



# HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
SPRING, 2011





LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

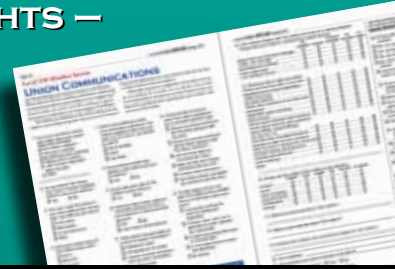


## PLANNING Our Agenda

*Local 258 Elected Members  
Gather to Strategize  
for the Future*

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**April 28th – Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job**

**HOTLINE** Spring 2011

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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](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) or contact us via e-mail at [info@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:info@ibew258.bc.ca).

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Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

Executive Board Members:

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney

Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Karen Porter

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

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

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff: Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Geri Watson, Becky MacDonald

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock



## VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

Spring is in the air - and our IBEW members continue to work hard to make sure the power flows in our province. The season also brings strong winds and storms that threaten many of our members with even more dangerous conditions when they head out to work every day.

Our members working at BC Hydro and in traffic control have been hit especially hard over the last 10 years with a rise in workplace fatalities. Members have been killed on the job, through no fault of their own, and some have been so severely injured they may never be able to bring home a paycheck again.

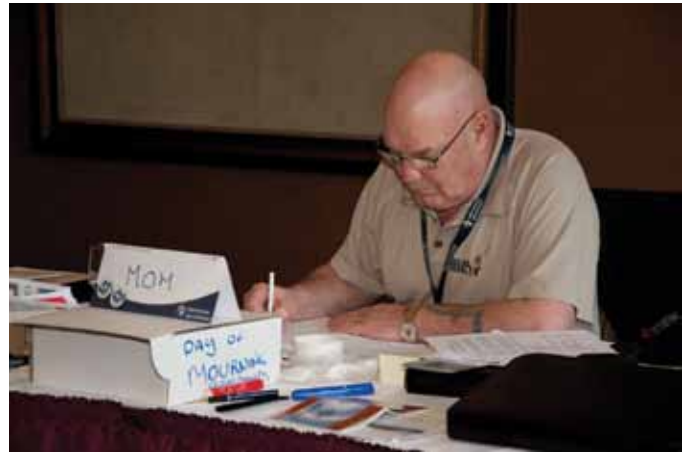
At BC Hydro, efforts are underway, once again, to bring safety to the forefront with the launch of a new Safety Action Plan. I had the opportunity to participate at one of the first meetings where we are tasked with finding workable and effective solutions to improve the 'culture' of safety at BC Hydro and stop the rise in fatalities and serious injuries.

Back in the day when I worked as a lineman, I remember when utilities across North America used to call BC Hydro to find out about our safety procedures as they were widely regarded as some of the best in the world. But, the reality is, the past ten years has seen our safety record nosedive. Nonetheless, what's happened has happened and we can't turn the clock back. But we can look forward and we must do everything we can to stop going to the funerals or sitting with the families of our brothers and sisters as their loved ones suffer from horrible injuries.

We want your help to improve our safety culture on the job. An injury to one is an injury to all. BC Hydro has established the Safety Action Plan and Local 258 has representation on the task force doing the reviews. If you have any questions about it or think you may have some solutions that will help improve our safety culture at the public utility, don't hesitate to let me know.

We need your help. At the end of the day safety is not just a company issue - it's an issue for all of us.

The recent court judgment that saw an elderly, legally blind dangerous driver walk away without having to serve jail time after killing Terry Mitchell, an IBEW member who worked as a Traf-



*Local 258 Business Manager and Financial Secretary Doug McKay works on notes at the Harrison Winter School classes for elected members in February.*

fic Control Person for Valley Traffic Systems, has brought many of our members to question some of the decisions our legal system officials make these days. We will continue to remember Terry and his widow when we stop to mourn all workers who have been killed or injured on the job at the annual Day of Mourning ceremonies that will be taking place, locally and across Canada, on April 28th. Although we can't anticipate EVERY situation that might occur in our regular duties at work - we all have a responsibility to watch out for ourselves and our brothers and sisters EVERY DAY - safety before anything else. Going to work shouldn't be a death sentence.

I'd like to send a big thank you to our Local 258 elected members who participated in our week of classes at the Harrison Winter School. It is encouraging to have this opportunity to help plan our union's future together as we took time to review where we've been and where we need to go. With all the challenges the future brings and with the political change in the air that directly affects our ability to successfully bargain collective agreements, we will also be seeking your input to make sure we are doing the work we need to do as your union. 📧



### Day of Mourning

**On April 28th workers across Canada will stop for a moment at work or will gather at public ceremonies to mourn those who have been killed, suffered an injury or developed a disease at work.**

**For a current list of events taking place in your community, visit Local 258's website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca)**



# We've Got Mail!

Dear Members of the IBEW,  
On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the Executive and members who came out to Harry's Memorial Service. It meant a lot to our family to see such a great turnout from all his friends in the IBEW. Your attendance made a hard day much easier. Harry would have been proud to see the support that was there for us.  
Thanks once again.  
Sincerely,  
Dan Klassen and family

Dear Jim Greenwell,  
I just want to thank you for coming to my retirement bash, it was nice to see you again. Please extend my thanks to all the brothers and sisters at the hall for the nice jacket, plaque, hat and pin, the thought was very much appreciated.  
Thanks again,  
Rob Brandon

Dear Local 258,  
"Your thoughtfulness meant so much."  
Thank you for the fruit basket during the time of my grave illness; we had a rough time but I am at home now recuperating. It was sure encouraging to be thought of by all of you.  
Yours truly,  
Alf Hartmann

Hi Dan Giesbrecht,  
You said to drop you a note about me going on honorary withdrawal when I retire as of April 1, 2011. Thanks for all your work in the union and thanks to the union for its support through my working years.  
Ivan Ruel,  
Qualicum Beach

Dear Local 258,  
Thanks very much for the retirement gifts and good wishes from all. Happy to have made it with your help!  
Bryan Wood,  
Surrey Vehicle Garage

Dear Local 258,

For those of you who know & knew my husband, Ivan Johnson, you will remember him as a powerful man who lived and breathed line work. He was a proud lineman, one of the crazy originals from the 70's who helped build what has become a great career for many of you.

