



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
WINTER, 2010

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA




IBEW members join together to support community causes

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 UNION COUNSELLORS RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT

 UNION LOSES FORMER BUSINESS MANAGER JOHN E. MCGRAW



HOTLINE Winter 2010

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LOCAL 258 IBEW

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

HOTLINE is the official newsletter magazine published for the members of Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in British Columbia, Canada.

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

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Cover photo:

IBEW members from across the lower mainland volunteered their time and skills and joined together to help St. Paul's Hospital light up the historical building in downtown Vancouver in preparation for their annual fundraising drive.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

The Christmas season is upon us and it always seems at this time of year many British Columbians turn their focus to family. It is also a time when many of us reach out to help those in our community who are less fortunate. Many worthwhile fundraising campaigns and opportunities to volunteer your time also appear at this time of year and I encourage you to share your good fortune if you are able, in the spirit of working together to improve our communities.

It is through working together that substantial change can often be made. In our union community, we see the results every day around us – we are stronger together than we are when we stand alone. When we organize around common values, such as good working conditions, decent benefits and fair wages, we have seen the positive outcome we can achieve with good collective agreements. As a result, we can bring home a paycheque at the end of the day that helps support our families and provide us with a lifestyle that makes us part of our bigger community in British Columbia.

But many in our province are struggling. Not everyone is fortunate enough to have a good paying job with a strong collective agreement. With the minimum wage now the lowest in the country, tens of thousands of hard working people are struggling to make a basic living, to pay the bills, to put food on the table and clothes on the kids, nevermind owning a home or being able to spend quality time off from work with their families.

It is shameful we have had a provincial government in power who have unfairly closed the door to, at the least, having a decent discussion with organized labour – who is speaking out on behalf of minimum wage workers – about this important issue. Now that Gordon Campbell has indicated he will resign early next year, the topic of increasing the minimum wage has dipped its toe into the waters of political campaign rhetoric as we see the hopefuls – who have stood silent for ten years – painstakingly attempt to hint they may do something about this shameful policy.

Along with the lowest minimum wage, ten years of government cuts to funding important community programs and services, combined with neglect for the social good of our communities, has left almost 20% of children in this province living in poverty. This is shameful. We have numerous community organizations, including the United Way, desperately trying to fill in the gaps left by a government that refuses to provide much needed support for families on the edge to help their children develop the skills they need to succeed. It's policies like a decent minimum wage, fair employment standards that cover all workers, a balanced Labour Relations Board and a Workers Compensation Board that truly works for workers that are needed in BC so families can succeed.



IBEW Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay attended the 2010 BC Federation of Labour Convention with a delegation from the Local Union. Sitting on the Resolutions Committee, Brother McKay participated in the debate and discussions that framed this year's event.

At this year's 54th Annual BC Federation of Labour Convention, delegates gathered to debate and put forward numerous resolutions, some dealing with the issues I've described above. It was a convention that challenged our very own community, the House of Labour, as a rare dispute challenged the principles of some delegates who then chose to abstain from participating. The delegates from your union, Local 258, sat together with our brothers & sisters from IBEW Locals 213, 230 and 993 and showed our support for our brothers & sisters from CUPE BC who took a moral stand from the sidelines.

As the New Year heads quickly towards us, 2011 will be another busy year. Vancouver is the location for the next International IBEW Convention that will see thousands of IBEW members travel to BC from across North America. Local preparations have been underway for many months and together, we have been working to support the organizers of this huge event. We are looking forward to welcoming our brothers & sisters to our beautiful province.

Winter weather has already started and I know many of our members will be working very hard and will be kept very busy with keeping the lights on and the power running across BC. Please remember to work safely – returning home to your family at the end of the day is what's important in life. Follow the rules, don't rush and look up and live. And have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 🇺🇸



We've Got Mail!



Dear Members of Local 258;

I wanted to drop a note and say that it has been very touching that so many members came out from the IBEW 258 to Barry's memorial and that so many have phoned, sent me notes and offered to help me.

I also wanted to let you know that I really appreciate the donation made in Barry's honour to WAVAW (Women Against Violence Against Women).

It has been very meaningful to me to have so much acknowledgement of Barry's friendships in the union.

Barbara Bell

Dear Local 258;

I loved what you did - it was as nice as can be! And I hope that you know what it meant to me! Thanks so much for the beautiful fruit basket.

Floyd Bouchard

Dear Local 258;

I would like to thank the union's Executive Board for approving the financial aid for my Class 3 and Air driving course. I was able to pay for and complete the course successfully because of your generosity. I am looking forward to seeking new job opportunities as a member of IBEW Local 258.

Regards,

Brother Joe Morrison

Dear Doug McKay & Local 258;

On behalf of the Organizing Team for the 2010 Safety Rodeo we would like to thank you and the IBEW for your contributions to the Rodeo. We very much appreciate your support at the Rodeo and Banquet.

Sincerely,

Susan & Brianne
BC Hydro

Dear Local 258;



Thank you so much for the bouquet of flowers I received when off work for medical treatment.

In Solidarity
Susan Longva, ABM

Dear Local 258;

On behalf of the Multi-Union Pride Committee I wish to thank you for your generous support of the Committee's efforts this year.

Your participation has enabled us to attend East Side

Pride, Surrey Pride, the first New West Pride and of course the Vancouver Pride Parade, where we won the award for Most Captivating Community Cluster.

Again, I thank you for helping us highlight to the public the progressive and positive benefits that unions bring to working people

and society every day. I look forward to your continued support in the years ahead.

In solidarity.

Monty Bartlett, Chair, Multi-Union Pride 2010

Dear Local 258;

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation of a Grey Sweatshirt, Navy Sweatshirt, 2 Jean Shirts, 4 hats and 2 FR rated T-shirts.

Your gift to our 2010 Asplundh Canada ULC Christmas Dinner helped make the event a great success that was enjoyed by all employees who participated.

We would also like to extend our Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and New Year filled with Peace, Joy and Success.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours truly,

Remo Maddalozzo

Vice President, Asplundh Canada

Dear Local 258;

Many thanks for the retirement gifts and good wishes.

Doug Hill

Dear IBEW Local 258 members;

Thank you for making the road to recovery smoother for the patients of St. John's Rehab and for supporting our electrical injury rehab research.

St. John's Rehab Foundation

A Big THANK YOU from IBEW Members at the East Kootenay Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

The union has been sent a note from the organizers of this year's BC Hydro East Kootenay Memorial Charity Golf Tournament thanking all those who supported the tournament again this year.

This annual tournament took on a very special meaning in 2008 and the event is now held in honour and memory of Dirk Rozenboom and Rob Lehmann, two IBEW members who worked for BC Hydro and were killed in a tragic workplace accident.

Dirk's charity of choice was the East Kootenay SPCA and Rob's charity of choice was the East Kootenay Regional Hospital Foundation for Health.

