



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
FALL, 2011

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



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Hotline Fall 2011

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THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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Cover photo: IBEW delegates travelled to Vancouver for the 38th International Convention in September. Shown here are some of the Canadian delegates, including LU 258 Business Manager Doug McKay and members of the Local's delegate contingent.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

The past few months have had your union working very hard defending members' rights, enforcing and negotiating collective agreements, preparing for upcoming bargaining, standing up for members' jobs, trying to bring public awareness to the professional and highly skilled quality services our members deliver, and, co-hosting with Local 213 IBEW, our 38th International Convention.

As we prepare to enter into negotiations for a new collective agreement with our biggest employer, BC Hydro, the crown corporation is facing increasing scrutiny that started with the public outcry over an application to the BC Utilities Commission to raise hydro rates across the province. With the past ten years seeing unprecedented interference at BCH by the provincial government, as with other crown corporations such as ICBC, it appears it is now coming home to haunt them. The public outcry over rate increases triggered a knee-jerk response by the government to do a "review" - done without any apparent comprehension of the work we do or the historical structure of BCH. And what did the reviewers conclude? That 1,000 jobs needed to be cut at BCH!

It's insulting to discover the three government lackeys who wrote the Review of BC Hydro Report have themselves enjoyed 67.1, 47.3 and 10.6 percent pay raises, plus additional bonuses and promotions, over the last three years, yet were quick to "blame" BCH's financial problems on workers who then have to

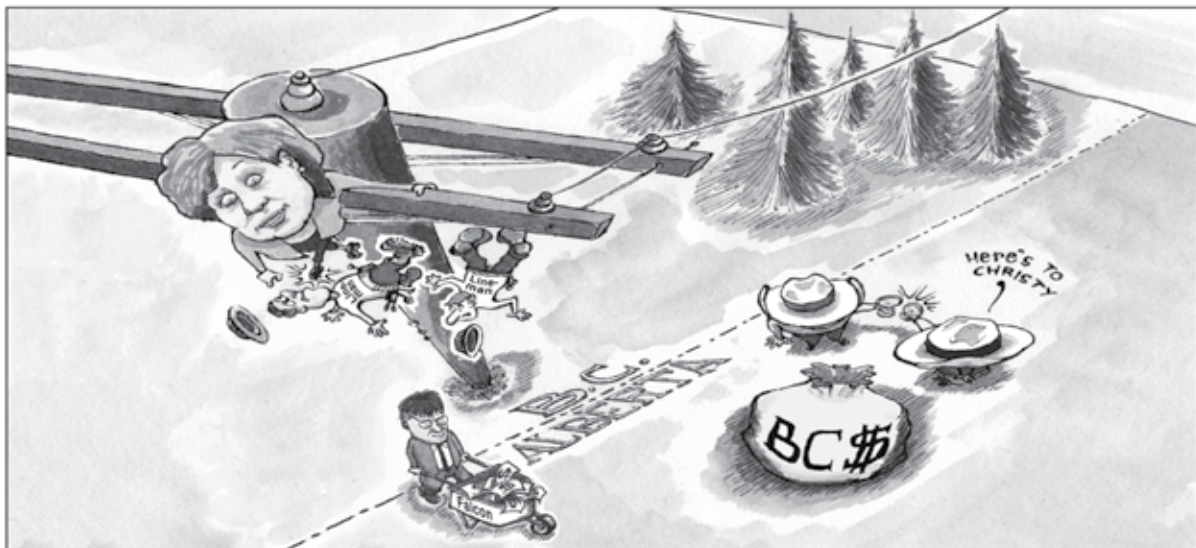
lose their jobs. Since the Report, the BC Auditor General has put in his two cents and has questioned management bonuses as well as serious instances of direct government interference with BCH's true financial status.

One of the side effects of the increased focus on BCH has been the public attention that has been unduly cast upon our members and their rates of pay. As your Business Manager, I find some of the negative comments I've read in the paper or heard on radio talk shows appalling, but I've also heard a lot of public support for our members and the work they do for BC Hydro. Saying that, some of the unintended consequences are worrying. A situation has come to my attention that I believe may be indirectly related to the increased public attention on BC Hydro that requires me to make the following comment: apparently, BC Hydro has elected to - rather than have a fair and respectful discussion - hire "private dicks" to follow some of their workers. Hydro's management's actions have now made it very difficult for us to have an open and trustworthy relationship to dialogue on issues that may or may not be happening with our members. And that is all I am going to say on that matter.

Nonetheless, I urge you all to work to the letter of our agreement with this company. We are professionals and this must be reflected in everything we do.

(continued on next page)

The ABC's of Christie Clark's Jobs Plan



- A.** Just say "no" to qualified BC workers and families. ✓
- B.** Give BC Hydro power line jobs to Alberta companies. ✓
- C.** Give away millions in tax dollars to Alberta. ✓

THE HARD NEWS: Over the last 12 months, more than \$1 billion in BC Hydro contracts have been given to Alberta companies.

For more information, visit www.ibew258.bc.ca

Viewpoint from your Business Manager Doug McKay

(continued from previous page)

We must be above reproach and not appear unprofessional in our jobs in any way.

At the end of the day it is the provincial government that has created the problems at BC Hydro and, with good cause, they are now mistrusted. The government has lied and has been caught too many times and their attempt to deflect criticism onto BC Hydro and its workers by calling for hundreds of job cuts is arrogance at its worst. The government demand of 0% across the board in next year's round of collective bargaining is a direct smack in the face to the thousands of highly skilled professional trades people who risk their lives every day in the dangerous jobs we do at BCH. It's BC Hydro's Board of Directors succumbing to direct government interference that have led to Hydro's financial accounting troubles – not the workers who go to work every day and do a great job at keeping the power flowing to all corners of this province.

So why does this government hate BC's workers so much? With the Premier trying to promote a "Families First" and a "BC Jobs Plan" agenda, why are good BC jobs being awarded to Alberta companies owned by parent company Quanta Services from Texas? Over a billion dollars in transmission line construction contracts have been awarded by BC Hydro to Alberta based companies Valard Construction, RS Line Contr. Co. Ltd. and McGregor Construction 2000 Ltd. (subcontracted through Graham-Flatiron). All of these jobs now go to *Alberta* workers who pay personal income taxes to *Alberta* – roughly \$1.5 million in personal taxes leaving the province instead of staying here in BC. And

what about the corporate taxes these companies will pay going to Alberta and Texas? It doesn't sound like a "BC Jobs Plan" to me.

We've had no reply from the Premier to our open letter published in The Province newspaper in September, so the question remains, why does this government hate BC's workers so much?

With all of the above, it's clear it's time for a call to action. Being on the eve of negotiations with BC Hydro, as our contract expires at the end of March 2012, we are facing what could be one of the most difficult rounds of bargaining we have faced in a long time. With the government mandate of 0%, be prepared for a fight – we believe it's time.

There isn't a thank you big enough to convey to all of our brothers and sisters who traveled to Vancouver for our 38th International Convention. It was an incredible event that renewed our solidarity and has re-energized our union and it's more than 800,000 IBEW members working in Canada, the US, Puerto Rico and Panama. Special thanks goes to Brother Rick Gerard and his merry band of volunteers who did a helluva job and has made this union very proud of its members. For those of you who had an opportunity to come to convention, thank you for your participation and I look forward to your continuing involvement with your union.

Brothers and sisters – the windy winter season is upon us with storms, heavy snow and long, dark nights. Work safe, spend time with your family, friends and loved ones during this holiday season and enjoy Christmas and New Years. 2012 looks to be another busy year. 📧

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The delegates of the 38th IBEW International Convention, which was conducted in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, during the week of September 19 through 23, 2011, approved amendments to Article IX of the IBEW Constitution. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2012, there will be a per capita increase of two dollars (\$2.00) for all members, and the following rates will apply to the I.O. portion of all monthly dues payments covering January 2012 and thereafter:

	"A" Members	"BA" Members	"FP" - fee payers
Per Capita:	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Pension Fund:	<u>\$14.00</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>	<u>Not Applicable</u>
Total:	\$29.00	\$15.00	\$15.00

In accordance with Article IX of the IBEW Constitution, \$15.00 per month from each member will be deposited in the General Fund, and the additional amount paid by "A" members (\$14.00) per month will be deposited into the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund.