We, the family, would like to thank all of you for all the support we've received since Ivan suffered a massive debilitating stroke last June 18th. Ivan now has his good days & bad, but we can tell he knows what is going on around him.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who has visited him. It is the one thing I can honestly say brings a sparkle to his eyes when one of "the crew or guys" walks in. He lived for line work & you guys. I also want to thank the guys who decided to help with Ivan's rehabilitation therapy with private donations. You can know... IT HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE! And thank you to those that call & ask about him or how I am doing. Thank you for caring.

If anyone wants to see Ivan & tell him a story or two he is currently at Maple Wood House at 1919 Jackson Street in Abbotsford. It is about 2 blocks from the new hospital off Marshall Road. If Ivan is sleeping don't be afraid to wake him. He would hate to miss a visit, and he has lots of time to sleep.  
Thank you all again so much,  
Pat Johnson & family

Dear Local 258;

Thank you to the Brotherhood for the opportunity to attend the CLC Winter School in Harrison for Elected Members of LU 258. The skills we learned, our structure and understanding each others roles will help me do my job better as a representative for the good of the union.

Brother Dave Berard,  
Unit 3 Recorder; Fernie Line Shop Steward

Dear Hotline,

I'm writing to let you know I found the classes at the Harrison Winter School to be very informative about unions and what we are about. I thoroughly enjoyed the week of Feb. 6 – 11 and I'd like to thank the union for the opportunity to attend.  
Colin Kenney,  
Unit 3 Chair

Hello Everyone,



After 36 1/2 years with BC Hydro, time has come to retire. I would like to thank my union, IBEW 258, for all the support over the past years.

A big thank you to Al Beeson for all your help when I needed it. Thank you to Rainer Kempf for organizing

my retirement dinner. Sharon and I had a wonderful time. Thanks to all that attended.

Thanks to Mike Smith (P.G.) and Steve Wylie (Williams Lake) for all your support. Thank you to the office staff and line crews from Williams Lake, 100 Mile House, Quesnel and Ganges (Saltspring Island) for your generous donations, cards and letters.

Thanks to my union for the nice plaque and jacket. These were presented to me by Rainer Kempf (my Shop Steward). I will wear the jacket with pride. With regards to all union members, please support your union by attending your union meetings. All the best to everyone.

WORK SAFE

Yours Sincerely,

Roger and Sharon Chernenkoff

Dear Local 258,

I would like to thank the union executive and the membership for giving me the opportunity to attend the elected members conference at Harrison Winter School. The learning experience was invaluable and the facilities were excellent.

Good job Doug and Michelle, the course content was excellent as were the instructors.

Fraternally yours,

Ed McEwen

Dear Hotline,

Many thanks to Michelle Laurie, Doug McKay and EITI instructors for putting on a great 2011 Harrison Winter School. Sincerely,

Burke Lundy

Unit #5 Recording Secretary

Dear Local 258,

The workshops and speakers at the Local 258 Elected Members sessions at Harrison Winter School were well received and informative. The ideas using outside surveys and mobile technology engaging our membership was very positive. An enlightening conference, thank you.

Sincerely,

Dale Haines

Local 258 IBEW Recording Secretary

## Local 258 supports 'Movember' in Port Alberni



*From left to right are IBEW members Kevin Griffith, Nick Labadie, Jeff Stites, Jeff Macauley, Mike Buffie, Olin Palmer, Shawn Quast, Brent Fawcett, Alex Greenlay and Tyrel Ritchie.*

IBEW Local 258 supported members participating in "Movember", an annual fundraising activity that helps bring attention to prostate cancer. Members working on the BC Hydro Line Crew in Port Alberni, shown above, all grew moustaches and collected a total of \$910, with Local 258 IBEW supporting their initiative with a \$200 contribution.

Dear Local 258,

I would like to thank my union for providing me with the opportunity to participate in training at the CLC Harrison Winter School.

I just completed the Steward Training Level 1 and had a very positive experience. My class was made up of members from 10 different unions. A pipe fitter, a school teacher, a firefighter and a janitor with ages ranging from 22 to 58 years were only a few of my fellow students.

It was a great mixture of jobs, views and life experiences in one class. I feel very fortunate to have come away with skills, tools and confidence to better represent the IBEW and its members. I would recommend this course to anyone.

Yours in solidarity,

Brian Gueldenstern

IBEW 258, BC Hydro Nanaimo



To everybody at 258,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They lit up the room and made it smell divine! I had a big smile whenever I looked at them. Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Drene Silva

LanetecDC



## BARGAINING REPORTS

### Significant gains made as members at Valley Traffic ratify new collective agreement

After months of hard bargaining for a new collective agreement, Local 258 members working at Valley Traffic Systems turned out in record numbers for a contract ratification vote on March 13th.

With the nature of traffic control jobs changing over the years from what was once considered a temporary or second job to a primary permanent career, many important issues were on the table during negotiations.


The new two-year agreement, ratified by 90% of the record number of members who turned out to vote, features increases to health benefits, vacation pay and a significant bump in wages in addition to numerous improvements to contract language and provision of protective rain gear. Overall, members achieved a 14.25% increase in wages, with a total 27% (approximate) increase overall in this package that includes Long Term disability coverage.

“This new agreement has brought our members not only to the recognized standard in this industry but also to a living wage,” said Nicole Biernaczyk, Local 258 Organizer, who assisted mem-



*Local 258 members working at Valley Traffic Systems turned out in record numbers to vote for a new collective agreement on March 13th. The new two-year contract, featuring significant wage and benefit increases, was ratified by a margin of 90%.*

bers with these negotiations. The union brought in professional negotiator Garnet Zimmerman for this round of bargaining as ABM Susan Longva was off work on sick leave.

Local 258 would like to congratulate the members at Valley Traffic for their strength and determination in this fight and the resulting gains they achieved by standing together. 

### Happy Retirement Rick Brooks!

Local 258 was pleased to honour Brother Rick Brooks from Valley Traffic on his recent retirement from the workforce.

Brother Brooks started work with the company in January 2000 and was recognized as the first Local 258 member from the traffic control industry to be honoured with ‘retirement goodies’ - a plaque and jacket. Sister Susan Longva, ABM, spearheaded the idea but was unable to personally make the presentation as she was away on business. Sister Nicole Biernaczyk read her message, saying “Rick has always been an active part of this industry and was always there to offer suggestions at every union meeting with Valley Traffic.” She added that, over the years, IBEW evidently made a significant contribution to Rick’s wardrobe as he always seemed to win the shirt or hat draw at meetings!

Congratulations on your retirement!