This year, tournament organizers managed to raise over \$2300 that will be split between these two very admirable East Kootenay charities.

The organizers also wanted to make sure a big thank you goes to everyone who supported this golf tournament by providing prizes, making monetary donations, bidding on silent auction items and by attending.



STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

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

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

Major Issues: Wages, Benefits, Concessions
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



THE IBEW HAS



11

Districts...

11

Winners...

This is your chance to showcase your talent at the 2011 IBEW Convention in Vancouver

Introducing the IBEW Has Talent Competition

Each International Vice Presidential District will sponsor a winner from the area for a chance to compete at the 2011 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Rules and information are available on the IBEW website at www.IBEW.org

Are you or is someone in your family talented? Start preparing now to showcase that talent at the July 2011 All Canada Progress Meeting that will take place in Quebec City.

Former Local 258 President, Business Manager John McGraw passes away



Local 258 was saddened to learn that former Business Manager/Financial Secretary Brother John E. McGraw, lost his battle with cancer on December 1, 2010.

Brother McGraw had been retired since 2002. A member of IBEW Local 258 since 1971, he served the union for many years.

Working at BC Hydro as a power dispatcher, he became involved in his union in the early 80s when he was appointed President of the Local. He later won election as President and was subsequently appointed Business Manager/Financial Secretary in 1997. He continued in that role until his retirement.

Brother McGraw was instrumental in helping create the union's Electrical Industry Training Institute, the educational facility that has grown and expanded internationally since those first days when the need for professional trades training resources for our members was recognized.

He was Business Manager/Financial Secretary when the horror and tragedy of September 11 occurred and IBEW lost dozens of members in New York as the Towers collapsed. John was with thousands of his union brothers & sisters at the union's 36th International Convention in San Francisco on that day and was profoundly affected by the event. On his return, he wrote an eloquent article, published in the October 2001 issue of the Hotline, that still rings true today as we come to terms with the loss of Brother John E. McGraw and recall his contributions to our union:

"It is clear that in times such as these, our real priorities are brought sharply into focus. Our day-to-day normal activities somehow do not seem as important as in the past. Our concern for family and friends are heightened and we seem to go out of our way to be more thoughtful to others that we come into contact with. We have a sense of mortality, not only for ourselves, but also of others and this truth brings with it a sadness that is difficult to overcome. But we will overcome the sadness, and we will go on, hopefully more sensitive to each other's needs."

A Celebration of Life is planned for sometime in the New Year.



At the Signing of the BC Hydro/Electrical Industry Training Institute Agreement, September 19, 1991.

Seated front row: Brother John E. McGraw, President, IBEW Local 258; Doug Bryson, Acting VP, Customer Service, BC Hydro.

Back row, standing, from left: Ross Fitzgerald, Manager, Corporate Safety & Health, BC Hydro; Don Swoboda, VP Production, BC Hydro; Gerry Bramhill, Business Manager, IBEW Local 258; Earl Lockhart, Trades Training Development Manager; Ed Higginbottom, Coordinator, EITI.



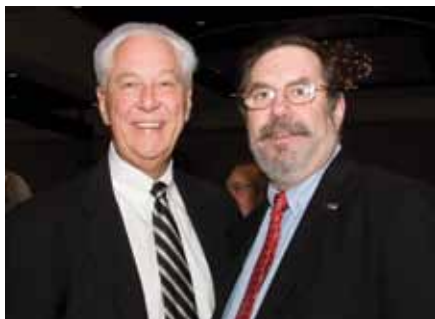
*IBEW President Ed Hill in Vancouver***Labour partnership helps support United Way**

Recognizing the huge contribution Labour makes to our communities through its partnership with United Way, keynote speaker Leo Gerard, President of the International Steelworkers Union, told guests at the 17th Annual United Way Labour Appreciation Awards dinner that in a province like BC it is very sad we have the highest rate of child poverty, the highest usage of food banks and the lowest minimum wage in the country.

He described the labour movement as the instrument of social and economic justice and applauded the efforts of unions and their members in BC who, together, are the major fundraising source for United Way. He pondered if the day will ever come when we no longer need the much needed services the United Way provides – when every person will have a secure, well paying job to be able to provide for their families and where seniors don't have to fear poverty in retirement.

He applauded labour's efforts and successes and its close partnership with the United Way, but warned we often take ourselves for granted and urged us to fight for and build our reputation as we are under attack by right wing proponents who often decry unions and their members.

Brother Gerard also noted his long standing friendship with IBEW International President Ed Hill, who was in the audience with local IBEW officers and members. He praised President Hill for his dedication and determination to helping improve the lives of union members across North America.



Ed Hill and Leo Gerard.



IBEW International President Ed Hill and Secretary/Treasurer Lindel Lee were in Vancouver with 2011 International Convention staff and attended the United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Dinner with Local 258 and 213 members.

The awards ceremonies highlighted the evening as three labour activists received accolades from their peers for their contributions to their communities.

The Vancouver & District Labour Council awarded the Syd Thomas Community Service Award to **Susan Stout**, a retired CAW member with a long history of labour activism and involvement with human rights issues around the world.



The New Westminster & District Labour Council awarded the Labour Community Service Award to **Ardell Brophy**, Vice President of USW 2009 and union rep at COPE 378. Ardell is known for her incredible fundraising contributions through her Laff Riot comedy group that has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities. She is shown in the photo to the right with her partner Lee Ann Keple, right, and Lori Mayhew, NWDLC president, left.



Jack Munro, a labour movement giant, received the Joe Morris Labour Community Service Award. A supporter of United Way for many years, Jack currently sits as the Chair of the Labour Heritage Society, is a Board member for the Myasthenia Gravis Society and is the recipient of the Order of Canada as well as a number of honorary degrees. 🇨🇦



The 2011 BC Hydro Revenue Application Decision

On November 19, the British Columbia Utilities Commission released the proposed negotiated settlement agreement for BC Hydro's Fiscal 2011 Revenue Requirement Application. The settlement determines the amount of money that BC Hydro can collect through its rates from April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. Through the negotiated settlement process (NSP), BC Hydro achieved agreement with the nine parties involved on all substantive issues in its Application, with two possible exceptions. The Independent Power Producers of BC question whether BC Hydro's Demand Side Management programs are delivering their desired effect, and suggests that the company's Power Smart programs undergo a more thorough prudency review. The Line Contractors Association of BC state that BC Hydro is proceeding too slowly in resolving their complaint on how the company allocates work between its regular workforce, its construction service crews, and external line contractors.

In the Settlement Agreement, the Commission confirmed BC Hydro's request for an across-the-board 6.11% rate increase, and an increase in the company's Deferral Account Rate Rider from 1% to 4%. The Commission had granted both rate increases on an interim and refundable basis effective April 1, 2010. The overall annual bill impact of the two rate increases is 7.29% (the cumulative impact of the rate increase is not the sum of the two rate increases because of credits applied to charges payable under other approved rates).