We've Got Mail!

To the Local 258 Tom Forkin Scholarship Committee: Thank you for helping to fund my education. I am completing my undergraduate degree in professional communication at Royal Roads University in Victoria, yet even as I finish this intensive twelve-month program, I am already preparing for the next step towards my goal of becoming a truly multi-lingual, global citizen with studying for two semesters of an exchange program through Selkirk College in Castlegar. This program will take me to Korea to learn my sixth language.

Through my past experience abroad, I have developed a great appreciation for the labour laws in our country and for the unions that have helped workers in many industries fight for their employment rights. My father has belonged to the IBEW Local 258 for more than 20 years and I have observed firsthand how the union assisted him and his colleagues in bargaining procedures and agreements to ensure fair wages and guarantee overtime and statutory holiday pay. This insight will help me in my mission to encourage global understanding and social justice.

I believe that change begins with education and awareness. This scholarship will help me fund further education that I can use to benefit the local community and global society. I plan to use my cultural and linguistic experience in a career facilitating intercultural communication.

I am honoured to be the recipient of the 2011 Tom Forkin Scholarship. Thank you once again for your recognition and support.

Sincerely,
Kim Lipscombe
July, 2011



Dear Mr. McKay,
I wanted to express my appreciation to you and the members for your continued support and kind wishes.

Although attendance at the Public Inquiry was difficult at times, it was effort well spent. It was a pleasure seeing you again as well.

Best regards,
Lynn Rozenboom

Dear Local 258,
'Thank You' seems like such a small phrase to express our gratitude for your kindness and generosity that you have shown our family. It has forever touched our hearts during this very difficult time.
Krystie & Gage Biernaczyk

Dear Local 258,
Thank you all for your support in our family crisis. Your help will greatly reduce our financial burden.

Our son is still in the VGH Spinal Injury Unit on the 9th floor of the Centennial Pavilion. He has movement in his arms but none in either leg. He does have some feeling in both legs. The general prognosis is that he won't walk again. There is however a small percentile chance that he might walk, it all hinges on his body's ability to heal and his mental focus. He will be moved to GF Strong rehab facility to continue on his road to recovery. We have been assured of continual support from the medical community throughout his recovery.

Once again, thank you all for your support. We will keep in touch on any updates as they come.

Fraternally Yours,
Baptist R Crompvoets

Dear Local 258,
I just found out that the Williams Lake Pee Wee Rep Secretary from last year missed sending out an appreciation letter to the IBEW for your very generous donation to the Williams Lake Timber Wolves Pee Wee Tier 2 team.

I just wanted to pass on the team's appreciation to the IBEW for the donation that went a long way to helping the Timber Wolves make the BC Provincials last year and helped a number of families that otherwise would have had difficulties in attending.

Thanks once again.
Ben Berkelaar
Trades Training Instructor, Work Methods Department
Williams Lake

STRIKES, LOCKOUTS & BOYCOTTS

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

STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

USW Local 2009 VS. Compass Group (dba Morrison Group)

Major Issues: Concessions, Job Security, Wages
LOCK OUT Commenced: July 10, 2011

Teamsters Local 31 VS. The Great Canadian Railtour Company - operating as Rocky Mountaineer Vacations

Major Issues: Seniority, Wages, Work Hours
LOCK OUT Commenced: June 21, 2011

UFCW Local 1518 VS. Extra Foods Maple Ridge

Major Issues: Wages, Job Security
STRIKE ACTION Commenced: Dec. 15, 2008

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

Major Issues: Seniority, Benefits, Concessions
STRIKE ACTION Commenced: July 25, 2001

BOYCOTTS

UNITE HERE Local 40 VS. Sodexho (contractor: Air Canada)

BOYCOTT Commenced: October 6, 2011
The boycott is in support of UNITE HERE Local 40 workers, many of them with more than 20 years serving Air Canada personnel who were not hired when Sodexho was awarded the contract on September 25, 2011. The BC Federation of Labour is asking the public to refrain from using the 3rd floor cafeteria in the Air Canada Operations Centre/Hangar until the entire staff is rehired and to write to Air Canada and insist all the cafeteria staff be re-hired.

USW VS. Sklar Pepler, Alan White branded furniture and its manufacturer, AW Manufacturing

BOYCOTT Commenced: March 17, 2010
The boycott is in support of approximately 100 workers who lost their jobs and severance pay when Sklar Pepler file bankruptcy in August 2008. In late 2008, Sklar Pepler bought the company's assets out of bankruptcy, closed the facility and bought AW Manufacturing Inc. and now uses product from that plant to sell to Sklar customers.

USW Local 7812 VS. Philips Electronic Products, Quebec

SETTLED

CUPE Local 3338 VS. Simon Fraser Student Society

Locked Out: July 29, 2011
Settled: October 7, 2011

CMAW Local 1928 VS. Cove Top & Flash Cove Employees

Locked Out: December 23, 2010
SETTLED: August, 2011

Ironworkers Local 712 VS. Advanced Bending Technologies

Strike Action Commenced: October 3, 2011
SETTLED: August 15, 2011

UFCW Local 1517 VS. IGA #15

Strike Action Commenced: July 29, 2011
SETTLED: August 10, 2011

BC Federation of Labour Community Christmas Dinner December 24, 2011

For the 17th year, the BC Federation of Labour is organizing a Christmas Dinner for those in the community who are less fortunate. Guests will be served a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings and will receive a food hamper. There will be music, carol sing-a-longs, gifts from Santa for every child and teenager and a visit to the boutique.

Dinners will be served at 5:00 pm on December 24th at:
Vancouver: Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street
Surrey: Whalley Legion (upstairs), 13525 106th Avenue
Volunteers & Donations are needed!

Volunteers are needed to sort toys and clothes, fill hampers and help set up for and serve dinner.

Surrey: Dec. 22, starting at 10:00 am;

Vancouver, Dec. 23: starting at 10:00 am;

Dec. 24: working at the dinners at both locations.

If you have any new clothes or used clothes - please, no soiled or ripped clothing - new toys, canned goods or a cash donation, please deliver to the Maritime Labour Centre in Vancouver on December 22nd.

Contact us in Vancouver at madcat2@shaw.ca

Contact us in Surrey at labourchristmasdinner@gmail.com

A summary of the British Columbia Auditor General's Report entitled

BC Hydro: The Effects of Rate-Regulated Accounting

Earlier this year, Local Union 258 released a report entitled, "BC Hydro as a Vehicle for Government Revenue". The report details how the provincial government takes money from BC Hydro to make its own financial situation appear better, while at the same time puts pressure on BC Hydro to keep domestic electricity rates low. The report shows how **BC Hydro has transferred over \$7.5 billion to the provincial government since 2000**, mostly through its annual dividend payment, and through water rental fees.

One of the report's conclusions is that BC Hydro is using deferral accounts to increase the company's reported net income, which enables it to pay larger annual dividends to the government. Another of the report's conclusions is that BC Hydro's growing use of deferral accounts helps the company satisfy the provincial government's desire to keep domestic electricity rates low. Unfortunately, by deferring present expenses to future years, BC Hydro is not collecting enough money through its current electricity rates to cover the true cost of its operations. Further, BC Hydro's continuing use of deferral accounts will place upward pressure on electricity rates in the future, because the company will need to recover its deferred costs at some time.

On October 27th, British Columbia's Auditor General released his own report on BC Hydro's use of deferral accounting, and his findings support the conclusions of our own report.

The Auditor General is scathing in his criticism of how BC Hydro has used deferral accounts over the past seven years. He states that the impact of BC Hydro's use of deferrals has been to consistently increase BC Hydro's net income, and higher net income has required the company to pay higher dividends to the provincial government. He also states that BC Hydro uses deferral accounting to obscure its financial management decisions and their implications, thus thwarting the objectives of public financial reporting, which is to ensure that a company's financial management decisions are transparent so that the company's management can be held publicly accountable.