### Bargaining heads to mediation at Code

After numerous bargaining sessions, Local 258 members working at Code Electric and across the street at Code Manufacturing in Coquitlam are now headed to mediation after rejecting contract offers from their employer.

Assistant Business Manager Susan Longva reports both contracts expired on September 30 of last year and bargaining has been difficult with the employer refusing to meet the reasonable wage increases members are seeking in new contracts. Members at both bargaining units rejected the employer’s offer in votes taken on March 3, 2011.

Members at Code Manufacturing returned to the bargaining table on March 10th and rejected the company’s latest offer on March 11th.

Both of these bargaining units have the same owner.

Although these units may be considered small certifications with 14 and 4 members respectively, the workers are in the manufacturing component of the IBEW.

Dates for mediation for members working at both Code Electric and Code Manufacturing have not been set as The Hotline goes to press.

# Local 258 members at LanetecDC enhance skills with additional training



IBEW members working at LanetecDC traffic control attended the first of two days of in-house training in February facilitated by Teena Girard, Traffic Controller from the City of Vancouver. This class involved instruction in lane closure and a second day of instruction will provide additional on-road practical skills and is planned to take place in March. The training classes were provided by the employer. Thanks to Local 258 Organizer Nicole Biernaczyk for the photos.



# 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/talent](http://www.IBEW.org/talent)

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. **DEADLINE: APRIL 29, 2011**

# Local 258 Elected Members gather to strategize for the future

Elected Members from Local 258 IBEW gathered in February for a week of intensive strategy planning and information sessions at the annual Canadian Labour Congress Winter School.

Led by union President Michelle Laurie and Business Manager Doug McKay, the Local 258 "students" travelled from across British Columbia to Harrison Hot Springs for the union's planning and strategy sessions and to participate in the many activities organized by the Canadian Labour Congress' (CLC) Pacific Region division that complemented the intensive week-long series of classes.

Strategy sessions included reviewing the union's Constitution, Bylaws and Local 258 Policies; the role of the IBEW's Code of Excellence, and interactive forums focusing on communications.

A comprehensive status update on the union's training school, the Electrical Industry Training Institute, was jointly presented by EITI Executive Director Phil Davis and the school's management team that included Wendy Gibson, Brady Prentice, Troy Hudson and Kerry Van Sickle. EITI is making incredible advances with expanding skills training opportunities both locally and internationally. Recent marketing initiatives have resulted in additional courses being created as the school becomes more recognized for providing high voltage and safety training. Currently celebrating 20 years of delivering training programs mainly to BC Hydro workers, EITI has, in recent years, been successfully expanding to take on specialty training directed at industry partners needing skills development in high voltage and other utility related work, such as in western Canada's Oil & Gas Industries, First Nations skills training and to municipalities and professional public service workers, like police and fire personnel.

Recent expansion has also included partnering with colleges in the US to provide pre-employment training, and custom utility training overseas in the Middle and Far East.

Laird Cronk, IBEW First District International Rep led a very interactive discussion about the union's Code of Excellence and ways to develop workplace practices that enhance safety for members on the job. Sharing information and strategies with the elected members provided an opportunity for feedback and opinions about various elements of meeting members' future needs.



*EITI Management Team, clockwise from top: Executive Director Phil Davis; Wendy Gibson; Brady Prentice; Kerry Van Sickle; Troy Hudson.*



*Instructors presenting at the Local 258 Elected Members Conference, from top: Laird Cronk, International Rep, First District IBEW; Brother Mervyn Van Steinberg, Labour Participation Department at United Way of the Lower Mainland; Amber Hockin, Director, CLC Pacific Region; Sage Aaron and Lori Winstanley from COPE 378; union auditor Lyle Brown of Culver and Co. who made a presentation on Understanding Financial Statements.*





Brother Mervyn Van Steinberg, from the Labour Participation Department of the United Way of the Lower Mainland, joined with union President Michelle Laurie to talk about counselling and referral resources available to Local 258 members through trained union counsellors and the importance of letting members know the referral services are available. Brother Van Steinburg is a member of IBEW Local 213 and has been working with the United Way as Director of the CLC Labour Participation Department for many years.

CLC Pacific Region Director Amber Hockin, who also fills the role of Chancellor of the Winter School, visited the class for a session on the structure of the Canadian Labour Congress and its relationships to local Labour Councils and provincial Federations of Labour. A number of Local 258 elected members currently participate at local Labour Councils with Karen Porter, Unit 6 Chair recently sitting as Treasurer of the Fraser Valley Labour Council and Business Manager Doug McKay also elected to the Council Executive. Sister Susan Longva, ABM, sits as an Executive Board Member on the New Westminster & District Labour Council, Brother Fred Ruttan sits as a delegate to the Courtney & District Labour Council and Brother Ed McEwen is a delegate to the North Central Labour Council.

On Wednesday afternoon, elected members welcomed Sage Aaron and Lori Winstanley from COPE 378 for a hands-on presentation on the successful use of membership surveys in helping determine effective ways of improving communication with union members. As a direct result of Sage and Lori's informative class, it was decided that this issue of The Hotline include a Member Survey to help determine the direction the union may need to go in today's fast paced world of communication.

Distributing archived copies of The Hotline dating back to 1967, Michelle Boudreau, editor of the union's magazine and website manager, led a discussion on the importance of communications and the role a newsletter plays in bringing information to union members and in providing a documented history of the organization. Moving to today's methods of information distribution, members discussed the heightened role the union's website and the use of social media could play in enhancing Local 258's methods of communicating with members.

The week of activities also included evening events, with the traditional Choir Contest on Wednesday evening that saw the Local 258 Team the "Hot Stix" compete and come in second overall with their unique rendition of "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay". Thursday evening was enjoyed by all in the Copper Room where members of UNITE HERE Local 40, who work at the restaurant, served a formal dinner followed by dancing to the music of the house band.