In its over 1600-page application, BC Hydro argued it needed the rate hike to cover the cost of reinvestments in its system assets in order to continue providing reliable service to customers. The company stated that many of these assets are reaching their end of

life, and as a consequence, expenditures on generation, transmission, and distribution assets has increased significantly. Over the past three years, BC Hydro says it has invested almost \$5.3 billion refurbishing and expanding its system assets. In this fiscal year, the company expects to spend a further \$1.9 billion. All of this has an upward impact on rates the company must charge its customers.

BC Hydro estimates that the cumulative net impacts of these increases will mean electricity rates will be 55% higher in fiscal 2015 than they were in fiscal 2010

More expenditures on system assets and conservation and efficiency programs in future years will result in further rate hikes. In a table contained in the Settlement Agreement, BC Hydro projects rate increases in each of the next four years. BC Hydro estimates that the cumulative net impacts of these increases will mean electricity rates will be 55% higher in fiscal 2015 than they were in fiscal 2010.

BC Hydro acknowledges in the Settlement Agreement that its customers are concerned about the projected rate increases, and that the company shares this concern. BC Hydro states it will increase its focus on the management and control of its cost structure, with the objective of reducing potential future rate increases.

The Commission used the NSP to reach agreement between participating parties on BC Hydro's F2011 Revenue Requirement Application. The NSP is a tool that complements the traditional oral hearing process, and is used to save time and reduce the cost of utility regulation. It requires that all parties maintain in confidence all confidential discussions they had in the course of negotiating the Settlement Agreement. Given the magnitude of BC Hydro's projected future rate increases, all of the parties involved in this negotiated settlement expect that BC Hydro's next revenue requirement application will be reviewed in an oral public hearing, and will involve a full and thorough review of BC Hydro's operating costs. 

IBEW members compete at Kansas City Rodeo

A number of IBEW Local 258 PLTs travelled to Bonner Springs, Kansas, in October to compete in the 27th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo.



IBEW 258 member Robin Poirier took first place overall in the Apprentice - Municipality Division at the 2010 Kansas City Rodeo. Photo by Tim Somerville.

The Lineman's Rodeo attracts some of the best linemen from around the world to compete in events based on twelve traditional lineman tasks and skills. The first Lineman's Rodeo was held in September 1984 and currently sees over 200 teams and 250 apprentices test their skills against one another in this popular event.

Hosted by the Kansas City Power & Light and Westar Energy, the event took place on October 16. BC Hydro sent two crews and two apprentices with IBEW members Brock McLean, TJ Fisher, Gene

Beaton, Dan Clinaz, Paul Lu, Tyler Thompson, Robin Poirier and Chris Smith competing in the skills contests.

This year's crews made the best showing yet for BC Hydro crews in their 19 years of participating at this international event.

Congratulations to Robin Poirier of Nanaimo who came away with first place in Apprentice, Municipal Division.

Overall Results:

Team 1 Municipal Division – 13/24, Overall Results 11/156

Brock McLean, PLT, Ganges

TJ Fisher, PLT, Ganges

Gene Beaton, PLT, Nanaimo

Team 2: Municipal Division – 23/24, Overall Results – 153/156

Dan Clinaz, PLT, Subforeman, Edmonds

Paul Lu, Transmission PLT, Lower Mainland Transmission

Tyler Thompson, PLT Subforeman, North Shore

Apprentice Results

Robin Poirier, Nanaimo, Municipal Division – 1/29, Overall Results – 6/209

Chris Smith, Courtenay, Municipal Division – 17/20, Overall Results – 141/209 📧

Union loses former activist and ABM, Brother Harry Klassen



Harry and his wife Mae at his IBEW retirement dinner.

Brother Harry Klassen, a well-known and respected union activist and former Assistant Business Manager with IBEW Local 258 passed away peacefully at home on November 29, 2010.

Harry was initiated into the IBEW in 1957 when he began working as a lineman at BC Hydro. He became a Shop Foreman at Kitchener Street and took an active role in his union as a Shop Steward. He was elected as a Unit Chair and served his union brothers & sisters as an Assistant Business Manager. He retired in 1986.

He was married for 53 years to his wife Mae and enjoyed his retirement in Burnaby. His love for his grandchildren, family gatherings and cribbage games filled his retirement years.

Harry's sons Dave and Dan have continued in their father's footsteps as IBEW members, with Dan currently serving as an ABM at the Burnaby office.

A celebration of Harry's life will take place at the Operating Engineers Hall, 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby, on Saturday, December 18, 2010, from 2:00 to 6:00 pm. 📧



Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen is shown here with members of the MS Society of Canada as he presented a cheque from the union for \$8,000. The funds were raised at this year's Golf Tournament that took place on September 20 at Burnaby Mountain Golf Course. Many thanks to everyone who participated for this worthwhile cause.

endMS.ca
It's time. Give now.
mssociety.ca

Union counsellors renew commitment to co-workers and fellow union members

Hearts & Minds

*IBEW Local 258's
Union Member-to-Member
Counselling & Referral Service*

*To contact a Union Counsellor,
please see the back cover of this
issue of The Hotline.*



Local 258's volunteer union counsellors met during the week of the BC Federation of Labour Convention in Vancouver at the end of November to renew their commitment to helping their co-workers maintain healthy workplaces and to be a confidential resource for those who may need help in dealing with personal, family or workplace problems.

Confirming their belief in Local 258 being "The Union of Hearts & Minds", the volunteer counsellors shared their concerns that more outreach needs be done with union members to increase awareness and recognition of the confidential assistance counsellors can provide to help maintain healthy workplaces, as well as the confidential referrals to professional resources they can provide to help their co-workers deal with problems that may be having a negative impact on their lives at work and at home.

Local 258 President Michelle Laurie facilitated the discussions as the group

outlined steps they can take to formulate a plan of action to increase awareness of the positive resource union counsellors can be to their co-workers. Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen has been deeply involved in the union counselling initiative but was unable to attend the meeting due to a death in the family.

The counsellors identified they have an opportunity to extend an invitation to their co-workers in an effort to help train more union counsellors and to improve outreach and contact with other union activists who have stepped forward to take on roles in their union, such as Shop Stewards.

At the end of the meeting, the counsellors all agreed they can be a conduit for their co-workers in helping to create or maintain healthy workplaces by being available to offer sincere, confidential and trustworthy assistance and guidance to accessing professional resources.

Local 258's involvement with the Canadian Labour Congress/United Way Union Counselling program is intended to help union members build and strengthen their workplaces and communities.

