on April 8, 2010.

Hosted by local TV celebrities Pamela Martin and Perry Solkowski, Local 258 received the Union Spirit Award in recognition of their successful union office campaign and tireless endorsement, promotion and support of the United Way campaign with its members and employers throughout BC.

The award also recognizes Local 258's active support of the CLC United Way Union Counseling program that provides peer support in the workplace and referrals to community agencies. Many Local 258 members have trained as counselors with the union providing resources to ensure the Union Counseling program continues to grow and serve its members.

Local 258's long tradition of its members supporting United Way campaigns includes members taking on roles as loaned reps to promote workplace campaigns and serving in Executive positions. Michelle Laurie, president of Local 258 recently served as a co-chair of the Campaign Labour Committee and Chair of the Board of Directors. 



Brother Dan Klassen has sat on the Campaign's Committee for the past four years. He has been an ABM with Local 258 for six years and worked for more than 30 years at BC Hydro. Dan has also been instrumental in organizing the union's annual golf tournament for a number of years. He follows in his father Harry's footsteps who also served as an ABM with the Local and is now retired from BC Hydro.

Chouhan calls for establishment of BC Asbestos Registry



*Raj Chouhan
Official Opposition
Labour Critic*

Official Opposition Labour Critic Raj Chouhan called upon the BC Liberal government this spring to establish an “Asbestos Registry” in response to the needs of workers who suffer exposure to this deadly contaminant during the course of their workday.

With BC’s Workers Compensation Board reporting increasing rates of asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer in the generation of workers who were exposed before the lethal effects of asbestos were widely known and acknowledged, Chouhan called upon the Minister of Labour to “create a registry of locations, facilities and buildings where asbestos is present so workers aren’t walking blindly into dangerous situations”.

Local 258 President Michelle Laurie welcomes the call for an asbestos registry. “I urge the BC Liberal government to implement the recommendation for an Asbestos Registry as an important step in meeting the needs of workers in BC today. What we do know is that statistics on oc-

cupational deaths resulting from asbestos exposure are daunting – and the effects on these workers and their families is devastating,” said Laurie. “With the prolonged latency period before any of these fatal diseases are diagnosed, what we are seeing now is the result of exposures from 20 or 30 years ago. If we can help today’s generation of workers, there doesn’t seem to be any question - we should do this now.”


Trades people suffer from a disproportionate rate of exposure to asbestos in their work lives. This leads to extraordinarily high death rates from asbestos related diseases such as lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, laryngeal cancer, cancers of the gastrointestinal tract and other diseases.

Reports estimate that 300 BC construction workers will die of asbestos-related diseases each year for the next 5 years,

BC Compared to Canada

- *Ontario Ministry of Labour has an “Asbestos Workers Registry”.*
- *The Newfoundland and Labrador government have set up a registry of former miners who worked at the abandoned Baie Verte asbestos mine.*
- *Saskatchewan employers have a clear obligation around asbestos management and transparency that is outline in the Occupational Health and Safety 1996 Act, in regulation 334.*
- *Similarly, Quebec and Manitoba outline clear obligations on employers under their respective workers safety and regulation Acts to identify asbestos in the workplace, buildings facilities, etc.*

for a minimum of 1,500 deaths.

Labour Minister Murray Coell responded he will take Chouhan’s request “under advisement and will give it consideration”. 

End deadly asbestos industry, experts urge

Contact/CAW/CALM

ABROAD coalition organized by Ban Asbestos Canada says the Canadian government must ban the production and export of asbestos

The group, which includes politicians, experts, victims, labour leaders, researchers and health care providers, is also calling for just transition policies for the communities that rely on the asbestos industry.

“Asbestos is the greatest industrial killer the world has ever known,” said NDP MP Pat Martin. “More Canadians die from asbestos than all other industrial causes combined, yet Canada continues

to be one of the world’s leading producers and exporters of asbestos. We are exporting human misery on a monumental scale and it is an international disgrace.”


Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre and a former asbestos miner, Martin is leading the charge in the House of Commons to have asbestos production and export banned.

NDP MP for Outremont, Thomas Mulcair, also supports the ban, making him the first Quebec MP to speak out against asbestos mining, which now exists only in Quebec.

“To persist in ignorance and contempt for research that has shown just how

devastating asbestos is to human health is despicable,” said Fernand Turcotte, professor emeritus of preventive medicine and public health at the medical school of Université Laval. “It dishonours our country and its citizens in the eyes of the world, particularly since this infamous enterprise is funded by the government.”