By Friday afternoon, everyone departed, heading back to their homes across BC - energized, and somewhat exhausted, by the busy week of strategizing and planning for the future of Local 258 of the IBEW. 📄

*Attendees:*

*Doug McKay, Business Manager, Local 258*  
*Michelle Laurie, President, Local 258*  
*Tony Brand, Vice President, Local 258*  
*Larry Byhre, Treasurer, Local 258*  
*Dale Haines, Recording Secretary, Local 258*  
*Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair*  
*Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair*  
*Trevor Williams, Unit 3 Vice Chair*  
*Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair*

*Karen Porter, Unit 6 Chair*  
*Brian Cline, Unit 1 Executive Member*  
*Ed McEwen, Unit 2 Vice Chair*  
*Mike Mant, Unit 2 Executive Member*  
*Dave Berard, Unit 3 Recorder*  
*Davin Zobel, Unit 3 Executive Member*  
*Fred Ruttan, Unit 4 Vice Chair*  
*Mike Pereszlenyi, Unit 4 Recorder*  
*Burke Lundy, Unit 5 Recorder*  
*Rick Gerrard, Unit 6 Recorder*



*Tim Mitchell, Unit 6 Executive Member*  
*Walter Goodwin, Unit 6 Executive Member*  
*Jim Greenwell, Senior ABM*  
*Greg Fanning, ABM*  
*Dan Giesbrecht, ABM*  
*Susan Longva, ABM*  
*Dan Klassen, ABM*  
*Don McNabb, ABM*  
*Nicole Biernaczyk, Organizer*  
*Jim McKay, Dispatcher*



## 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 later this year, 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.

## STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

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

### **Vancouver Island University Faculty Association (FPSE) VS. Vancouver Island University**

Major Issues: Job Security, Seniority  
Commenced: March 10, 2011

### **United Steelworkers Local 9346 VS. Teck Coal Ltd.**

Major Issues: Benefits  
Commenced: January 30, 2011

### **CMAW Local 1928**

### **VS. Cove Top & Flash Cove Employees**

Major Issues: Benefits, Wages  
Commenced: LOCKED OUT, December 23, 2010

### **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

**ATTENTION: IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR ALL LOCAL 258 IBEW MEMBERS**

# Delegate Selection for the 2011 I.B.E.W. International Convention

Nominations for Delegates to the 2011 IBEW International Convention will be accepted at all Union meetings during the month of May, 2011. Following the nominations, ballots and voting instructions will be sent out by June 6, and counted on July 4, 2011. No ballots received in the official depository after 9:30 am on July 4, 2011 shall be counted.

Local Union 258 is entitled to a total of 10 delegates. By virtue of their elected positions as per our Local Union Bylaws, the Business Manager and the President are automatic Delegates. This leaves a total of 8 Delegates to be elected from the membership. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Union By-Laws, there will be one Delegate elected from each of our Six Local Union Units, and two Delegates elected at large. Members can only run for one position (i.e. either Unit Delegate, or Delegate at Large). Members not elected but second in the number of votes to each Delegate will be alternates in case an elected Delegate is not able to attend. In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two years of continuous good standing in Local Union 258.

Nominations will take place at the Official Unit Meetings in May as follows:

**Unit 1**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – Smithers – BC Hydro Lineroom – 5:00 pm

**Unit 2**

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 – Prince George – Legion – 7:00 pm

**Unit 3**

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 – Kamloops – IBEW 993 Hall – 7:00 pm

**Unit 4**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – Nanaimo – BC Hydro Line Room – 4:00 pm

**Unit 5**

Thursday, May 12, 2011 – Burnaby – Union Hall – 5:00 pm

**Unit 6**

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 – Langley – USW Hall – 7:00 pm

In Solidarity,



Michelle Laurie,  
President, Local 258 IBEW



## Local 258 Member Survey

# UNION COMMUNICATIONS

The Elected Members meeting that took place at the Harrison Winter School in February included a presentation on improving communications between union members in the workplace and elected members. As a result, Local 258 is seeking *your* opinion about what *you* think about your union magazine, The Hotline.

We'd also like your feedback on the union's website as we contemplate a major design change later this year. Local 258 wants to

bring you the information you want to know in the way you want to receive it and we want your opinion!

Please take a moment to complete the survey below so we can get your feedback. If you prefer, you can take the survey on-line at [www.ibew258.bc.ca/membersurvey.html](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca/membersurvey.html). Thank you for your time and we look forward to reporting the survey results in the next issue of The Hotline.

1. How do you generally receive information about your union?  
*Please check all that apply.*
  - The Hotline magazine
  - The union's website
  - By attending union meetings
  - Talking with co-workers
  - I don't receive information about my union
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you receive The Hotline, your union's member magazine, mailed to your home address?
  - Yes       No
3. The union mails The Hotline to your home address four times a year. How often do you read it?
  - Every issue
  - Most issues
  - Occasional issues
  - Never
4. How much of each issue of The Hotline do you read?
  - All of it
  - Most of it
  - Some of it
  - None of it
5. Did you know The Hotline is available for download on the union's website?
  - Yes       No
6. Do you prefer to read the Hotline:
  - in print       online
  - both
7. If there was additional content from information published in The Hotline available online only, how likely are you to go to the website to read it?
  - Not at all likely
  - Likely
  - Very likely
8. Do you discuss articles that appear in The Hotline with your co-workers?
  - Yes       No
9. Do you take your copy of The Hotline to work with you?
  - Yes       No
10. Would you like to have copies of The Hotline available at work, in the lunchroom, or from your Shop Steward?
  - Yes       No
  - I don't have a Shop Steward
11. What actions have you taken as a result of reading The Hotline?
  - Attended an event
  - Volunteered for an activity
  - Used the services advertised, such as Union Counselling
  - Submitted a letter
  - Submitted photos
  - Discussed an issue at work
12. Please identify the ways in which The Hotline strengthens your connection with the union:
  - Serves as a source of information for what's going on with my union
  - Serves as a source of information for what's going on with the labour movement
  - Lets me know what my co-workers are doing
  - Helps me feel more closely connected with my union
  - Provides useful information
  - The Hotline doesn't strengthen my connection with the union
13. To what degree do you consider The Hotline to be a credible source of information about your union?
  - Consistently portrays the union accurately and objectively
  - Contains some "spin" but is generally accurate, objective and newsworthy
  - Usually only portrays the union in a positive light
  - Is not a good source of objective information
  - No opinion

When you have completed this survey, please tear it from the center of the magazine and mail it to the union's head office:

Local 258 Membership Survey  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
Or fax to 604-522-3371

14. The number of topics that The Hotline can focus on is almost unlimited.

Please rate your interest in reading these regular features:

	Very interested	Interested	Somewhat interested	Not interested	No opinion
Report from your Business Manager.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters 'We Got Mail!'	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ruminations of a Retiree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From the Back Corner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Would you like to read more about:

Politics and how they affect me at work ..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bargaining and contract negotiations .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What I do at work.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My Shop Steward .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where other members of my union work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grievances .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What other unions are doing .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More pictures.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stories about individual union members..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stories about what my union represent- atives (ABMs, elected officials) are doing for me .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How the union manages its finances.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual profiles of union members .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What my union is doing in the community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical articles about the union.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pensions and retirement.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Union meetings.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	_____				

16. Please rate the quality of The Hotline on the following:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor	No Opinion
Content.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cover .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of reading .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Layout & Design ....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photography .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writing .....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. What do you like most about The Hotline?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. What is it you least like about The Hotline?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Are there any changes you would like to suggest for The Hotline?