Local 258's Union Counsellors are individuals who have stepped forward to be trained to act as a resource to provide peer support to fellow workers who are

trying to cope with workplace, personal or family challenges. They reach out for co-workers who are struggling with personal crisis and help them find the right resources to assist and support them. They are good listeners, have credibility and maintain strict confidentiality.

Union Counsellors are specially trained through the CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) Union Counsellor

course and volunteer or are appointed to do this special job.

Union Counsellors improve lives and help strengthen our communities through the work that they do. They also develop life-long skills and relationships that can benefit them in their personal lives or with their union, workplace and community. ☑



“When a co-worker may need help – is it really none of your business?”

This was the question asked by Dileep Athaide, Chair of the United Way's Labour Committee, as he spoke with Local 258's union counsellors at their meeting in Vancouver at the end of November.



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada

Labour Participation Department

United Way of the Lower Mainland

The CLC United Way Union Counselling program is a cornerstone of the Labour and United Way Partnership that has been in place for over 30 years.

The program is prevention based with a goal of helping union members in the workplace.

Seeking stories

Celebrating BC workers as Labour Heritage Centre opens



BC's labour history is being brought to life at the new Labour Heritage Centre with the launch of a website, a permanent art exhibit and more to come, according to Jack Munro, Chair of the Board, as he addressed delegates at the recent BC Federation of Labour Convention.

Located on the waterfront in Vancouver's new Convention Centre, the Labour Heritage Centre acknowledges the history of work and working people in British Columbia. Their mission is to inspire union members, young workers, new Canadians and students through a wide variety of programs.

One of the Centre's major projects was completed earlier this year with the installation of a series of educational panels showcasing a wide range of occupations, historical moments and work experiences, mounted along the interior and exterior of the Convention Centre.

The LH Centre's website includes a Virtual Gallery that describes important historical moments in the history of labour in BC — from the plight of Chinese workers in the late 19th century to the introduction of the printing press in BC to Operation Solidarity in the 1980s.

The website also features useful educational resources including an online guide developed for high school students titled "Youth, Unions and You".

The Centre is seeking more stories, photographs, buttons, posters — anything you may have lying around in your spare room or attic — that can help bring to life BC's labour history.

For more information, visit www.labourheritagecentre.com, or at the Vancouver Convention Centre, West Annex.

BC IBEW locals are founding members of the Centre.



Countdown to Vancouver

IBEW Preparing for 38th International Convention

Vancouver, British Columbia, on Canada's Pacific coast is considered by many to be among the most beautiful cities in the world. This is the setting the IBEW chose as the site of its 38th International Convention that will take place next year, 2011, from September 19th to the 23rd.

The convention is where the IBEW conducts the heart of its business, setting broad policy goals to guide the union over the next five years in an open, democratic forum. The planning for such a complex and important gathering is already well underway and will become more intense with each passing month until the gavel falls on September 19, 2011.

Held every five years, the IBEW convention is a massive undertaking that will bring thousands of local union delegates, officers, staff and guests from across North America to Vancouver, with the event taking place at the new Convention Centre on the waterfront.

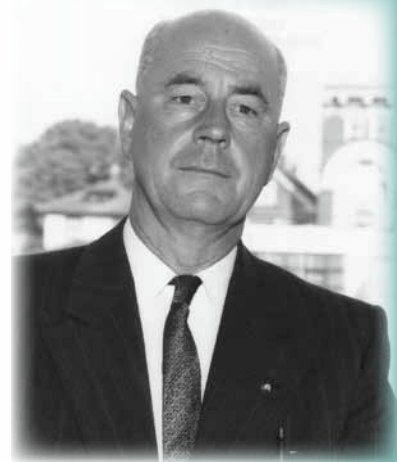
This is the fourth time in IBEW's history that the Convention takes place in Canada — delegates gathered in Toronto in 1986 and in Montreal in 1923 and 1962.

Call for submissions

Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Student Scholarship

Once again, it is time for Local 258 IBEW's annual Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship was created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President - Brother Tom Forkin, and is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258.

We are asking participants to explain their educational goals and define their relationship with the union, their community and their labour activities. Applicants must complete the application form, available on the union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca and submit it either by mail, or if possible, via e-mail to info@ibew258.bc.ca. If submitting via e-mail, "Tom Forkin Scholarship" must be included in the subject bar of the e-mail.




To be eligible, applicants must be registered, or plan to register in a full-time post-secondary program in 2011/2012 at a BC educational institution. Special consideration may be given to applicants who are attending or planning to attend a post-secondary institution outside of BC, if the program they will be attending is not available in BC. Applicants must have a letter-grade standing of C or better, and copies of the letter-grade standing must be included with the application letter. Mature students may have this requirement waived if approved by the Executive Board.

Applications can be mailed to:

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



All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 18, 2011. The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by May 13, 2011. Successful applicants will be notified immediately, but the scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment is provided. 

IBEW MEMBERS HELP LIGHT UP DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER


Helping St. Paul's Hospital Foundation



Dozens of IBEW members from Locals 258 and 213 gathered together in downtown Vancouver to show their support for St. Paul's Hospital Foundation as they volunteered and gave their time early on Saturday morning, November 6, to build the Lights of Hope, a spectacular display of holiday lights outside of St. Paul's Hospital.

Among those helping out were IBEW Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen, Organizer Nicole Biernaczyk, Local 258 office support staff member Janice Krieger of COPE 378 and members Bev Tarrant and Mellissa Wand from Valley Traffic.

Scaling the rungs of scaffolding to build the display, IBEW members also used cherry picker trucks to help hang 10 km of holiday lights. The display was officially lit on November 25 and continues until January 6, 2011.

The Lights of Hope campaign is an annual holiday tradition that illuminates the exterior of St. Paul's Hospital and invites the community to give generously to support world-leading care, research and teaching at the hospital. Companies and individuals who make eligible donations to the Lights of Hope campaign are recognized on the display. This year's campaign has a goal to raise at least \$1.95 million. 