Turcotte refers to the many presentations made to the federal and Quebec governments on the danger of the asbestos industry, all of which have been ignored, to the peril of workers in Canada and abroad.

For more information visit www.bacanada.org. 

17th Annual IBEW – BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, September 20, 2010
Burnaby Mountain Golf Course
7600 Halifax Street
Burnaby, BC

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

Shotgun Start
at 1:30 pm

ENTRY FEE: \$120
includes Golf Cart,
Steak Dinner AND
Prizes for all!

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



*Early Birds!
Register by August 31st
and you'll be entered into 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

LOCAL 258

IBEW



RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen
Retired Local 258 member

Well, we're back in New Westminster so it must be summer. Mind you, you'd never know it was summer by the outside temperature. We even ran into snow, ice, sleet and other nasty stuff on the way home from sunny southern California. We travelled home a little earlier than usual this year because Catherine Dear had painting on her mind but even so, all that winter stuff should've been done with. At any rate, we did arrive home safe and sound and the painting got done. I guess I should clarify that the painting didn't get done by me but by a guy we hired to do the job. It's sure a lot easier painting that way instead of having to fiddle around with messy paint buckets and brushes and drop cloths etc. Actually, from my experience the painting itself isn't so bad, it's all the cleaning up afterward that's the pain.


Speaking, as we are, about snow and ice and temperatures, have you noticed that "global warming" is not the catch phrase of the day any more? We now speak of "climate change". My ruminations have led me to believe that it's all about marketing. After all, it's pretty difficult to sell "global warming" when it's cold outside and the farmers are complaining that their strawberries aren't ripening. "Climate change" allows much more flexibility. See, if it warms up, that can be attributed to climate change; if it cools down, that can be attributed to climate change; if it rains too much or not enough, that can be attributed to climate change. All in all "climate change" provides a much better vehicle for the marketers to sell their product. Another marketing ploy that I've ruminated on has to do with the word "home" becoming a synonym for house. It seems we don't sell houses anymore, we sell homes. When I was much younger, the structure we built or bought was a house and by living in it we made it a home. I don't know if "home" just sounds better to the real estate marketers or whether being a shorter word than house saves money in advertising copy.

A marketing strategy that seems to have gone awry for our provincial government is the one concocted for the Harmonized Sales Tax. In talking with friends, acquaintances, shirt-tail relatives and anybody else that will listen, from all sides of the political spectrum, I have concluded that the sales pitch for the HST is failing. At least it is failing among the community of everyday people. Some economists are ecstatic about this tax shift from business onto the backs of consumers. But back among the everyday people, of whom retirees make up a component, the feeling seems to be that not only is increased taxation unpopular but the method of introduction is odious. It is my impression that everyday people are crankier about being lied to than they are about the actual tax. I'm kind of behind times because I'm still cranky about the Carbon Tax. You may recall that the imposition of the Carbon Tax caused a

great stir of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth a few years ago. Now, with the July 1st next increase of the Carbon Tax looming, most everyday people seem to have either forgotten about it or have acquiesced to it. My ruminations have therefore concluded that the marketing campaign for the Carbon Tax has been successful. We'll have to wait and see the outcome of the HST marketing campaign.

My next report on ruminating has to do with travelling and chicken. When we are on the highways and byways of North America in our camper we have occasion to attend establishments that are termed "Fast Food Outlets". I have noted that all Fast Food Outlets, regardless of affiliation, offer some kind of chicken sandwich/wrap/burger. I have also noted that all the chicken items are advertised as "boneless chicken breast". Now, being one that would not eat chicken breast on purpose (I find them dry and stringy and tasteless) I began to wonder where all the good parts of the chicken go. I mean if all these fast food outlets have the breasts, who has the wings and thighs and legs? I am pleased to report that, through diligent research, I have found the good parts of the chicken. KFC has them all! Before I carry on, I need to explain that Catherine Dear prefers, and will eat only, chicken breast. When I am dispatched to KFC for chicken, with instructions to return with two (2) breasts, I know I am in for a session of extended negotiating. Asking staff to exchange one piece of the good stuff with a breast usually winds up, after prolonged pleading on my part, with a call to the manager who will, on occasion and grudgingly, provide the requested chunk of white meat. In my perfect world all food outlets would each keep the whole chicken so that I could get the good stuff and not get scabby knees from groveling when dispatched to KFC.