The Auditor General is also critical of the provincial government, which has amended provincial legislation to require that BC Hydro adopt part of an American accounting stand that allows the continued use of deferral accounting, instead of having BC Hydro conform with International Financial Reporting Standards, which Canada is adopting in 2012.

A summary of the Auditor General's report, "BC Hydro: The Effects of Rate-Regulated Accounting" follows.

** Local 258 IBEW's report, "BC Hydro as a Vehicle for Government Revenue" is available for download on the union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca*

In 2010, British Columbia's Auditor General determined that BC Hydro's accounting practices, particularly those related to the use of rate-regulated accounts (also called deferral or regulatory accounts), needed to be reviewed. Regulated utilities, like BC Hydro, use deferral accounts to defer expenses or revenues to future years instead of recording them in the year they were made or received. Used in this manner, deferral accounts can 'smooth out' the effects of a utilities unexpected costs or revenues, and provide rate stability to customers. The Auditor General was concerned that BC Hydro's use of deferral accounts was going well beyond simply smoothing out rates.

The Auditor General's has two significant concerns about how BC Hydro is using deferral accounts. First, BC Hydro does not appear to have a plan to recover the deferred expenses held in its deferral accounts, nor does it have a plan to halt their growth in number (as of March 31, 2011, BC Hydro had 27 separate deferral accounts). The Auditor General argues that if a company overuses or does not carefully manage deferral accounts, they can hide the consequences of financial management decisions and distort the company's financial condition.

Second, although Canada is moving towards adopting a set of accounting rules that would prohibit the use of deferral accounting in the future, the Government of British Columbia has amended its own legislation to require that BC Hydro adopt part of an American accounting standard that allows deferral accounting, thus avoiding the transparency sought by the new Canadian accounting standards.

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SINCE 2000, BC HYDRO HAS PAID TO THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT ALMOST \$3.2 BILLION IN DIVIDENDS

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The Auditor General's report notes that BC Hydro began using deferral accounts in 2005. Prior to that time BC Hydro used its Rate Stabilization Account to smooth out the impact of short-term volatility of expenses and revenues on ratepayers. Since 2005, the balances held in BC Hydro's deferral accounts have grown from \$182 million to \$2.2 billion (as of March 31, 2011). BC Hydro forecasts that the balances in its deferral accounts will more than double to almost \$5 billion by 2014.

The Auditor General's report notes that the purpose of public financial reporting is to ensure that the implications of a company's financial management decisions are transparent, and that the company's management is held publicly accountable. The report states, however, that deferral accounting, as practiced by BC Hydro, and sanctioned by the BC Utilities Commission, is not consistent with these objectives; that BC Hydro uses deferral accounting to obscure its financial management decisions and their implications.

The report states that by deferring to future years costs or expenses that companies would normally count in calculating net income for the current year, BC Hydro has created an appearance of profitability where none actually exists. The Auditor General uses BC Hydro's fiscal 2010 to illustrate this. For the fiscal year ending March 31, 2010, BC Hydro's actual expenses exceeded actual revenues to create a loss of \$249 million; however, BC Hydro transferred \$696 million of expenses to its various deferral accounts and reported a final net income for the year of \$447 million. Instead of reporting a loss for the year of a quarter of a billion dollars, BC Hydro used deferral accounts to report a profit of almost half a billion dollars.

What are the implications of this

using deferral accounts in this manner? By law, BC Hydro is required to pay up to 85% of its net income for each year to

First, BC Hydro does not appear to have a plan to recover the deferred expenses held in its deferral accounts, nor does it have a plan to halt their growth in number (as of March 31, 2011, BC Hydro had 27 separate deferral accounts).

the provincial government as a dividend payment. The Auditor General states that over the last decade, the impact of BC Hydro's use of deferral accounts has been to consistently increase BC Hydro's reported net income. Higher reported income has required BC Hydro to pay higher dividends to the provincial government. In six of the past 10 years, BC Hydro has paid the provincial government a dividend that was greater than the company's net income would have been if it had not deferred some of its expenses to future years.

Since 2000, BC Hydro has paid to the provincial government almost \$3.2 billion in dividends.

The Government of British Columbia has amended its own legislation to require that BC Hydro adopt part of an American accounting standard that allows deferral accounting, thus avoiding the transparency sought by the new Canadian accounting standards.

The Auditor General's report also notes that BC Hydro's use of deferral accounts has had an impact on retained earnings, which are the financial resources a company retains to reinvest in the business or to pay down debt. Although BC Hydro's reported retained earnings have increased over the past decade, when the effect of expense deferrals are taken into account, the opposite is true – retained earnings have actually declined. The Auditor General cautions that if this declining trend continues, Canadian accounting rules may force BC Hydro to eventually report a negative equity, which could


potentially challenge the going concern assumption underlying BC Hydro's financial reporting. (Note: in accounting, going concern refers to a company's ability to continue functioning as a business entity. The going concern assumption is an accounting guideline that allows readers of financial statements to assume that the company will continue to operate long enough to carry out its objectives and commitments.)

The Auditor General says that over the same period, BC Hydro's debt has been growing. BC Hydro's debt increased from \$7.5 billion in 2006 to \$11.6 billion as of March 31, 2011. (Note: BC Hydro forecasts that its debt will continue to climb as the company implements its program to upgrade and expand its infrastructure within the province.)

The Auditor General concludes his report with two recommendations. First, that the government of British Columbia determine, at the earliest opportunity, how BC Hydro will recover the deferred costs in its regulatory accounts. He suggests three options that could be used

individually or in combination: 1) rate adjustments, i.e., allow BC Hydro to increase its rates to recover the deferred costs over a set period; 2) operating efficiencies, i.e.,

apply any cost savings or increased revenues that arise from efficiencies suggested in the recent government review to deferral account balances; 3) infusions of cash.

The Auditor General's second recommendation is that the government require that BC Hydro prepare its financial statements in full accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, i.e., that the government of British Columbia reconsider its decision to allow BC Hydro to continue using deferral accounting. *The Auditor General's full report is available on the Auditor General of British Columbia's website at www.bcauditor.com.* 

38TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**Brotherhood Beyond Borders**

IBEW members from across the continent travelled to Vancouver in September for the 38th International Convention of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers with Local 258 and Local 213 sharing the local hosting duties.

The International Convention is where the business of the union takes place – it's where delegates, democratically elected by the membership from each Local of the union, make the decisions that will guide the brotherhood into the future. With more than 3,000 delegates in attendance, events began on September 16th with pre-convention forums, a tradeshow and social gatherings.

With the theme of "Sisters in Solidarity: Leadership Beyond Borders", the IBEW Women's Conference saw Local 258 send one of the largest delegations that attended the pre-convention forum. Keynote speaker Amber Hockin, the first woman director from the Canadian Labour Congress - Pacific Division, spoke about barriers in the workplace that



Women's Caucus keynote speaker Amber Hockin, Director, Canadian Labour Congress – Pacific Division.

women often face – structural barriers, family responsibilities and traditional stereotypes. Describing her own experience, she acknowledged even though there are many barriers to participation that women face in the labour movement, there are also leaders who know how to create space for women because ultimately it's good for the union movement overall.

President Ed Hill engaged attendees in a thoughtful question-and-answer session where members discussed ways to boost women in leadership roles.

The Women's Caucus concluded with a panel discussion, featuring Can-

adian participant Betty Rolleston, Business Manager of Local 319 in Saskatoon, with panelists discussing their own experiences of stepping into leadership positions.

The afternoon Political Caucus was a first time event associated with Convention with IBEW political activists gathering to discuss the importance of political action.

Hundreds of delegates learned workers in Canada are facing many of the same difficulties workers in the US are facing as a result of an anti-worker agenda that has squeezed the middle class and is attacking collective bargaining rights.