\_\_\_\_\_

20. Your workplace: \_\_\_\_\_

21. How long have you been a member of the IBEW? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Do you have a computer?  Yes  No

23. Do you have a smart phone?  Yes  No

The final questions are about the union's website

**www.ibew258.bc.ca**

24. Do you visit the union's website?

- Yes, on a regular basis
- Yes, occasionally
- Yes, but rarely
- No, I don't visit the union's website
- I have never visited the union's website

25. If you visit the union's website, which information do you find most helpful?

- News about the union
- The downloadable forms and applications
- The time and location of my union meeting
- Contact information

26. What information would you like to see on the union's website?

- Current news that affects me in my workplace
- Where other members of my union work
- Who is my Shop Steward and how do I get in touch with them
- My collective agreement
- Who is my ABM (Assistant Business Manager) and how do I get in touch with them
- More information about my benefits
- Information about my pension
- Other:

27. Would you like the union to have a Facebook page?

- Yes  No

28. Would you like to get news about the union via Twitter?

- Yes  No



# In Memoriam

*In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, who passed away in 2010.*

Fred Agar	Kel J. Ladyka
James Anderson	Robert E. Lee
John Ashworth	Roy Lewis
Frank Atkinson	William MacRae
Bob Baird	Noel Malubag
William Barnes	Fred Martinson
Thomas Barritt	Douglas Maxwell
Brandon Beday	John E. McGraw
Barry Bell	James McIntosh
Alberto Bruno	D. Wayne McIver
Gerald A. Carter	George Morisette
Francis John Churchill	Bill Moyseyuk
John Cinkant	Ronald Murphy
Leland Cochran	Donald Oliver
Mario Colomiso	Ernest Orr
Arthur Delage	Brent Pighin
John Doucet	Peter Pinnington
Gordon French	Harold Piton
Fred Gilkes	Wilfred Ramsay
Archie Grozell	Clifford (Kip) Routley
Robert Hamilton	Rudolph Sandness
Romeo Hardero	Edward Sauder
Barbara Hepworth	Kurt Schwankmayer
Hans Himmel	Kevin A. Scott
Erwin Hoffman	Barry Shewfelt
Jules Houle	Elmer Smith
Peter Isbister	Peter Staff
Walter Jary	Ernest Stich
Howard Johnston	Robert Swanson
Elmar Kalnin	Ross Thomas
Abner Kay	Ernesto Valente
Metro (Duke) Kinaschuk	George Wadsworth
John Kempf	David Wall
Harry V. Klassen	Guenther Wellmann
Eslie Kleinsteuber	Grant H. Young





# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen  
Retired Local 258 member

**B**efore I get going on this I should warn you that you may not be able to read it. See, I'm sort of a couple of days beyond the deadline imposed by the editor. Nonetheless I will soldier on as if everything is alright and on time and we'll see what happens.

Spring has almost sprung. I know that for a couple of reasons. Well, more than a couple actually. Reason one is that the outside temperature is around a balmy 82 USAmerican degrees. With your indulgence I'll speak in USAmerican terms because that's where I am. Another reason I know that spring has almost sprung is that Catherine Dear, who is a very organized and organizing person, has commenced putting things into the camper preparatory to the trip home. Although that trip is still a few weeks away I can assure you that Catherine Dear will be ready when the day arrives. A third reason I know that spring is imminent is that the "To Do" list of chores (the one I have been sort of ignoring for some months now because there's lots of time to get things done) is prominently displayed on a daily basis. Of course the biggest indicator that spring is almost upon us is the greed factor instituted by the oil companies. Every year as spring approaches the gasoline prices go way up to capture maximum profit from the travellers. This year the oil companies have the unrest in the Middle East as an added pretext to justify their insatiable quest for increased profit. So now you have some of the reasons I know that spring is about to be sprung. We need these indicators of spring here because there are no robins to count.


Can I get back to this oil business for a minute? My reading of the news indicates that there is no interruption in the flow of oil from the Middle East. However the oil companies, oil brokers and other assorted middlemen that realize profit from inflated oil prices fear that there MIGHT be an interruption and so they'd best squeeze all the money they can out of the system before that happens. I have noticed that they don't say there MIGHT be an interruption and so the prices MIGHT go up. I guess their actions are what can be called, in military parlance, a pre-emptive strike. I also heard on the news that the USAmericans have a bunch of billions of barrels of oil in reserve that can be released to the market to protect the USAmerican populace from price gouging by foreign oil suppliers. Some politician asked the USAmerican president to release some of that reserve to allay the oil price increases. The request was denied. It seems the price gouging isn't attributable to the foreign oil suppliers but is made in America so it's alright. California, where I am, now has the distinction of having the highest priced gasoline in all of America. Even Hawaii and Alaska have lower prices. Enough of that for now.

The other day I got to ruminating about the "Middle East".

What do you suppose it's in the middle of? I mean I hear terms like "Middle East" and "Far East". I never hear anything about the "Near East". Like what is the Far East far from? Asking around, I am told that the Far East is like Japan and China. From where I live, to get to Japan or China I would have to go west. If I went east I would wind up in Toronto. Does that make Toronto the Near East? It puzzles me as to why places in Africa are called the Middle East. Wouldn't it be easier, and shorter, just to say Africa? There are lots of USAmerican movies termed "Westerns" that depict life in the "Wild West". A great percentage of them are set in Texas. To get to Texas from where I am I have to travel a whole bunch of miles east. How does that make Texas west? Maybe Texas is like Toronto and should be called the "Near East". Of course if that happened all the movie makers would have to film "Near Eastern" movies and talk about the wild Near East. I apologize for not having a definitive answer to all these questions. Perhaps this will give you an appreciation of the intensive rumination required of retirees when faced with subjects like these. I certainly will have to ruminate a lot more before I can make a final conclusion about east and west. The concept of north and south is much easier to grasp and so requires almost no rumination at all.