Photos provided by Nicole Biernaczyk



from your Union Officers, Executive Board Members,
ABMs, Office Staff & The Hotline



Unit 1 Meeting Schedule 2011

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 17th								<i>Thurs</i> OCT 20th		
PRINCE RUPERT Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 16th				<i>Wed</i> JUN 8th				<i>Wed</i> OCT 19th		
QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm						<i>Thurs</i> JUN 9th						
SMITHERS Where: Line Room When: 5:00 pm	<i>*Tues</i> JAN 11th		<i>*Tues</i> MAR 8th		<i>*Tues</i> MAY 10th		<i>*Tues</i> JUL 14th		<i>*Tues</i> SEP 7th		<i>*Tues</i> NOV 8th	
TERRACE Where: Best Western Inn When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Tues</i> FEB 15th		<i>*Tues</i> APR 12th		<i>*Tues</i> JUN 7th		<i>*Tues</i> AUG 9th		<i>*Tues</i> OCT 18th		<i>*Tues</i> DEC 13th

* denotes Official Meeting



Your Local 258 IBEW

Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

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Don McNabb

Local 258 Organizer: Nicole Biernaczyk

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 2011

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 12th	<i>*Tues</i> FEB 8th	<i>*Wed</i> MAR 9th	<i>*Wed</i> APR 13th	<i>*Wed</i> MAY 11th	<i>*Tues</i> JUN 14th			<i>*Thurs</i> SEP 8th	<i>Tues</i> OCT 11th	<i>Tues</i> NOV 15th	
DAWSON CREEK Where: George Dawson Inn When: 7:00 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 9th				<i>Thurs</i> JUN 16th						<i>*Tues</i> DEC 13th
FORT ST. JOHN Where: Line Room When: 7:00 pm		<i>Thurs</i> FEB 10th			<i>Wed</i> MAY 18th		<i>*Tues</i> JUL 12th			<i>*Wed</i> OCT 12th		
HUDSON'S HOPE Where: Pearkes Centre When: 4:30 pm				<i>Thurs</i> APR 14th				<i>*Thurs</i> AUG 11th				
FORT NELSON Where: Woodland's Inn When: 7:00 pm					<i>Thurs</i> MAY 19th					<i>Thurs</i> OCT 13th		
QUESNEL Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm			<i>Thurs</i> MAR 10th			<i>Wed</i> JUN 15th					<i>Thurs</i> NOV 17th	
WILLIAMS LAKE Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm					<i>Thurs</i> MAY 12th						<i>*Wed</i> NOV 16th	
100 MILE HOUSE Where: BC Hydro Line Room When: 7:00 pm	<i>Thurs</i> JAN 13th											
BELLA COOLA Where: TBA When: 7:00 pm					<i>Thurs</i> MAY 6th					<i>Thurs</i> OCT 6th		

** denotes Official Meeting*



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Unit 3 Meeting Schedule 2011

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

** denotes Official Meeting*



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Unit 4 Meeting Schedule 2011

UNIT 4 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
VICTORIA Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		<i>*Wed</i> FEB 16th			<i>Wed</i> MAY 11th			<i>*Tues</i> AUG 9th			<i>Wed</i> NOV 9th	
GANGES Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm	<i>Wed</i> JAN 12th					<i>*Wed</i> JUN 8th				<i>Wed</i> OCT 12th		
DUNCAN Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm				<i>*Tues</i> APR 12th					<i>Thurs</i> SEP 15th			<i>Wed</i> DEC 14th
QUALICUM BEACH Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm	<i>Tues</i> JAN 11th			<i>Wed</i> APR 13th						<i>Tues</i> OCT 11th		
PORT ALBERNI Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm			<i>*Wed</i> MAR 9th			<i>Thurs</i> JUN 9th					<i>*Tues</i> NOV 8th	
NANAIMO Where: Nanaimo Legion #256 When: 7:00 pm	<i>*Tues</i> JAN 11th				<i>*Tues</i> MAY 10th		<i>*Tues</i> JUL 12th			<i>*Tues</i> OCT 11th		
PORT HARDY Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm			<i>Tues</i> MAR 8th						<i>Tues</i> SEP 13th			
COURTENAY Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		<i>Tues</i> FEB 15th				<i>Tues</i> JUN 7th			<i>*Wed</i> SEP 14th			<i>*Tues</i> DEC 13th
CAMPBELL RIVER Where: Maritime Heritage Centre When: 7:00 pm		<i>Tues</i> FEB 15th				<i>Tues</i> JUN 7th			<i>Wed</i> SEP 14th			<i>Tues</i> DEC 13th

** denotes Official Meeting*

LOCAL 258
IBEW



Your Local 258 IBEW

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Unit 5 Meeting Schedule 2011

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 13th	<i>*Wed</i> FEB 16th	<i>**Thurs</i> MAR 10th	<i>*Thurs</i> APR 14th	<i>*Thurs</i> MAY 12th	<i>**Thurs</i> JUN 9th	<i>*Thurs</i> JUL 14th	<i>*Thurs</i> AUG 11th	<i>**Thurs</i> SEP 8th	<i>*Thurs</i> OCT 13th	<i>*Wed</i> NOV 9th	<i>*Thurs</i> DEC 15th
SECHELT Where: Seaside Centre, Sechelt When: 5:00 pm			<i>*Wed</i> MAR 23rd			<i>*Wed</i> JUN 22nd*				<i>*Wed</i> OCT 26th		

* denotes Official Meeting

** denotes Official Meeting starting at 6:00 pm



Your Local 258 IBEW

Executive Board Members:

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- Vice-President: Tony Brand
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Unit 6 Meeting Schedule 2011

UNIT 6 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
LANGLEY Where: Steelworkers Hall #202 - 9292 200th Street Langley, BC When: 7:00 pm	<i>*Tues</i> JAN 11th	<i>Tues</i> FEB 15th	<i>*Tues</i> MAR 8th	<i>Tues</i> APR 12th	<i>*Tues</i> MAY 10th	<i>Tues</i> JUN 7th	<i>*Tues</i> JUL 12th		<i>*Tues</i> SEP 6th	<i>Tues</i> OCT 11th	<i>*Tues</i> NOV 8th	<i>Tues</i> DEC 13th
CHILLIWACK Where: Best Western 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Thurs</i> FEB 17th		<i>*Wed</i> APR 13th		<i>*Wed</i> JUN 8th		<i>*Wed</i> AUG 10th		<i>*Wed</i> OCT 12th		<i>*Wed</i> DEC 14th

** denotes Official Meeting*



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Local 258 Organizer: Nicole Biernaczyk

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Canada Pension Plan: Fiction & Facts

CLC/CALM

THE BEST way to help today's workers save enough for retirement is by increasing what everybody gets from the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans.

A modest increase in contributions today will produce thousands of dollars a year in extra benefits for workers when they retire.

The Canadian Labour Congress is proposing a gradual doubling of future Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits—a proposal that won support from a majority of finance ministers and municipal governments.

The CLC plan has come under attack from some special interest groups. Let's set the record straight about the CLC's plan for the CPP:

Fiction:

Labour's plan to gradually double future CPP benefits will double CPP contributions for workers and employers.

The Facts:

The reality is that a gradual doubling of future CPP benefits can be paid for by a modest increase in contributions, spread out over seven years. This means increasing what everyone contributes to their CPP savings by about 0.43 per cent of pensionable earnings each year for seven years. For a worker earning \$47,200 or more per year, the initial cost of gradually doubling future CPP benefits works out to about nine cents an hour or \$3.57 a week. That's less than the cost of a newspaper subscription. For a worker earning \$30,000 per year, the initial cost would be about six cents an hour, or \$2.27 a week. That's less than the cost of a medium double-double with a donut at Tim Hortons. This is first-rate retirement savings at a low cost.