Geoff Meggs, Vancouver City Councillor, told delegates that while important victories for working people start at the



IBEW members Sister Susan Longva and Sister Arlene Runka listen while President Ed Hill engages in a question and answer session with delegates at the "Sisters in Solidarity: Leadership Beyond Borders" Women's Conference, part of the pre-convention proceedings at the 38th International Convention of the IBEW.

bargaining table, union members need to finish it at the ballot box.

NDP MP Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway) told delegates that if right wing Prime Minister Stephen Harper continues to attack workers rights, the NDP will fight him "every step of the way".

The next day was set aside for socializing as delegates travelled to Vancouver's Hastings Park for a fabulous picnic that included the IBEW Has Talent contest, musical guests and lots of pin-trading!

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Attending the pre-convention Women's Conference, from left, were: Drene Silva, Arlene Runka, Karen Porter, Kat McCauley, Michelle Laurie, Nicole Biernaczyk, Amber Hockin, Cathy Tagseth and Susan Longva.

38TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

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Delegates and their families enjoyed meeting old friends and making new ones as a small airplane towing a huge IBEW banner flew over the park all afternoon and could be seen by the thousands at the picnic and surrounding local residents.

The official convention got underway at the new Vancouver Trade and Convention Center on Monday, September 19th with spectacular opening ceremonies featuring pipe bands from the Vancouver Police Department and IBEW's very own Sword of Light Pipe and Drum Band, comprised of New York Local 3 members. Delegates were welcomed to the traditional Coast Salish territory by Rose Point, an Elder from the Musqueam Nation and her nephew Shane Point who offered ceremonial prayers. First District Vice President Phil Flemming welcomed delegates and presided over the morning ceremonies.

The five days of convention were a mix of discussion and decision-making. President Ed Hill and Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia were unanimously elected to serve five-year terms with International Executive Council Chairman Bob Pierson being re-elected by acclamation.

Guest speakers included local and international labour and political leaders including Ken Georgetti, President of the Canadian Labour Congress; Richard Trumka, President of the AFL-CIO; IBEW member Liz Shuler, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO; Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour; Peter Tighe,

General Secretary of Australia's Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union; Carlo DeMasi, Secretary General, Italian Federation of Electrical Utility Workers; and, BC NDP Leader Adrian Dix.

Ken Georgetti roused delegates by asking the question, "Did anyone here in this room take billions of dollars in bonuses while killing jobs? If it wasn't IBEW members, was it teachers? Was it nurses? Postal workers? Or was it a pipe fitter like me? Of course not."

Jim Sinclair of the BC Federation of Labour gave delegates a call for action, stating, "We are on the front lines of ensuring a decent life for members – but tens of millions of working people don't have a union. So we have to build a movement that encompasses all working people who see us as their champions, not just as champions for the labour movement itself."



Delegates approve funding for continued growth

International President Edwin D. Hill spoke to the challenges facing the IBEW, saying, "Our choice is between the promise of future growth or the serenity of continued decline. The future of the IBEW, our local unions, our membership, and each of us, will depend on the leadership demonstrated today."

Brother Hill noted that from 2006 through July 2011, the IBEW has brought in more than 129,000 new "BA" members—mostly as a result of professional and industrial organizing efforts. Dozens of active campaigns are in the works and Hill pointed to areas where additional resources are required.

But despite the increase in BA members, International Secretary-Treasurer Sam Chilia noted increased membership projections from the 2006 convention fell short by 60,000, leading to a reduction in revenue that, if it continues, would hamper the organization's ability to organize and mobilize for future growth.

Delegates then approved continued financial support for the IBEW's aggressive organizing efforts with an overwhelming vote in favor of a per capita increase, as follows:

- A per capita tax increase of \$2 on January 1, 2012
- A second increase of \$2 on January 1, 2014
- A third per capita tax increase of \$1 effective January 1, 2016, if such an increase is necessary due to failure to meet membership growth projections prepared by accountants for the 38th International Convention.



Delegates Debate Constitutional Amendments

At prior conventions, elections of International Vice Presidents (IVP) or International Executive Council (IEC) members have taken place through the votes of a majority of local unions at the convention. However, not all of the locals present necessarily vote, such as when the delegates are deadlocked on a decision. Delegates amended **Article III, Section 3** of the constitution to ensure that the vote of each district must be decided by a majority of locals at the convention—which must be present and voting at the time of election. If the district is unable to determine its choice, a roll call vote will be taken.

Currently, when there are more than two candidates for the same office of IVP or IEC, voting continues until one candidate has received a majority overall vote count. Delegates further amended **Article III, Section 3** to allow for a single runoff election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

A proposal was also introduced to revise **Article III, Section 8** to increase pension payments to retired officers, representatives and assistants. The committee, citing actuarial data, concluded that the proposal was cost prohibitive and moved for nonconcurrency. Delegates agreed, citing tough financial times and the need to act prudently when increasing compensation for members.

Canadian Greg MacFarlane wins IBEW HAS TALENT contest



IBEW's international talent search contest started a year ago and culminated with incredible performances at the 38th International Convention. After rounds of performances, delegates, with the help of the judges who narrowed it down to



three finalists, overwhelmingly chose Manitoba's Greg MacFarlane, who performed with his cousin, Rob James of Canadian Idol fame, as the winner of the IBEW Has Talent contest. MacFarlane represented the First District, Canada, and is a member of Local 2085 in Winnipeg.

"Our performance was our way of lifting the spirits of all our members, reminding them of how proud they should be to be part of our brotherhood, and the song itself was inspired by our Brother Rick Dowling of Local 213 and his lifelong dedication to the IBEW. His commitment is an example that we should all strive to follow."

Brother MacFarlane is shown above on left with Rob James whose music career can be found at robjamesmusic.com.

The convention proceedings adjourned at noon on Friday, September 23 after delegates heard from BC NDP Leader Adrian Dix as the final guest speaker.

Closing the 38th International Convention, President Hill thanked the Locals and members of the First District for the generous hospitality while in Vancouver, saying, "What we have done here today, what we have done this week and what we have said here is all going down on

the record. It's now part of our legacy. But more important, it's the basis on which we are going to build the future. You have made your voices heard. You have voted on the direction of this great union. You have represented your members very well. Thank you, thank you for having the courage to do what was best for the future of this brotherhood." 🇨🇦



Union goes to bat for members to achieve back wages

NOTICE

**TO PAST AND PRESENT EMPLOYEES OF
BLACK TOP TRAFFIC CONTROL LTD.
(operating as TINA FERGUSON)**

If you have performed traffic control services for this company and have unpaid wage or NSF cheque concerns, please contact the INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, Local 258.

All traffic control work performed by this company is covered by a collective agreement between Blacktop Traffic Control Ltd. and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258.

On August 17, 2011, the Union (IBEW Local 258) applied to the BC Labour Relations Board for expedited arbitration of a number of grievances against this employer. In that complaint the Union seeks payment of all wages for employees and the provision of proper pay statements.

For information regarding the hearing into this matter, please contact **Susan Longva** at the Union: slongva@ibew258.bc.ca or phone toll free 1-877-520-3305.



When Local 258 members turned to their union after not getting paid by their employer, Local 258 took immediate action.

After reviewing the circumstances, Local 258 placed notices in local newspapers asking for employees to come forward if they had experienced not getting paid or had NSF cheques issued by this employer.

After meetings with an Arbitrator took place, Local 258 was successful in achieving a Consent Order on October 25, 2011, for 13 former employees of Black Top Traffic. The Consent Order totals \$66,857 in outstanding back wages, and the employer will make monthly installments into a trust account held by Local 258. Should the employer default more than 30 days, the Union will proceed with collection measures in the BC Supreme Court.