Another session of rumination that required a significant amount of my time has to do with food. Specifically about how dirty food is. It all came about because of the "To Do" list that contained the chore of cleaning the barbecue. I should perhaps clarify that in some of the western states that are really to the east, like Texas, the device we call a barbecue is called a grill. So anyway, I was cleaning the barbecue/grill and became quite intrigued with the amount of dirty stuff I was faced with. The only things that have ever been in the barbecue/grill are foodstuffs. Rumination led me to the conclusion that all that dirt came from the food. I wondered if there was that much dirt in and on the barbecue/grill how much dirt had I eaten. I then got to thinking that if I hadn't used the barbecue/grill at all I would have ingested a whole lot more dirt. Maybe the marketers of barbecue/grills should advertise their products as food cleansers as well as food cookers.

As I get older I am increasingly aware of the need to conserve my energy level. As a result I have purposefully refrained from entering into rumination about the political situation in British Columbia. The little snippets that have slipped through my rumination filter have caused some distress and have indicated the need for considerable rumination. I will commit to this undertaking once I am back home in New Westminster.

Please continue to work and play safely. It doesn't matter whether you are east or west, retirement is good. 

# Your website: [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## EITI signs agreement to provide training services at Oklahoma State University

The Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT: <http://www.osuit.edu/>) and the Electrical Industry Training Institute, Inc. (EITI) have signed a collaboration agreement that will provide leading-edge training for workers in the electrical industry throughout the United States.

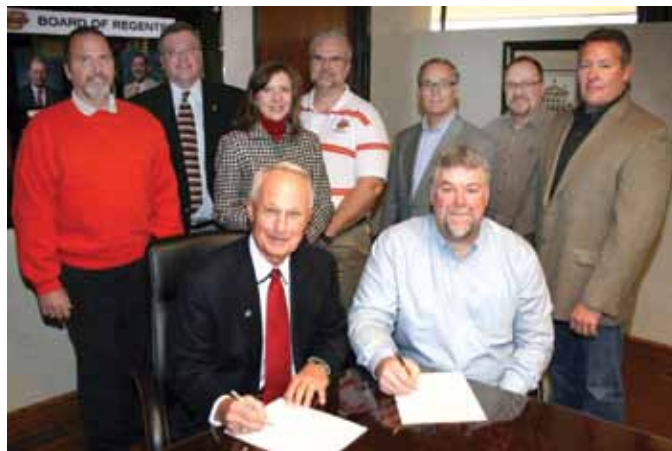
The agreement will provide for coordination between OSUIT and EITI for training of electrical linemen, power plant and substation operators, electrical power engineers and electrical utility workers. OSUIT and EITI will share training responsibilities, curriculum and instructors to train workers from a variety of electrical utilities and rural electric cooperatives. Classes will be held on the OSUIT campus in Okmulgee.

“This agreement will allow OSUIT to greatly expand its capability in the training of incumbent workers in the electrical power industry,” according to Dr. Robert Klabenes, president of OSUIT. “The OSUIT associate in applied science degree in high voltage and power plant technology is seen as the leading credential for entry-level workers. Now, partnering with EITI will allow for state-of-the-art training for incumbent workers in the electrical power industry as well.”

Since 1991, EITI has trained thousands of electrical utility industry personnel throughout the world. EITI Executive Director, Phil Davis, says he’s excited about the possibilities for the OSUIT/EITI collaboration. “We have heard about the OSUIT programs for many years and how the institution turns out world-class electrical line workers,” Davis stated. “This is a tremendous opportunity for EITI and OSUIT to work jointly to increase training opportunities for incumbent workers and deliver the most up-to-date hands-on education to those workers.”

The two organizations are also working to implement a short-term Lineman Career Preparation Certificate program, which will provide entry-level training for those interested in pursuing careers in the electrical utility industry.

“We understand there is substantial interest in jobs in the elec-



*Front Row: Dr. Bob Klabenes, OSUIT president; Phil Davis, EITI executive director. Back Row: Gene Nunn, OSUIT High Voltage instructor; Mark Hays, OSUIT Economic Development and Training Center manager; Anita Gordy-Watkins, OSUIT’s vice president of University and External Relations; Steve Olmstead, OSUIT’s Construction Technologies division chair; Kerry Van Sickle, EITI director of finance and operations; Larry Byhre, EITI board member; Mike Cannon, U.S. training consultant.*

trical utility industry, and this program would allow participants to receive a thorough understanding of the mental and physical qualities needed to succeed,” Davis said. “EITI and OSUIT will be delivering a core set of courses for electrical utility workers, but we will also continuously be working to develop new courses as industry need arises.”

Training for electrical utility incumbent workers will begin in Spring 2011 on the Okmulgee campus. “Demand for training is substantial among utilities as new safety requirements and upgrading of infrastructure requires constant skill upgrades among workers,” Klabenes stated. “OSUIT and EITI are confident this collaboration will meet the needs of the electrical utility industry.”



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# Modest Canada Pension Plan contribution increases rejected by Harper government



*Local 258 President Michelle Laurie joined with other labour activists at the leadership assembly on fighting for retirement security that took place in Burnaby in March.*

Burnaby. He described the cost-effective benefits a modest increase in CPP contributions now is better for Canadians than the planned pooled registered pension plans (PRPPs) idea currently being put forward by the Harper government as a result of the December meeting.

PRPPs have higher administration costs as they will be run by financial institutions, effectively decreasing the return when it comes time for retirement.

Canadians are being encouraged to take action now to ensure retirement security is achieved for future generations of Canadians.

## TAKE ACTION NOW!

- 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 Provincial Representative and ask them to support the CLC’s proposed change to the CPP.
- Assist with the campaign, sign up online now at [canadianlabour.ca/action-center](http://canadianlabour.ca/action-center).
- Join the Facebook page “Retirement Security for Everyone”.
- TALK WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS in your workplace and ask them to call their MPs and provincial government representatives. Ensure this campaign is discussed at your union meeting.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper. 📧

Are you concerned about your retirement? A strong coalition of labour activists, students, anti-poverty groups, seniors organizations and retirees are, and they showed their determination to continue the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) campaign, “Retirement Security for Everyone” by gathering for an information session in Burnaby in March, one of several similar events taking place across Canada. The CLC campaign is seeking modest contribution increases to the Canada Pension Plan with the goal of preventing retirement poverty for future generations of Canadians.