Quickly, just one more thing before I go. Being a product of my generation, when I get up in the morning and fumble for a T-shirt I sort of feel around for the label and arrange for it to wind up on the inside at the back. Increasingly I find that such assumption can result in the garment being worn wrong side out. It seems that labels are now being applied with greater frequency to the outside of T-shirts. What's with that? Is it another marketing ploy? I thought it was bad enough when some manufacturers embroidered or otherwise affixed their name or logo to the garment but to have the actual label on the outside is a step too far. To a certain extent I am resistant to change. I would prefer that labels remain at the back and on the inside. It makes it easier to get dressed in the morning.

Well, I said quickly and I have now run out of time and space. Please continue to work and play safely. The community of Retirees is saving a place for you. 

Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Check the union's website for updated membership meeting information!

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

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 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

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

Do you have photos, original artwork, cartoons or 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.

Send your items via e-mail to hotline@shaw.ca, or mail to:
Local 258 IBEW
Attention, The Hotline
7535 Sixth Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

Steelworkers launch private prosecution in worker's death

WHSC/CALM

THE UNITED Steelworkers has launched a rare private criminal prosecution against forestry company Weyerhaeuser, alleging they were criminally negligent in the 2004 death of a sawmill worker.

"The death of sawmill worker Lyle Hewer was preventable and a criminal act by his employer," says Steve Hunt, USW director for Western and Northern Canada. "Prosecutors in British Columbia have looked at this case and have refused to advance any charges against Weyerhaeuser."

The USW is seeking prosecution under the 2004 Westray amendment to the Criminal Code. This amendment resulted from a dedicated lobbying campaign led by the USW and supported by the New Democratic Party and wider labour movement. The campaign began shortly after the tragic Westray mine explosion in Nova Scotia on May 9, 1992, where 26 men were killed.

The amendment created rules establishing criminal liability to corporations

and other organizations for the acts of their representatives. Specifically, Section 217.1 of the Criminal Code of Canada establishes a legal duty for persons directing the work of others to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of workers and the public.

The USW believes Weyerhaeuser did not take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of Hewer, who was killed on November 17, 2004, after entering the bottom of a hopper to clear wood debris. The debris came loose falling on top of him.


Weyerhaeuser Canada was fined almost \$300,000 by WorkSafeBC following a two-year investigation.

The New Westminster police recommended criminal charges against the company. Crown prosecutors, however, did not proceed.

According to Hunt, the USW is proceeding with these charges to secure justice and to hold those responsible to account. "Nowhere, other than at work, can a person be killed and there are no consequences other than maybe a monetary

fine. The Westray amendments were supposed to change this. It hasn't yet. We are proceeding with these charges to move the criminal code amendments from simple words to the actions they were intended to invoke. We want those who perform criminal acts to be tried as criminals."

"We also want to send a message to other corporations there are consequences in both the criminal courts and the court of public opinion when they don't meet their legal and human due diligence," says Hunt. "They must be reminded they are as responsible to their workers as they are to their shareholders."

To date, just one company has been convicted under the Westray amendment. Montreal-based Transpave plead guilty in December, 2007, to criminal negligence charges stemming from the workplace death of 23 year old Steve L'Ecuyer. They were ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine and an additional \$10,000 for compensatory court costs. 

IBEW-BC Hydro SAFETY RODEO

Mark your calendars
for Saturday,
September 11 for
this fun, family
event.

Watch the union's website for more information.



Union renews training opportunity for members, families and friends

For more than two years now, Local 258 members, their families and friends have been able to access over 200 online training courses through Vubiz Ltd. With a link provided from the front page of the Local 258 website, members have been able to login, enter the password and their IBEW membership card number and after a short registration process, have access to educational courses such as Time

Management, Improving Your Listening Skills and All About the Internet.

Your Local 258 Executive Board has now extended the program, originally scheduled to end on May 31, 2010, for an additional three years.

Take advantage of the opportunity to learn by visiting your Local 258 website at www.ibew258.bc.ca and click on the link "On-Line Training" on the front page.



On-line Training available for IBEW members (this list is not complete):

- MS Office
- Finance Basics and Financial Statements
- Health & Safety Courses (WHMIS; Lockout/Tagout 1 & 2)
- Conflict Management
- Individual Productivity Enhancement
- Business Writing: Reports and Proposals
- Small Business
- Business Skills
- Sales Skills
- Human Resources
- Strategies for Preventing Sexual Harassment

**Some courses also available in French*



The Canadian Military Education Centre in Chilliwack would like to thank Local 258 for the recent donation of \$200. Presenting the cheque, from left, are George Clark, Tom Rafter and the Centre's Treasurer.