Local 258 is anxious to see Black Top Traffic succeed and rebuild its reputation in the Kelowna area. We have current members who need to keep working, and former members who need to get paid. ⚡

New collective agreements signed



New collective agreements have been signed by members working at Deb's Flaggging in Kamloops and at All-Clear Traffic Control in Roberts Creek. All workers report work is slowing down due to more and more traffic control companies competing for the same work. Above, on left, are members from Deb's Flaggging. Above, on right are members Kathy Edmonds, Mike Comerford, Shauna Raye-Williams, Damien Jamieson and Michelle Duffy of All-Clear Traffic in Roberts Creek.

Raising funds for the MS Society of Canada

LOCAL 258 19TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The rain managed to stay up in the sky for an afternoon of golf as supporters of Local 258's annual charity event came out to play at the Burnaby Mountain Golf Course in September. Major sponsors included BC Hydro.

After playing 18-holes, the golfers enjoyed an awards banquet and dinner organized by Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen and Brother Mark Davison, former Chair Unit 5. \$8500 was raised with funds going to the MS Society of Canada.

Many thanks to the volunteers from the MS Society and the Power Pioneers (who came out in droves) who help make this annual tournament so successful! 🏌️‍♂️



Brother Mark Davison and Brother Dan Klassen present the cheque to the MS Society of Canada.





Unit 1 Meeting Schedule 2012

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 Feb 9th</i>								<i>Thurs Oct 18th</i>		
PRINCE RUPERT Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed Feb 8th</i>				<i>Wed June 13th</i>				<i>Wed Oct 17th</i>		
QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm						<i>Thurs June 14th</i>						
SMITHERS Where: Line Room When: 5:00 pm	<i>*Tues Jan 10th</i>		<i>*Tues Mar 13th</i>		<i>*Tues May 8th</i>		<i>*Tues July 19th</i>		<i>*Tues Sept 11th</i>		<i>*Tues Nov 13th</i>	
TERRACE Where: Best Western Inn When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Tues Feb 7th</i>		<i>*Wed Apr 11th</i>		<i>*Tues June 12th</i>		<i>*Wed Aug 8th</i>		<i>*Tues Oct 16th</i>		<i>*Tues Dec 11th</i>

** denotes Official Meeting*

LOCAL 258
IBEW



Your Local 258 IBEW

Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

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Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney

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LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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

www.ibew258.bc.ca





Unit 2 Meeting Schedule 2012

UNIT 2 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
100 MILE HOUSE Where: BC Hydro Line Room When: 7:00 pm		Thurs Feb 16th							Thurs Sept 20th			
BELLA COOLA Where: TBA When: 7:00 pm					Thurs May 3rd					Thurs Oct 4th		
DAWSON CREEK Where: George Dawson Inn When: 7:00 pm		Wed Feb 22nd				Thurs June 21st						*Thurs Dec 13th
FORT NELSON Where: Woodland's Inn When: 7:00 pm					Thurs May 17th					Thurs Oct 11th		
FORT ST. JOHN Where: Line Room When: 7:00 pm		Thurs Feb 23rd			Wed May 16th		*Thurs July 12th			Wed Oct 10th		
HUDSON'S HOPE Where: Parkes Centre When: 4:30 pm				Thurs Apr 19th				*Wed Aug 15th				
QUESNEL Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm			Thurs Mar 15th			Wed June 20th					Thurs Nov 22nd	
PRINCE GEORGE Where: Location TBA When: 7:00 pm	*Wed Jan 11th	*Tues Feb 15th	*Wed Mar 14th	*Wed Apr 18th	*Wed May 9th	*Tues June 19th			*Wed Sept 19th	*Tues Oct 9th	Tues Nov 20th	
WILLIAMS LAKE Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm	Thurs Jan 12th				Thurs May 10th						*Wed Nov 21st	

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Unit 3 Meeting Schedule 2012

UNIT 3 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BRIDGE RIVER Where: Lunch Room B2 (250-259-8221) When: 5:30 pm	<i>*Tues Jan 10th</i>		<i>Tues Mar 13th</i>		<i>Tues May 8th</i>				<i>Tues Sept 11th</i>		<i>Tues Nov 13th</i>	
CASTLEGAR/TRAIL Castlegar: Fireside Inn (250-365-2128) Trail: Terra Nova Hotel (250-368-3355) When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Tues Trail Feb 7th</i>		<i>Tues Castlegar Apr 10th</i>		<i>Tues Trail June 12th</i>				<i>Tues Castlegar Oct 9th</i>		
CRANBROOK Where: Labour Temple (250-426-4871) When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed Feb 8th</i>		<i>*Wed Apr 11th</i>		<i>Wed June 13th</i>				<i>*Wed Oct 10th</i>		
INVERMERE Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		<i>Thurs Feb 9th</i>		<i>Thurs Apr 12th</i>		<i>*Thurs June 14th</i>				<i>Thurs Oct 11th</i>		
KAMLOOPS Where: IBEW #993 Hall (250-376-8755) When: 7:00 pm	<i>Wed Jan 11th</i>		<i>Wed Mar 14th</i>		<i>*Wed May 9th</i>				<i>Wed Sept 12th</i>		<i>Wed Nov 14th</i>	
MICA Where: Curling Rink (250-834-7218) When: 6:00 pm	<i>Tues Jan 17th</i>		<i>Tues Mar 20th</i>		<i>Tues May 15th</i>				<i>Tues Sept 18th</i>		<i>*Tues Nov 20th</i>	
REVELSTOKE Where: Hydro Dam Conf Room When: 4:15 pm	<i>Mon Jan 16th</i>		<i>Mon Mar 19th</i>		<i>Mon May 14th</i>				<i>*Mon Sept 17th</i>		<i>Mon Nov 19th</i>	
VERNON Where: Army & Navy Club 2500 46th Avenue, Vernon When: 7:00 pm (250-542-3277)	<i>Thurs Jan 12th</i>		<i>*Thurs Mar 15th</i>		<i>Thurs May 10th</i>		<i>*Thurs July 12th</i>	<i>*Thurs Aug 9th</i>	<i>Thurs Sept 13th</i>		<i>Thurs Nov 15th</i>	<i>*Thurs Dec 13th</i>

** denotes Official Meeting*



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 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371





Unit 4 Meeting Schedule 2012

UNIT 4 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CAMPBELL RIVER Where: Maritime Heritage Centre When: 7:00 pm (250-286-3161)		Tues Feb 7th				Tues June 12th			Wed Sept 12th			Tues Dec 11th
COURTENAY Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		*Tues Feb 7th				Tues June 12th			*Wed Sept 12th			Tues Dec 11th
DUNCAN Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm (250-748-2722)	*Tues Jan 10th				Tues May 8th				Tues Oct 9th 7:00 pm Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn			
GANGES Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm	Wed Jan 11th					*Wed June 13th				*Tues Oct 9th		
NANAIMO Where: Nanaimo Legion #256 When: 4:00 pm (250-754-8128)	Tues Jan 10 7 pm			*Wed Apr 11th			*Wed July 11th					*Wed Dec 12th
PORT ALBERNI Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm			*Wed Mar 14th			Thurs June 14th					*Tues Nov 13th	
PORT HARDY Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm			Tues Mar 13th						Tues Sep 11th			
QUALICUM BEACH Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm				Tues Apr 10th			Tues July 10th			Wed Oct 10th		
VICTORIA Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		Wed Feb 8th			*Wed May 9th			*Tues Aug 7th		Wed Nov 14th 7:00 pm Howard Johnson		

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Unit 5 Meeting Schedule 2012

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 Jan 12th</i>	<i>*Wed Feb 9th</i>	<i>Thurs Mar 15th</i>	<i>*Thurs Apr 12th</i>	<i>*Thurs May 10th</i>	<i>Thurs June 14th</i>	<i>*Thurs July 12th</i>	<i>*Thurs Aug 9th</i>	<i>*Thurs Sept 13th</i>	<i>Thurs Oct 11th</i>	<i>*Thurs Nov 15th</i>	<i>*Thurs Dec 13th</i>
SECHLT Where: Seaside Centre, Sechelt When: 5:00 pm			<i>*Wed Mar 28th</i>			<i>*Wed June 27th</i>				<i>*Wed Oct 24th</i>		
POWELL RIVER Where: Coast Hotel When: 4:30 pm			<i>Tues Mar 27th</i>							<i>Tues Oct 23rd</i>		

** denotes Official Meeting*



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



Unit 6 Meeting Schedule 2012

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 Jan 10th</i>	<i>Tues Feb 7th</i>	<i>*Tues Mar 13th</i>	<i>Tues Apr 10th</i>	<i>*Tues May 8th</i>	<i>Tues June 12th</i>	<i>*Tues July 10th</i>		<i>*Tues Sept 11th</i>	<i>Tues Oct 9th</i>	<i>*Tues Nov 13th</i>	<i>Tues Dec 11th</i>
CHILLIWACK Where: Best Western 43971 Industrial Way, Chilliwack When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Wed Feb 8th</i>		<i>*Wed Apr 11th</i>		<i>*Wed June 13th</i>		<i>*Wed Aug 8th</i>		<i>*Wed Oct 10th</i>		<i>*Wed Dec 12th</i>

** denotes Official Meeting*



LOCAL 258
IBEW



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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. 