Fiction:

The CPP won't be there for young workers when they are ready to retire.

The Facts:

The reality is that the CPP is recognized as one of the most stable pension plans in the world, and it will be there for the next generation of workers when they retire. The CPP is actuarially sound for the next 75 years. Today's young workers have nothing to worry about, nor do their kids.

Fiction:

Expanding the CPP will hurt lower income workers who cannot afford to pay for increased premiums.

The Facts:

The reality is that the CPP already exempts the first \$3,500 of income when it calculates everybody's contributions—that's a policy designed to make contributions easier for low income workers. It is lower income workers who stand to gain most from a gradual doubling of future CPP benefits.

The increased contributions needed to pay for those improvements will be modest and phased in over seven years. The cost to workers who earn \$10,000 per year to expand the CPP is just two cents an hour each year over the next seven years. This will pay for a future doubling of CPP benefits.

This is first-rate retirement savings at a low cost. Most low income workers have no workplace pension plans. If nothing changes they are destined for a life of poverty or near poverty in retirement.

Fiction:

Expanding the CPP will hurt younger workers because they will have to pay more to provide improved benefits for older workers.

The Facts:

The reality is that a gradual doubling of future CPP benefits would be fully paid. Future benefits for each worker will be based on the number of years that worker made expanded contributions. Right now, one-third of Canadian workers aged 24-64 have no personal retirement savings at all. Today's young workers will benefit the most as they will be able to save more for retirement and get more from the CPP when they retire.

Will the CLC plan work? You bet!

"But convincing the government to begin doubling the Canada Pension Plan won't be easy. The banks and financial institutions that make big profits from RRSP sales already oppose the idea."

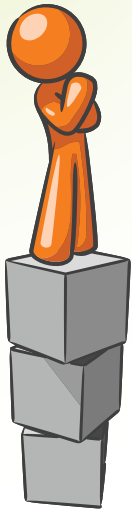
Can we do it? With your help, we can win. And here's how...

- **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 and ask them to support the CLC's proposed change to the Canada Pension Plan.**
- **Join the Facebook page "Retirement Security for Everyone".**
- **TALK TO CO-WORKERS in your workplace and ask them to call their MPs and MLAs. Ensure this campaign is discussed at your union meeting.**
- **Write a letter to your local newspaper.**

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 member



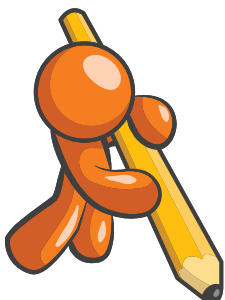
I started this southern California day with the best of intentions. Early this morning I determined that I would sit down and complete this column and surprise the editor by complying with the imposed deadline. It was kind of cloudy this morning so I thought it a perfect climate for inspiration and implementation. Then the day began to unravel. As usual, before embarking on any initiative I had to peruse the morning paper and check out the provided crossword puzzles. Catherine Dear had left early on the golf cart to scope out the yard sales that were taking place in our park. I performed a couple of household chores (actually the chores were outside and minimal) and then fired up the computer to get down to the business at hand.

Catherine Dear came back from the yard sales with her treasures and I went to view and admire them. I was the recipient of two micro-fibre car wash mitts that somebody else didn't need. I stored the mitts with the other car wash equipment in the shed and returned to the computer. Catherine Dear announced that we had been invited to a neighbour's place for drinks at four o'clock and I should endeavour to be clean and shiny by that time. Catherine Dear then left the park on a shopping and errand run. I noted that the coffee pot was empty and felt that creativity would be enhanced by the ingestion of some fresh brewed coffee. Just as the brewing process was about finished a friend rolled up in his golf cart and was, of course, invited in for coffee. We discussed and resolved a myriad of world problems for an hour or so. Catherine Dear came home from shopping and at that time I concluded that I would probably feel more inspired if my growing hunger was appeased. After preparing and eating a light repast I again sat down at the computer to discover that the day was better than half over and I had yet to accomplish anything column-wise. I also became a bit distracted by the impending need to be somewhat clean and shiny before four o'clock. Given



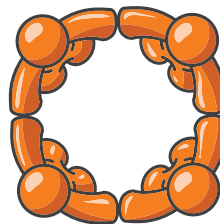
everything noted above I think I'll start this column writing process at another time when there will be fewer distractions.

Well, here I am back on another southern California day. Retirement responsibilities have filled the intervening time. Even though nothing is scheduled, the demands of keeping current my journeyman status as a Retiree can be



quite time consuming. Just take this column as an example. I was informed that the theme for this issue of the Hotline is "Community/Giving". As I had no idea what that means some very serious rumination was required. That ruminating had to fit in with equally serious ruminating on subjects such as BC premiers who resign (but don't really), global warming (or the lack thereof), electric cars, The Great Bear Rainforest (whatever that is), wind generation, oil tankers in coastal waters and so on. As I hope you can see, retirement is much more than lolling about on a lounge chair in the sunshine with a beverage in hand.

Let's get back to "Community/Giving". Rumination has revealed that "Community" is and indefinite concept. One can start at the largest end of the scale and view the world as a community. My friend and I resolved many of that community's problems over coffee the other day. Well, the problems would be resolved if anyone listened to us. Then we can take the next step and view Canada as a community. Continuing this process we can see that province, city, and neighbourhood all meet a definition of community. The cul-de-sac where I live in southern California, consisting of seven lots, is a community. Then there is the idea of community of interest. Our great Union, the IBEW, is a community; our Local Union, as an entity, is a member of that larger community and we are all members in the community of Local 258. Some people belong to church groups, retiree groups, social clubs, service clubs, sports clubs and/or attend regularly at the neighbourhood tavern. All are communities in the broad sense of the word. Even though Retirees don't generally think in terms of "work" I guess I should, as an afterthought, include the workplace in this rumination induced list of communities.



The second element of the theme, "Giving", is a more definite term and so required a lesser expenditure of rumination energy. I think most people would agree with the suggestion that giving is sharing something you have with those who have need of such a gift. In many cases giving is equated to parting with that universal measurement of value, money. However, in my case, rumination has disclosed that the most valuable thing I have to share is time. See, I have already used up a considerable portion of my allotted time and so each day the time left to me increases in value.

(cont'd on page 25)


Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Visit your Local 258 IBEW website 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 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

➔ ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS! ➔

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREEE

(cont'd from page 23)

So, whether it is helping a neighbour in the cul-de-sac, volunteering to work on behalf of our Local Union or any other community endeavour, sharing my dwindling supply of allotted time is, in my view, the ultimate of Community/Giving.