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 through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

Upcoming IBEW Local 258 Meetings

	Date & Time	Location
Unit 1 - North Coast Unit Chair: Klaus Kraft		
Prince Rupert	Wednesday, June 9 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Queen Charlotte City	Thursday, June 10 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Smithers	Tuesday, July 13 @ 5:00 pm	Line Room
	Tuesday, September 14 @ 5:00 pm	Line Room
Terrace	Tuesday, August 10 @ 7:00 pm	Best Western Inn
Unit 2 - Central Interior Unit Chair: Gerry Pope		
Prince George	Official Meeting - Tuesday, June 15 @ 7:00 pm	Royal Canadian Legion
	Official Meeting - Wednesday, September 15 @ 7:00 pm	Royal Canadian Legion
Dawson Creek	Thursday, June 17 @ 7:00 pm	George Dawson Inn
Fort St. John	Official Meeting - Thursday, July 15 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Hudson's Hope	Official Meeting - Thursday, August 12 @ 4:30 pm	Pearkes Centre
Quesnel	Wednesday, June 16 @ 4:30 pm	Line Room
Williams Lake	Wednesday, September 16 @ 4:30 pm	Elks Hall
Unit 3 - Southern Interior Unit Chair: Colin Kenney		
Bridge River	Tuesday, September 7 @ 5:30 pm	Lunch Room B2
Kamloops	Wednesday, September 8 @ 7:00 pm	IBEW #993 Hall
Vernon	Official Meeting - Thursday, July 15 @ 7:00 pm	Army & Navy Club
	Thursday, September 9 @ 7:00 pm	Army & Navy Club
Mica	Official Meeting - Monday, September 13 @ 6:00 pm	Curling Rink
Revelstoke	Tuesday, September 14 @ 4:15 pm	Hydro Dam Conference Room
Castlegar	Official Meeting - Tuesday, August 10 @ 7:00 pm	Fireside Inn
Unit 4 - Vancouver Island Unit Chair: Tom Greenwell		
Victoria	Official Meeting - Tuesday, August 10 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Duncan	Thursday, September 9 @ 4:00 pm	Cowichan Valley Inn
Nanaimo	Official Meeting - Tuesday, July 13 @ 4:00 pm	RC Legion #256
Port Hardy	Tuesday, September 7 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Courtenay	Official Meeting - Wednesday, September 8 @ 4:00 pm	Line Room
Campbell River	Wednesday, September 8 @ 7:00 pm	Maritime Heritage Centre
Unit 5 - Greater Vancouver Unit Chair: Cathy Tagseth		
Burnaby	Official Meeting - Thursday, July 15 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
	Official Meeting - Thursday, August 12 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
	Official Meeting - Thursday, September 9 @ 5:00 pm	Local 258 Union Hall
Unit 6 - Fraser Valley Unit Chair: Karen Porter		
Langley	Official Meeting - Tuesday, July 13 @ 7:00 pm	Steelworkers Hall, 9292 200th St., Langley
	Official Meeting - Tuesday, September 14 @ 7:00 pm	Steelworkers Hall 9292 200th St., Langley
Chilliwack	Official Meeting - Wednesday, August 11 @ 7:00 pm	Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

LOCAL 258

IBEW INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BROTHERS
 AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL
 CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS
 LABOR & CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS & CANADIAN LABOR
 REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



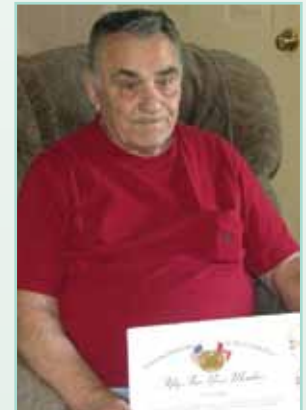
Newly topped out apprentice Brother Bill Woodruff displays his IBEW International Lineman Certificate along with co-workers at Arctic Power's Dawson Creek headquarters. Joining with him for a photo opportunity are, from left, Brother Ryan Evans, Brother Cam Curtin, Brother Bill Woodruff and Brother Tyrone McDonald.



Congratulations to Brother Tom Elliot, right, as he was presented his journeyman certificate from Unit 4 Chair Tom Greenwell.



Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope, right, welcomes new member Brother Lucas Luchinski at the April Hudson's Hope meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Emile Rurka on being awarded a 55 year IBEW membership certificate.



Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope congratulates new member Brother Michael Cruz at a Fort St. John union meeting.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell, center, joined with Brother Jason Hillgartner, Brother Brook Low and IBEW members at the Meter Shop BBQ.