UNION NOTICE BOARD

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 with your new address so we can make sure you continue to receive news alerts, The Hotline newsletter and be notified of current events. Please note: 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 who are very creative. 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

Looking elsewhere for work?

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

Local 258 traveling cards are made out for three months (as per Constitution Article XXIII, Sec2), giving you plenty of time to deposit your traveling card with any IBEW Local in which you are seeking work.

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

Call direct at 604-515-3530 or 604-520-3305, Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305.

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 member

The last time we talked here I was just getting ready to leave on a wander to Dawson City, Yukon. Well, we did it in late May and early June and had a great trip. We went to the Okanagan to visit family for a couple of days and then I determined we might as well start at “Mile 0” of the Alaska Highway and so headed off to Dawson Creek, BC. From there we meandered north to Whitehorse where we turned right onto the Klondike Highway and then headed to Dawson City, Yukon.

After a few days doing touristy stuff and looking around the local area we started back south. We took the Stewart/Cassiar Highway, or as some travellers call it, the Dease Lake Highway, followed the road to Kitwanga where we joined Highway 16 and motored back to Prince George. Then we made another right turn that put us on the road to the south coast and home. All in all it was a grand jaunt of just over 6300 very enjoyable kilometres.

Because Catherine Dear and I are Retired Persons we are able to travel in the “off seasons”. The immediate benefits are uncrowded campsites and RV parks as well as, sometimes, lonely roads. I was totally impressed with how good the northern roads are, especially just after enduring the ravages of winter. I was also surprised that gasoline prices were substantially cheaper than gasoline prices in the populous lower mainland.

While driving along these uncrowded roads I managed to find time for rumination. I started ruminating about how I’m always saying that retirement is the best job I’ve ever had and how great retirement is, etc., etc. Well, I concluded that the major contributor to this feeling of contentment is my pension. It is the pension that provides the security that allows Catherine Dear and me to wander about “off season” and enjoy all the touristy things our country has to offer. You know, I got to thinking, it doesn’t have to be a huge pension, notwithstanding the belief that bigger is always better, but just a reasonable pension. The sense of security is provided by the knowledge that each and every month a certain amount of money will be deposited into your bank account. This amount will be deposited whether you get up early in the morning or not. Really, you don’t even have to get out of bed and the pension will be deposited to your bank account. And that is where the security comes from. You can make plans and decisions based on the fact that a certain amount of money will be available on a regular basis. One thing a Retiree doesn’t have to include in a budget is saving for a “rainy day”. Once retirement age is reached the “rainy days” are here. It is my opinion that for a Retiree all income is disposable income.

Now imagine my consternation when I read in the newspapers and hear on TV the concerted attack on “public sector”

pensions by the right wing pundits. The theme of the attack by the right wing centres on the purported bloated wages and gold plated pensions available to public sector employees all, according to them, funded by the taxpayers. When I was a worker the pension I was most interested in was funded by employee contributions, employer contributions and income earned by investment of pension funds. At the time of my retirement the information provided to me was that employee contributions were in excess of the pensions paid out and the interest earned on pension funds also exceeded the amount paid in pensions. Where, then, is all this gold plating that the taxpayers are allegedly providing? Just as an aside, I was then and am now a taxpayer. I guess what really concerns me is that I haven’t seen people rallying and marching in the streets to reduce pensions or wages and benefits – in fact, I am seeing the opposite take place in places like Wisconsin and Ohio where hundreds of thousands are making an effort to rebuke the proclamations of the right wing.

One of the conspiracy theories that I subscribe often ruminate about to is that the captains of industry (right wing) cannot live with a workforce that is financially secure and somewhat independent. Anytime we get close to enjoying that security and independence, gained and fought for through the fruits of our labour and right to collectively bargain, not through their largess, the right wing pulls out all stops in its attack on workers, particularly organized labour. One of their most effective weapons, which worked well for them in the past, is “divide and conquer”. Thus we hear that while public sector workers are enjoying bloated wages and gold plated pensions, private sector workers are languishing with substandard wages and benefits. See, if they get workers scrapping with each other rather than uniting for a common goal, they have won. If this disparity in wages and benefits is the case, and I’m not sure it is, the answer is not to reduce the hard won benefits of the public sector worker but to raise the private sector workers to the higher standard. The best way to accomplish this is, in my view, through a strong unionized workforce. What we can do, what we must do, is support our union in fending off this extraordinary attack on workers by the right wing.

Well, my soapbox is getting a little wobbly and Catherine Dear is beginning to organize me and our camper for the upcoming winter wander to sunny southern California so I’ll leave it at that. I will try to remember to report on other conclusions reached while driving on uncrowded, and sometimes lonely, roads in future discussions.

Please continue to work and play safely. 🚧

Exiled Mexican union leader Napoleon Gomez Urritia shows solidarity with union activists at Cumberland's Miner's Memorial Weekend

Unit 4 Vice Chair Fred Ruttan attended the 26th Annual Miner's Memorial Weekend in Cumberland on June 25th, representing Local 258 and participating with laying a bouquet at the gravesite of fallen labour activist Ginger Goodwin.



Napoleon Gomez Urritia, exiled leader of "Los Mineros" speaks at the Cumberland Miner's Memorial.



Napoleon Gomez Urritia and Juan Linares (in red jacket) join the procession of mourners as they honour the memory of fallen labour activist Ginger Goodwin.



Unit 4 Vice Chair Fred Ruttan at the Chinese graveyard at the Cumberland Miner's Memorial.

Showing their support and solidarity with BC miners, distinguished guests Napoleon Gomez Urritia and Juan Linares of "Los Mineros" - the 280,000 member National Union of Mine, Metal, Steel and Allied Workers of the Mexican Republic - joined with mourners at the annual event.

Napoleon Gomez Urritia, Secretary-General of Los Mineros, has been living in exile in Canada since 2006 after the Mexican government pressed trumped up charges of embezzlement against him - charges that Mexican and international human and labour rights organizations have dismissed as false - after 65 Mex-

ican mine workers were killed in an explosion and Gomez stood up against the employer and declared "industrial homicide" as they refused to rescue the trapped miners. Brother Gomez was falsely charged with criminal activity and has since been cleared of all charges. He continues to fight against repression and support democracy and equality in Mexico as the elected leader of the union while living in Canada.

Juan Linares Montufar, President of the Oversight and Justice Council of Los Mineros, and a close associate and friend of Gomez, was held as a political prisoner in Mexico for more than two years after he was falsely arrested upon his return to Mexico City after travelling to Vancouver BC. He remained jailed as a political prisoner until his release in February of this year.

Labour activists from across BC participated at this annual event honouring Ginger Goodwin, a miner and union organizer who took part in strikes in Cumberland in 1912 and at the Trail Smelter in 1917. He was shot dead in 1918.

All the proceeds from the Miner's Memorial Weekend support the Cumberland Museum's programming, operations and labour history and mining exhibit development. 

Photos submitted by Unit 4 Vice Chair Fred Ruttan.