In the event that I have totally misconstrued the conception of Community/Giving perhaps we should talk about cooking. Have you ever wondered about the so-called mystique of cooking? After all, cooking is just taking some sort of food

and making it hot. You can broil it, bake it, grill it or micro-wave it but the end result is nothing more than food at a higher temperature than when you started. On a kind of controversial subject I am of the opinion that men are better at cooking than women. The reason is that men are generally single minded and attend exclusively to the task at hand. Women, on the other hand will invariably become distracted when cooking by other interests such as doing the laundry, cleaning the bathroom, dusting the venetian blinds etc. all to the detriment of the food heating process. Here, where we live in the winter the terminology used when heating food is "fixing". Like they say, "I'm going to fix spaghetti for dinner". Like is the spaghetti broken? Or when they see you at the stove making food hot they will say, "What are you fixing?" I see that I have now used up the available space so I will leave this discussion for another time.

Please continue to work and play safely because retirement is a great way to spend your allotted time. ☑



Extra Foods Strikers in Maple Ridge are fighting for everyone!

Strikes and lockouts, if they occur at all, are normally over in days or weeks, but for the workers at the Loblaw's-owned Extra Foods store in Maple Ridge, BC, their dispute is now being counted in years.

December 15th is the two year anniversary of the fight these workers, members of the United Food & Commercial Workers, Local 1518, have undertaken to protect their collective agreement from rollbacks that would see them go from being among the best paid grocery workers in BC to poverty level wages. The parent company – Loblaw's/Westfair – is demanding that workers give up wages and virtually all of their benefits, including their pension.

Sometimes the only way to beat a bully is to take a stand and not back down. Loblaw's and Extra Foods is clearly the bully in this community, and UFCW Local 1518 members know the only way to survive is to continue to stand tall against the bully.

The strike in Maple Ridge is a deliberate attempt by Canada's largest and wealthiest grocery retailer to destroy the livelihoods of its employees in order to make even more money to send back to their Toronto headquarters. Maple Ridge is the front line in a dispute that is slowly unrolling right across the province.

Extra Foods members in Prince Rupert put up their own picket line after Loblaw's closed the store rather than reach a fair settlement for a new contract. There



Striking UFCW 1518 members are fighting against concessions that would bring them to poverty level wages and virtually eliminate their benefits and pensions. They are shown here at the 2010 BC Federation of Labour convention where they received a standing ovation and strong show of support.

are nine more Extra Foods and Super Valu stores across the province where Local 1518 members are watching to see if Loblaw's tries to bring their brand of economic terrorism to town.

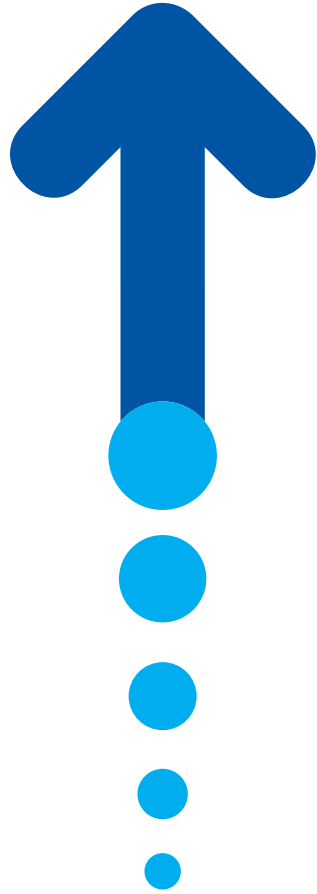
As the weeks and months – and now years – go on, it seems that Loblaw's is totally committed to taking away the opportunity to earn a living wage from those it employs - no matter how long it takes and how much it costs! Loblaw's does not have one good or legitimate reason for doing what it is doing to UFCW Local 1518 members in Maple Ridge and Prince Rupert.

If Loblaw's was to get their way, the effect would very likely be severe downward pressure on the wages of every other retail food worker in BC. BC's labour community remains committed to supporting the members in Maple Ridge, and now Prince Rupert, who are leading the fightback against this bully.

As The Hotline goes to press, a March & Rally at the Maple Ridge Extra Foods location is being organized by the New Westminster & District Labour Council, the Fraser Valley Labour Council and UFCW 1518 to show labour's support for these workers. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 15 starting at noon. ☑

Unionization in Canada has risen up to 4.2 million

NUPGE/CALM



STATISTICS CANADA says more than 4.2 million workers belonged to a union in Canada during the first half of 2010, up 64,000 from the same period last year.

Union membership has risen at a slightly faster pace than total employment. As a result, the nation's unionization rate edged up from 29.5 per cent in 2009 to 29.6 per cent in 2010.

The gap in unionization rates between men and women widened slightly in 2010. Women experienced disproportionately more gains in unionized jobs. Consequently, their unionization rate inched up to 30.9 per cent, while the rate for men remained constant at 28.2 per cent.


Just more than 2.2 million women belonged to a union in 2010, compared with just under 2.0 million men.

The unionization rate for permanent workers increased to 30.0 per cent between 2009 and 2010 while it decreased to 27.3 per cent for those in non-permanent jobs. The rate rose in larger firms (100 workers or more), declined among those with 20 to 99 workers and remained constant for firms with fewer than 20 workers.

The provincial picture was mixed. Unionization rates fell in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The largest gain in rates occurred in BC while the rate was highest in Newfoundland and Labrador (37.9 per cent).

Among industries, rates were highest in public administration (68.5 per cent) and education (67.0 per cent). Notable declines occurred in agriculture, health care and social assistance and education. Notable increases occurred in transportation and warehousing and public administration.

An average 288,000 workers were not union members but were covered by a collective agreement in the first half of 2010, down from last year's total of 300,000.

In 2009, there were 157 strikes or lockouts that involved a loss in working time of at least 10 person-days. This was the second lowest number on record. At the same time, 67,000 workers were involved in these strikes or lockouts and just under 2.2 million person-days in working time were lost—the highest number of days lost since 2005. 

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 time-loss claims more quickly and easily through the WCB's Teleclaim Contact Centre.

Workers who are injured at work and miss time as a result can 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.

IBEW Sisters in Solidarity Conference

Women from across the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers gathered for the “Sisters in Solidarity Strength through Action” Conference that took place in Washington, DC, this year with 30 delegates from Canada showing a strong presence among the 360 participants.

Local 258’s delegation included President Michelle Laurie, ABM Susan Longva, Unit 6 Chair Karen Porter, Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth and the union’s in-house legal counsel, Rebecca Murdock.


Workshop and plenary sessions offered delegates the opportunity to gain more insight into leadership topics such as Dynamic Presentations and Public Speaking, Time Management, Promoting Women’s Participation & Leadership in the IBEW and Leadership Through Activism. Additional workshops included Diversity Awareness, Membership Development, The Politics of Solidarity and Engaging Young Workers for the Future.