With the Harper government’s rejection of CPP expansion at a meeting that took place in December in Kananaskis, Alberta – a recommendation put forward by seven of Canada’s provincial Finance Ministers – there is now an even greater urgency to convince our federal decision-makers that CPP expansion is a good thing for Canadians.

Sylvain Schetange, a senior economist with the CLC, made the presentation in



*Sylvain Schetange, Senior Economist with the CLC, presented information to labour activists in Burnaby on the importance of increasing contributions to CPP to fight retirement poverty.*

## WCB Teleclaim service for injured workers

**1-888-WORKERS**

1-888-967-5377 or #5377 on your 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.



JHSC Basic & Advanced • Incident Investigations • Chemical Hazards  
Strains, Aches & Pains • Prevention of Violence in the Workplace  
Understanding & Preventing Stress • Ergonomics for Drivers & Operators

**Providing province-wide education for  
Joint Health & Safety Committees**

View our course schedule and descriptions at  
[www.healthandsafetybc.ca](http://www.healthandsafetybc.ca)

*Could this happen in BC?*

## Workers stripped of right to collective bargaining



Photo by Mark Riechers

More than a hundred thousand workers have been marching in the streets in Madison, Wisconsin and occupying the state legislature building for weeks now in an unsuccessful effort to stop legislation put forward by Republican Governor Scott Walker that strips 175,000 public service workers of their collective bargaining rights. In March, with the stroke of a pen in a disputed vote in the Wisconsin Assembly, those workers

saw their rights disappear with the passage of that legislation.

In an effort to destroy the labour movement and to shred public services, the draconian legislation was supported by big business after a significant tax cut had just been granted to the powerful lobby group. Public sector workers and their collective agreements are falsely being blamed for the fiscal deficit the state finds itself in – a crisis that has been caused by failures in government regulation, corporate mismanagement and irresponsible risk-taking in the financial sector, according to the conclusions of a US government Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

Now, public service workers will no longer be able to negotiate working conditions, health and safety and worker's compensation provisions, leave entitlements, seniority rules, equality provisions, grievance procedures, representation rights, pensions and benefits. Real salary increases will have to be put to a referendum.

The IBEW is supporting the battle over collective bargaining rights, right-to-work legislation, and other labour issues taking place in Wisconsin and other states that have spurred the labour movement to its greatest level of international and grassroots activism in decades.

Could something like this happen in BC? Local 258 members may recall when the BC Liberal government passed Bill 29 in 2002 – legislation that was eventually struck down by Canada's highest court in 2008 – that dismantled the collective bargaining rights of tens of thousands of health care workers in this province.

Despite massive opposition, Republican legislators have pursued their course, and other US states are considering similar action. This assault on long accepted collective agreements is disastrous for all workers and for citizens who depend on quality public services. Labour movements across Canada and the US oppose this hostile agenda and are standing in solidarity. ⚡



Photo by Mark Riechers

**Attention Motorcycle Enthusiasts!**

## IBEW Mason-Dixon Motorcycle Ride

Planning your summer holiday? The IBEW's Annual Motorcycle Ride will take place on Saturday, July 16, 2011, in York, Pennsylvania. This year's ride is called "The IBEW Mason-Dixon Ride". Last year members rode through the mountains of West Virginia, this year we will ride through the mountains and historic areas in the states of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The IBEW Mason-Dixon Ride will start at 10:00 am on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>. The registration fee is \$25.00 per participant and you can register online by visiting [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org).

A block of rooms has been secured at a local hotel for those interested in reserving a room by June 15, 2011.

## WIN A HARLEY!



Get your tickets now and have your CHANCE TO WIN a Dark Candy Root Beer 2011 Harley-Davidson FL Road King® Classic motorcycle and/or two cash prizes of \$5000 EACH!

### EARLY BIRD DRAW!

Win \$5000 in the Early Bird Draw that takes place May 19, 2011, at the 23rd Annual IBEW/MS Charity Golf Tournament in Mississauga, Ontario.

Winning ticket goes back in for the next draw.

**Tickets \$100 each**  
CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUE ONLY

**Only 500 tickets will be sold!**

**For IBEW members only!**

Contact Lesli at the union office today for your tickets!

The draw for the Harley-Davidson will take place as soon as all the tickets are sold, or at the IBEW All Canada Progress Meeting in Quebec City, QC, on July 13, 2011, where a 2nd \$5000 cash prize will also be drawn.

Proceeds to assist in hosting the Canadian International Representatives' Reception at the 2011 IBEW International Convention in Vancouver, BC.





# PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, welcomes Brothers Ron Hartley, Trevor Horn, Markus Rahala & Mark Naherniak at their initiation as IBEW members at the October 14, 2010, Unit 5 meeting at the Local 258 office in Burnaby.



Unit 5 Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth, left, congratulates Brother Marcel Daoust, retired line-man, on receipt of his 55 year service award and pin as a member of IBEW on October 19, 2010, in Powell River.



Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, welcomes Brother Ramil Nacionales as he is initiated at the December 2010 Unit 5 union meeting in Burnaby.



Congratulations to Brother Fred Sorensen, left, who was presented with a retirement plaque and jacket from Brother Ray Hern, Shop Steward in Bella Coola.



Brother Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair, right, presented Brother Bill Laible with IBEW 'goodies' for his recent retirement.



Brother Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair, right, congratulates Brother Bob Brewis on his recent retirement as he received IBEW 'goodies'.



Brother Leon Arishenkoff, right, awarded Brother Harold Stefano his 50 year IBEW membership certificate.



Unit 6 Vice Chair Chris Carter welcomes Brother Paul Askin following his initiation at the March meeting.



A 5 year IBEW service pin was awarded to Brother Daryl Miskovich by Brother Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair.



A 20 year IBEW service pin was awarded to Brother Brian Buehler by Brother Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair at the Vernon Unit 3 meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Guy LaMarre on your retirement!

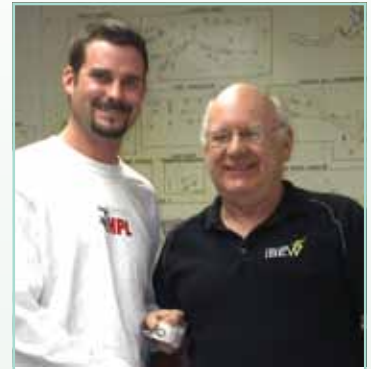




IBEW member Brother Greg Humphries, right, was recently awarded his 35 year service pin by Brother Colin Kenney, Unit 3 Chair.