Thank You members of Local 258!

Burn wound healing advances continue at research lab with support of Local 258 IBEW donation

Earlier this year, Local 258 members voted to make another significant financial donation to the Vancouver General Hospital and University of British Columbia Hospital Foundation to support ongoing research into burn and wound healing taking place at the BC Professional Firefighters Burn and Wound Healing Research Laboratory at VGH. Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay and President Michelle Laurie attended the laboratory to present the cheque in October.

Vancouver General Hospital is poised to lead the world in burn and wound healing under the leadership of Dr. Aziz Ghahary, an acknowledged world-leader in the treatment of burns and wounds at the BCPFF Burn and Wound Healing Research Laboratory.

Dr. Ghahary and his team have discovered communication among different types of cells in the skin is crucial to successful healing and they have isolated a protein that is key to the communication. This discovery is essential to learning how to prevent formation of scar tissue after a burn, as well as understanding why other wounds fail to heal. Dr. Ghahary is



From left are: Alanna Donahue, Vice President, Major Gifts & Planned Giving, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation; Doug McKay, Business Manager Local 258 IBEW; Dr. Aziz Ghahary, Director, Burn and Wound Healing Lab at VGH; Michelle Laurie, president, Local 258 IBEW; and, Barb McInnis, Director, Major Gifts & Planned Giving, VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

currently developing a shelf-ready topical cream containing the purified protein, as well as an actual skin substitute that can be applied to burns and wounds to allow the skin to heal properly.

This is Local 258's second \$100,000 donation to the laboratory, the first being made in 2009. 📄

The Apprentice and Trades Training Mechanic Sub-Committee at GM Shrum Generating Station holds an annual two-week welding course for both apprentice and journeyman mechanics at Mica Creek townsite. Thompson Rivers University has partnered with BC Hydro to instruct and supply a Mobile Welding fully self-contained trailer that can accommodate up to 12 welders at one time. Pictured from left to right, John Sutton, instructor from Thompson Rivers University; Matt Elliott; Jock Simpson; Richard Jess; Bruce Baker; Troy Van Loon; Justin Matchett; Kevin Jarratt; Ken Kainth; Joe Poirier and Michael Potter (kneeling in front). Photo submitted by Dave Mengerig, Foreman Mechanic, GM Shrum Generating Station.



*Another shot across the bow***Canada's labour movement is under attack again**

The right wing agenda of the Harper conservatives and the latest attempt to divide and conquer unions in Canada

With government intervention on behalf of management at both Air Canada and Canada Post, more than 50 years of precedent setting mediation by the government on federal labour disputes has been turned upside down. The attack continues with the introduction of a Private Member's Bill, C-317, at the fall sitting of parliament.

Russ Hiebert, the back bench Conservative MP from White Rock-South Surrey-Cloverdale, introduced Bill C-317 aimed at attacking labour unions by forcing them to publicly disclose their financial statements and attempting to make unions dues a taxable benefit.

The bill sought to force Canada's labour unions to publicly disclose detailed financial statements via the Canada Revenue Agency and if they refused to do so, would ultimately lose their tax exempt status resulting in union members having their union dues subject to income tax. Union dues are currently tax exempt.

Hiebert garnered a lot of media attention last year as the notorious MP with extraordinary expense claims for 2008-09 of \$637,093. Earlier this year, many of Hiebert's riding association executive members resigned as they felt the MP "failed to speak clearly as to how the money was spent", according to an article that appeared in the Feb. 19, 2011 issue of the Globe and Mail.

Hiebert's Bill C-317 was eventually ruled out of order by the speaker as MP Joe Comartin of Windsor-Tecumseh moved a point of order identifying the bill could not proceed without proper procedure through the House Ways and Means Committee.

Noting the escalating attacks on workers and the middle class, Canadian Labour Congress president Ken Georgetti

said, "They're making a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. Any union member can access their union's financial statements at any time."

Jinny Sims, NDP MP for Newton-North Delta, called the bill "absolutely ridiculous and unnecessary."

"It is an attack on the union movement. This government has made no secret that they see the unions as barriers, as getting in the way of some of their agenda, and this is another way to undermine the union," said Sims.

"I think that whenever any of our institutions have this kind of intrusion and oversight it hurts all Canadians, because if you're going to do that with unions, what's the next step? If you're going to do it with the unions, let's do it with the private corporations as well," she continued.


Sims, a former president of the British Columbia Teacher's Federation — which represents 41,000 public school teachers in the province — said union finances are already well monitored.

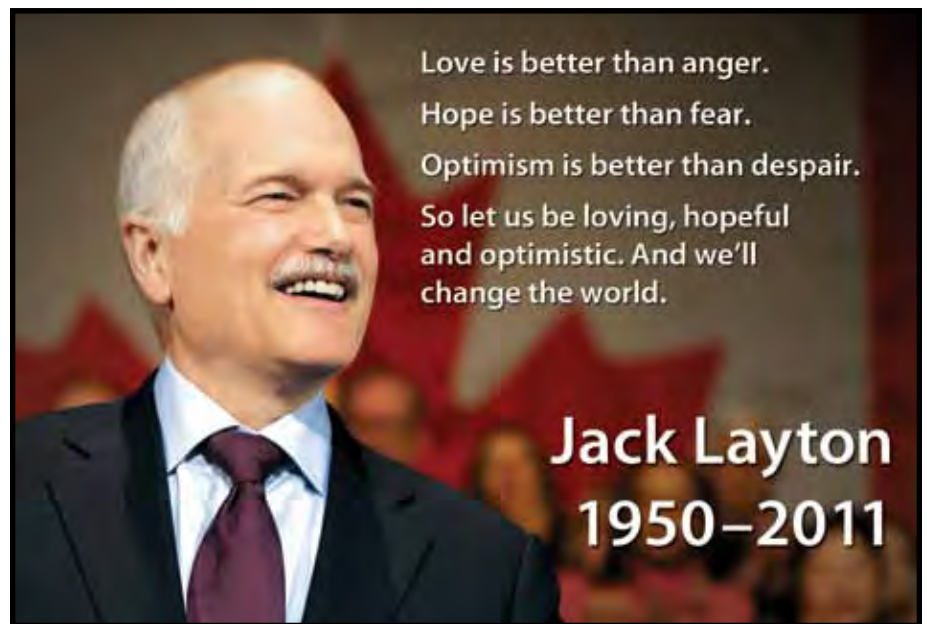
"Russ Hiebert is behaving as if union funds are public funds. People pay to be members of a union, and there is an incredible amount of oversight into the funds," she said.

"The business of union dues and how they are handled is the business of those people who belong to that union. It is not public money. It's money that belongs to members of that union," she continued.

Marie Clarke Walker of the Canadian Labour Congress, speaking to delegates at the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour Convention in October, said, "My friends, the reality is simple — we are in a class war right now. That war was quietly declared a long time ago by the super rich and big business against the ordinary working people who we represent.

It's a war that we must win if our labour movement is to survive.

This is a diversionary war — a tactic designed to confuse us, to divide us and then to conquer us." 





Joining with Local 258 delegates at this year's IBEW All Canada Progress Meeting held in Quebec City were Yvon Godin, MP from Acadie-Bathurst, New Brunswick and Annick Papillon, MP Quebec City. MP Godin "energized" the delegates at the ACPM with a fiery speech as he promised to continue the fight to forge ahead against the right wing attack on Canada's workers from coast to coast to coast.

Outside Line Contractors sign new collective agreement

Local 258 has successfully concluded negotiations and the members working for the signatory outside line contractors have ratified a new collective agreement. Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Assistant Business Manager with Local 258, reports members of the bargaining team, Brother Henry Bender, Brother Jim Greenwell, Brother Dave Holenstein and Brother Jim Leckie, negotiated a new three year deal that includes wage increases of 1%, 2.5% and 2.75%. Many thanks to the bargaining committee and the membership for their hard work in achieving this new agreement. 🚧

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**For more information and to become a member today -
 visit your Local 258 IBEW website and click on the CCPA logo,
 or visit www.policyalternatives.ca**

A big deal, but a bad deal for Canada

by Heather Fraser/Counterpoint/CALM

The Canada-European Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) is a big deal and Canadians should pay close attention. So far, negotiations have been quietly taking place behind closed doors. But this trade deal threatens public services, gives extensive powers to corporations and limits local democratic control for municipal governments.