Rebecca Murdock from Local 258 led an interesting presentation and discussion about mental illness and disability in the workplace and how union activists need to be alert to the obligation of employers to accommodate. Sister Murdock highlighted a recent case where the union went to bat for a member suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder from a workplace incident and was successful in obtaining a favourable ruling in the BC Court of Appeal when the worker’s compensation claim was denied.

The Canadian delegation worked together closely throughout the Conference and shared their successes and challenges as women leaders in their union.

IBEW International President Ed Hill and Secretary/Treasurer Lindel Lee, in their message to the conference delegates, acknowledged that, “The number of women in the labour force is projected to be more than 78 million by 2018, up from 18.4 million in 1950. In 2009, 44.9% of all union members were women. Women

are a vital source of growth for the union movement and a powerful force to be reckoned with.”

IBEW Canada women leaders from Newfoundland to British Columbia attended the Conference and represented workers in Construction, Utility, Police Services, Health Services, Government and Manufacturing. 

Seeking Adventure?

Leaving Town?

Looking elsewhere for work?

Before you leave, call the Local 258 Union Hall and get your Travel Card and/or paid up dues receipt. If you live close by, just drop in and see us to get your Travel Card.

Local 258 Travel Cards are made out for three months (as per Constitution, p 66, sec 2), giving you plenty of time to deposit your Travel Card with any Local in which you are seeking work.

Please contact Janice at Local 258’s headquarters in Burnaby for further details.

Call 604-515-3530 or 604-520-3305 Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

LOCAL 258
IBEW





PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Sean Baylis and Kyle Liebaert were recently awarded their Electrician Journeyman Certificates by David Percell, Manager, at Bridge River Generating Station. They have both recently completed their apprenticeships. Left to right are Sean Baylis, David Percell, and Kyle Liebaert. The photo was taken after a Monday morning meeting in the Bridge River Shops Lunchroom. Thanks to Lorne Piccolo from Bridge River Generation for sending in the photo.



Congratulations to new IBEW members, from left, Todd Ayers & Chris Patton who were initiated at the November Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby. They are shown here with Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney, right, presents Brother Ed Peters with his 45 year service pin.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney, left, presents Brother Guy Lamarre with retirement goodies and his 35 year service pin.



Many thanks to Larry Leavens from Island Traffic who sent in this photo of his co-workers at their BBQ get together in Campbell River. From left are IBEW members Wendy Woodward, Melody Staranchuck, Gordon Goudie and his son, Gordon Beaton (not an IBEW member yet!) and Stewart Baker.



Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope, left, presents Brother Glenn Lambe with his 35 year service pin in Williams Lake.



Brother Robert Mills, left, receives his 5 year service pin award from Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope at the Williams Lake meeting.



Brother Rainer Kempf, left, receives his 30 year service pin award from Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope in Williams Lake.



Brother Rick Lacoski, left, is shown here with Brother Roger Bissat in MacKenzie displaying his IBEW Lineman Certificate.



Co-workers got together recently to celebrate Brother Jack Bennett's 35 years as a member of IBEW.



Congratulations to Brother Doug Hill on his retirement from BC Hydro, shown above with his family at his retirement luncheon. Doug served the union in many capacities over the years as a respected labour activist and we look forward to his ongoing participation.



Local 258's Assistant Business Manager Dan Klassen was one of this year's volunteers who participated in Labour Day of Caring Project at the Development Disabilities Association in Vancouver. A new coat of paint was applied to rooms at the Main Street drop-in.

UNIT 6 PHOTO COLLAGE



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Long time labour activist Ken Isomura spent one of his last official duties as a labour staff rep with the United Way of the Lower Mainland at the organization's trade show booth at the 2010 BC Fed Convention. Brother Isomura is retiring at the end of this year.



Sister Michelle Laurie, President of Local 258 IBEW, was one of the featured speakers at the Women's Rights Forum evening session at the 2010 BC Federation of Labour Convention.



Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay, centre, with Local 213's Business Manager Mike Flynn and ABM Harry van Beest at the 2010 BC Federation of Labour Convention.



Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton addressed delegates at this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention.

HOTLINE



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We are in the midst of the season to think about family, about community and about the things that bring us joy and comfort in both those contexts. Of course this goes on year round, but there is a heightened awareness around Christmas, when we give – to our families, to charitable organizations, and to community organizations, all because we want people to feel safe, loved and valued. Most of us are fortunate enough to have all of the things we need, and many of the things we want, and we are aware of that good fortune, and want to share it with others. It is part of what makes us a civil society, really what makes us human – the desire for the whole to be taken care of, as well as the individual. That civility, that desire for a just society, is the driver that makes me most proud of being a part of this union, and of the “labour movement” in general.

Once again, the BC political world has exploded into insanity, and we will be overwhelmed with messaging about the various amazing and sincere attributes of leadership hopefuls from all sides, all looking for the big prize – becoming Premier of the province. Along with the wonderful message they’ll spin about themselves will be some mud slung at others – that, unfortunately, seems to be what politics has become. In the midst of the slinging, “unions” often get short shrift, defined as a bunch of back room power brokers looking after their own “special interests”. For me, that’s where that kind of crap falls apart; yes, we certainly do have a special interest, and it is an interest in ensuring that working people get treated fairly. Not exactly the evil goal so often alluded to in the media. If you were watching what happened in the USA this fall, you saw that people suffering in a bad economy overwhelmingly voted for politicians that have vowed to take away vital parts of their social safety net. That frightens me, and I hope that we are more logical here, that we can really think about what government should and shouldn’t do for us, and can vote according to our societal and personal values, instead of being wooed by false tax promises or the sub text that government is inherently

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



bad and should be weakened. So, enjoy the circus of the leadership races, but remember to measure it against your solid social conscience.

As you read earlier in this edition, we lost two leaders of our organization in the weeks leading up to publication – two men who fought for your rights and worked for your benefit, Harry Klassen and John McGraw. I did not have the good fortune to work with Harry, though he is legend around this office, but I did work for John, first at EITI, and later when he became Business Manager. His legacy, in my mind, was the work he did around training in our industries; he fought long and hard for national standards, and had a vision of our own training school that helped both to create it and to ensure it survived, often in spite of our employers that benefited so greatly from the training provided. Sons of both these great brothers continue to be members of our Local Union, a testament to the strong commitment they passed on in their personal lives. Our hearts go out to their families, and our pride and respect in their contributions to our movement are strong, as they would want.

Have a warm, safe Christmas, surrounded by those you love the most!



IBEW Local 258's delegation to this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention, from left, Gerry Pope, Unit 2 Chair; Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair; Nicole Biernaczyk, Organizer; Michelle Laurie, President; Susan Longva, ABM; Doug McKay, Business Manager; Jim Greenwell, Senior ABM; Karen Porter, Unit 6 Chair; Dan Giesbrecht, ABM; Don McNabb, ABM; Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair; Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair.

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.