Congratulations to Brother Leo Kreke on being awarded a 55 year IBEW membership certificate.



A double congratulations to Brother Russ Calvert, left, from Unit 3, as he presents his son Dave Calvert, right with his Journeyman Lineman's Certificate. Brother Calvert was also recently awarded his 35 year service pin.



A photo opportunity with the Glenn Power crew and friend.



Retirement goodies were presented to Brother Ivan Carlson, right, by Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope at the Dawson Creek union meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Terry Ford on being awarded his 35 year service pin by ABM Dan Giesbrecht.



Welcome to your first day of work as a Journey Lineman Brother Elliot! Brother Elliot is joined by Tom Cook and Lineman Rob Williams.



Congratulations Maurice on your retirement!



Brother Leon Arishenkoff, left, congratulates Brother Orest Woloshyn on the occasion of his recent retirement.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

LOCAL 258

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MIDDLE AND WESTERN ELECTRICIANS

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS & CANADIAN LABOR

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



Congratulations to Brother Mitch Thielen on achieving your Journeyman Lineman's Certificate.



Congratulations to Brother Keenan Morrison on achieving your Journeyman Lineman's Certificate.



Congratulations to Brother Jason Marsh on achieving your Journeyman Lineman's Certificate.



Brother Brian Tulley was recently awarded his 60 year IBEW membership certificate.



ABM Dan Giesbrecht, right, congratulates Brother Colin McLeod, a recent lineman graduate working at Midway Power.



ABM Dan Giesbrecht, right, congratulates Brother Dustin Seabrook, a recent lineman graduate working at Midway Power.

HOTLINE

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CALM
 OF LABOUR MEDIA

When we began preparations for this issue of the Hotline, I expected to be writing about goals and expectations, some forward thinking as we move into a new term for your elected Union Officers. Sadly, as you read earlier, on the day that the ballots for that election were being counted, our very dear Brother Rick Dowling passed away – suddenly, and totally unexpected. As I write this, I am still grappling with the reality of that event, and the great loss to our Brotherhood as well as the broader community of labour in British Columbia. I cannot pretend to imagine the devastating loss this must be for his family, even as our hearts go out to them. Rick was a calm and wise counsel for me especially in my time as the IBEW Vice President of the BC Federation of Labour – able to reflect on issues from the perspective of building trades, industry and always with such a strong commitment to working people and social justice. Aside from his wisdom and values, Rick was also blessed with an incredible voice, and any time I hear Celtic music, or an old Scottish ballad, I will raise a glass in my mind to a great leader who could bring tears to your eyes with song. His voice remains strong in my head, and his values will continue to guide me, but I will miss the man greatly, as will so many.

There are many facets to this role of President, and sometimes the contrasts are stark. This past month your Executive Board also had the task of looking at future leaders, and awarding the Tom Forkin Scholarships. This year we had more applicants than I have ever seen in my time as President, and all from young men and women with wonderful aspirations, strong community ties and social values. Only three scholarships are awarded, however, and they went to Krista Cline, Serena Franz and Rachel Throop - three very deserving applicants, with our sincere congratulations! It was a truly difficult choice to select just three from this worthy group, and we commend all applicants on their goals and achievements and wish them great success with their education.

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



Of course, we will move forward, and your new Executive will take some time over the next fall and winter to review our priorities as a local, and do some visioning about how we carry out the mandate you have given us. I want to thank all of the members who put their names forward in this election, seeking to act as your representatives. It takes commitment and courage to stand up and ask for your support, to ask to represent your values, and all candidates are owed our gratitude for their willingness to work for the Local Union. Thanks also to each of you that participated by voting, and taking the time to learn about the candidates and their roles within your Union. As this issue goes to press, you will be receiving your run-off ballot for the Recording Secretary position. As you know, for Local Union Officers, successful candidates must receive the majority of all votes cast, so when there are three (or more) candidates, we usually end up with a run-off, which has a very tight turn around time – ballots will be counted on June 29, so I hope you have participated in that ballot, as well.

Summer is upon us, and I do hope that each of you has time set aside to enjoy the weather and the beautiful part of the world in which we get to experience it! Stay well and safe. 🌩️

Congratulations to this year's Tom Forkin Scholarship winners

Krista Cline

Serena Franz

Rachel Throop



On behalf of the membership of Local 258 IBEW, we commend all the applicants on their goals and achievements and wish you great success with your education!

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.