CETA is a corporate power grab. It will take power from local governments and gives it to large multinational corporations whose primary interest is in profit, not service delivery.

If CETA is signed, we could see large multinational corporations take over delivery of essentials like water, transit, energy and health care—whether our local communities like it or not. That's because the proposed agreement may include a dispute resolution system that would give large European corporations the right to sue Canadian governments for public policies with which investors disagree. Policies that promote buying local goods and services, hiring local workers or ensuring services like wastewater treatment are provided locally could be deemed unfair.

This deal is important because it's the first time that a trade agreement will include municipal activities like purchasing, infrastructure projects and the delivery of municipal services. Because it expands the rights of corporations, it could lead to increased privatization.

CETA will cause drug costs to skyrocket. The European Union wants to use CETA to make it harder for Canadians to have access to low cost prescription drugs. A study by the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association warns that this deal could potentially add nearly three billion dollars to Canadian medication costs annually.

CETA puts Canada's water up for sale. CETA could open up public municipal water systems across Canada to privatization. At the request of Europe's large private for-profit water corporations our governments are considering including drinking water and wastewater services under CETA.

CETA threatens local job creation. Our tax dollars should be used to create jobs and business opportunities in our local communities. One way governments do this is by deciding to purchase the goods and services they need from local companies. But under CETA, European corporations would have unrestricted access to purchasing contracts—and that means creating jobs in Europe, instead of here in Canada.

It's time to stop this deal and protect our public services.

WHY CETA IS A BAD DEAL FOR CANADA

Canada and the European Union are negotiating a new Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). This is a big deal for Canada and so far, negotiations have been quietly taking place behind closed doors. If CETA is signed it will:

- Threaten our democracy by putting corporate rights first
- Encourage privatization of Canada's drinking water and wastewater services
- Threaten local job creation and "buy-local" policies
- Cause prescription drug costs to skyrocket by at least \$2.8 billion per year
- Allow big corporations to ignore or challenge environmental regulation

For more information, visit www.canadians.org

WHAT DO CANADIANS THINK ABOUT CETA?

- **77 per cent** oppose the deal if it causes prescription drug prices to rise
- **60 per cent** oppose the deal if it opens up government purchasing to EU corporations
- **52 per cent** oppose the deal if it opens up water treatment services to competition from European corporations.

Source:
CUPE/Environics Research Poll
May 2011

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

From the archives...



This photo to the left was published in the last issue of The Hotline, asking members if they may recognize who was in the photo and where and when it was taken.

Some guesses came through the email, but it was Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen who identified the photo correctly. It appears the photo includes Dan's dad, the late Harry Klassen, who retired from BC Hydro in Vancouver, was working with Peterson Electric when this photo was taken at Camano.

Included in the photo are: Hank Smith; Red Schmidt; Ken Duke; Lyle Morman; Roy Stanley; Harry Klassen; Hal Smithers; Tommy Price. Three workers could not be identified.



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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.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Brother Glen McAulay, left, receives his retirement jacket and a plaque presented by Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft at the September union meeting in Smithers.



Congratulations to Brother Chris McInnes, shown here with his IBEW lineman certificate, on completion of his apprenticeship.



Congratulations to Brother Rupinder Dhillon and Brother Steve Byrnell on being awarded their 10 year service pins by Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth at the July 2011 union meeting in Burnaby.



Brother Paul Newbold, center, displays his IBEW lineman certificate with the Fort St. John Arctic Power crew, Brother Rodger Dawson, left, and Brother Cam Curtin, right.



Congratulations to Brother Leon Arishenkoff on his recent retirement - he is shown here receiving his retirement goodies from Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney congratulates Brother Garney Howard on his recent retirement.



Brother Dwight Stevens and Brother Bruce Derrien received their IBEW retirement gifts from Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Don McNabb at a Dawson Creek retirement BBQ in September.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell congratulates Brother Len Colebert on his retirement from BC Hydro.



Congratulations to Brother Stanley Hartley at GM Shrum Generating Station who recently graduated from his Mechanical Apprenticeship. He is shown here with, on left, Chris Dahl, Management Rep and Dave Mengerling, IBEW Rep on the Apprentice and Trades Training Sub-Committee. This photo was taken at GMS where Brother Hartley has secured a full time position on the Mechanical crew.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney awards Brother Kim Harvey with his retirement goodies at his retirement party this summer.



Congratulations to Brother Justin Roberge at Revelstoke Generating Station who recently graduated from his Millwright Apprenticeship. He is shown here with, on left, Chris Dahl, Management Rep and Dave Mengerling, IBEW Rep on the Apprentice and Trades Training Sub-Committee. Brother Roberge has secured a full time position at Revelstoke GS.



Welcome to Brother Michael Fox as he initiated into membership with Local 258 IBEW. Brother Fox is shown here with Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth at the union meeting in March, 2011.



Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth, right, welcomes new IBEW members at their initiation at the union meeting in August. From left are Duane Spencer and Teenagarajen Rungien.



PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Dozens of co-workers helped celebrate Brother Dan Enns' retirement after 35 years. Dan worked as a Foreman Field Store Keeper with BC Hydro on his retirement. Congratulations Brother Enns!



At the Unit 5 meeting in Sechelt in June, new members Jason Thompson, Brian Watson and John Howard were initiated as members of IBEW by Chair Cathy Tagseth.



Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth welcomes new IBEW members at their initiation. From left, Brother Rey Palacios, Brother Ming Leong and Brother Ragesh Parmer at the April 2011 union meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Christian Bridges as he is awarded his 5 year service pin from Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth at the August union meeting in Burnaby.



Congratulations to Brother Dave Leier, Clearwater, on your retirement. Shown here with Brother Chris Fleury, Brother Dave Bjorkman and co-worker.



Local 258 ABM Dan Giesbrecht and Brother Dan Giesbrecht Sr., left, recently visited with Brother Ivan Johnson to present him with a retirement jacket. Prior to his retirement, Brother Johnson worked at BC Hydro and currently is in recovery after suffering a stroke. Photo submitted by Brother Dan Giesbrecht, ABM, Local 258 IBEW.



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First, a very big Merry Christmas and best wishes for a joyful holiday season to all of you and those you love! I hope that 2011 was a year that you can reflect on positively, where you can count more on the plus side than the minus.

As you have seen throughout this issue, we were part of hosting the biggest IBEW event there is – the International Convention – and it is considered to have been a great success. From my perspective, it was wonderful to be able to share the beauty of our part of the world with so many of our brothers and sisters, but the most important aspect of any convention is the ability to have so many like-minded individuals together to discuss (both formally on the convention floor, and informally in the lobbies and over breakfast, lunch or dinner) the workplace and societal issues that matter to working people here and everywhere. We dominated the city for a few days, and that is a reminder that the voice of labour is large and should be loud... sometimes it just needs focus.

Many of you will have been hearing information – some valid, some just rumours – about the future of our school, EITI. The facts, at this point, are that BC Hydro has determined that they will be taking their PLT and other technical training back in-house, and will not be a customer of EITI after next September. Since BC Hydro is still the single largest customer EITI has, this obviously impacts the

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



business. While we in the union have some concerns about BC Hydro's reasoning around the decision, our major concern is to ensure that our members continue to receive the best possible training, and we will keep that focus front and center going forward. EITI does have business outside of BC Hydro, and we are working with our customers, staff and management teams to establish how that business goes forward. There are difficult decisions ahead, and speaking as the President of the Board of Directors of EITI, I want you to know that we are doing everything in our power to ensure that our members' training does not suffer as a consequence.

With you, I look forward to a 2012 that brings positive change for working people - keep the faith (now I just sound old) and stay solid!



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