Congratulations to Brother Rene Cote on his recent retirement where he was awarded a plaque and jacket from Local 258.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney congratulates Brother Matt Wilcox on being awarded a 5 year IBEW service pin.



Congratulations to Brother Stan Perry on his recent retirement. He received his retirement 'goodies' from Local 258 by Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney.



Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney congratulates Brother Trevor Wareham on being awarded his 5 year IBEW service pin.



Congratulations to Brother Len Klick on his recent retirement. He received his retirement 'goodies' from Local 258 Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney.



Brother Greg Horton was recently awarded his 30 year IBEW service pin by Brother Trevor Williams, Unit 3 Vice Chair.



At the January 2011 Edmonds ATTC meeting, Brother Tyler Orme, a recent graduate Mechanic who now works in Bridge River, gave a presentation to the entire ATCC outlining his training and apprenticeship. Tyler represented BC at the Canadian Brier last year in Halifax and also talked about his experiences competing at national curling events. From left to right are Chris Dahl, manager, ATTC Mechanic Sub-Committee, Brother Tyler Orme and Brother Dave Mengerig, IBEW representative on the ATTC Mechanic Sub-Committee.



Congratulations to IBEW members Brother Dan Percy and to Brother Peter Lee who recently retired from working at BGS. A retirement gathering took place at Burrard Thermal where cake was served and retirement goodies awarded.



**PHOTO  
OPPORTUNITY  
LU 258**



# PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



*Recent Mechanic Grad Ryan Neal received his graduation documents and is shown above, center, being congratulated by IBEW member Dave Mengerling, right, and Manager Chris Dahl, at Kootenay Canal GS.*



*Congratulations to Brother Joe Haines, left, as he was initiated as a member of the IBEW at the January 2011 Unit 6 meeting. He is shown here with his uncle Dale Haines, Local 258 Recording Secretary.*



*Jeremy Giesbrecht is the third generation of his family to be initiated as a member of the IBEW. He is shown above with his father Dan Jr., on the right, who works as an ABM with Local 258 and his grandfather Dan Sr. who is retired from BC Hydro.*



*Recent Mechanic Grad Kyle Hohert received his graduation documents and is shown above, center, being congratulated by IBEW member Dave Mengerling, right, and Manager Chris Dahl, at Seven Mile GS.*

## HOTLINE



**THE HOTLINE IS PUBLISHED BY:**

Local 258  
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As you have read, your elected members gathered to discuss issues and opportunities that influence the direction our Local can take going forward. At the end of our week, we identified four major areas of focus: member engagement, communications, survey possibilities and fund options. The survey contained in this issue addresses our communications methods, and based on the level of response, we will determine how to reach out to members to garner input on engagement, surveying and fund options. More specifically with respect to the latter, we talked about the possibilities of creating specific fund structures for campaigns, for education, for defense initiatives, and about the various methods supporting and then utilizing such fund structures. We had great discussion on the various methods of surveying members, and decided first to try utilizing this venue, so I would ask you to spend a few minutes to provide us some feedback with the survey. Engagement, we decided, will flow somewhat from the responses we receive regarding the other issues – we know that we get very limited engagement through our current meeting structure, and will be probing to find out what and how much engagement is meaningful to you.

We've touched on union and safety issues in this edition of the magazine, and I want, in this Back Corner, to look at another major influence on our lives and work – politics. This is a big year in BC – that there could be a federal election this spring, there will be a referendum on the HST and perhaps a provincial election, and municipal elections occur throughout the province in November. Lots of decisions, lots of points of view to consider, and lots of candidates to evaluate.

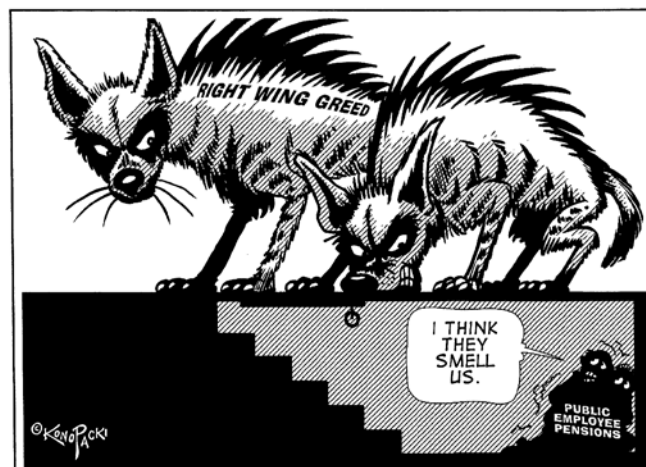
In the past, I felt strongly that any vote should be for the person, regardless of political party. Integrity, intelligence and a bit of wit matter to me, as well as a demonstrated understanding of the local issues. These things remain important, but in our parliamentary system, I have come to believe that I must seek out the party that best reflects my issues and values, and then get involved to try to get the right person representing that party. Maybe it's because I'm getting old, but I am increasingly frightened by the trend away from social responsibility by government towards a corporate sponsorship model, wherein the economy is only meas-

## From the Back Corner

Report from  
Michelle Laurie,  
President, Local 258 IBEW



ured by the success of large companies, not by the success of citizens. When financial crisis happens, it seems that working people have to bear the responsibility – government can afford to bail out banks, but not individuals – we pay through consumption taxes on gas, on hydro, tolls on bridges – all things that cost those with the least the very most in terms of percentage of actual disposable income. Our federal Conservative government has decided that we would be better off with RRSPs that pay huge administrative fees to banks instead of increasing our Canada Pension Plan benefits – despite the fact that most of Canada's provincial Finance Ministers also supported an increase to CPP! If we continue to be lead by such far right ideologues, I fear we will be railroaded into being accustomed to government heavy handedness like that going on in Wisconsin and Michigan (where the Governor is passing legislation that would give him the right to destroy any contracts, fire any elected officials, and impose any measure he sees fit, if he decides a city is in financial crisis). I urge you to find out who is running in your community, to find out what they and their party stand for, and to ask questions about how they will govern. Will it be about lowering your taxes at all costs, or will it be about protecting the kind of society you value? For me, it is about government that takes responsibility for regulation and for ensuring that there is an equality of opportunity – for education, for health care, for a decent standard of living for working people, not just for the rich. ☑





## 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.**