



HOTLINE






OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
WINTER, 2012

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC HYDRO'S DECREASING RELIABILITY – WHO'S TO BLAME?

With rates rising and major bargaining for BC Hydro workers set to begin, what's happening to our public power utility?

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HOTLINE Winter 2012

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LOCAL 258 IBEW

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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Cover photo: Burning oil from a BC Hydro substation fire could be seen for miles as a transformer exploded at the Atchelitz Substation in Chilliwack knocking out power for tens of thousands of customers and requiring an environmental cleanup.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

As the winter ends — maybe — and we look forward to the spring, bargaining for public sector workers looms large in British Columbia. Here at Local 258, we are embarking on negotiations for a new contract for our members working at BC Hydro (BCH) with our contract expiring on March 31st.

Your BCH Bargaining Committee are well prepared to stand strong to make gains for our hardworking members with this round of bargaining. At the same time, we know we are facing a battle. Not only has the government mandated “ZERO” money, there’s been an escalating attack on public sector workers coming from all angles. The rising rhetoric from government and their allies on talk radio and in newspapers makes one think public sector workers are nothing more than bullies who have managed to find a way to “rip off” the public with their “union” contracts. On a daily basis we’re hearing and reading a plethora of harmful accusations directed at public sector workers including harsh criticisms about public sector pensions, wages and benefits. We’ve been bombarded with news articles and commentary about how public sector workers are going to put us and future generations in the poor house, how “lazy” public sector workers are, how it’s unfair “they” get this and “they” get that and the rest of us poor slobs in the private sector get nothing like the “union” workers.

And now we have a Premier who claims “our government’s top priority is defending and creating jobs” while at the same time she tells viewers on the province’s most popular news broadcast she’s instructed BC Hydro to cut a thousand jobs! With the BC Liberal website proudly advertising they are “focusing on jobs in the private sector”, this attack is clearly aimed at those of us who work hard every day in the public sector.

What we’re not seeing is much ink or air time devoted to the obvious government **mismanagement** of... well, basically, the government! I am getting a lot of feedback as I travel around the province meeting with members, and what I’m hearing is that British Columbians are getting very tired – no, they’re actually fed up – with how this government is (mis)managing the province. From having to pay more and more out of our pockets as a result of BC government policies and directives, including the HST (we’re still waiting for it to be “gone”), increased fees for all kinds of things including licenses and permits, bridge tolls (the new Port Mann bridge toll will cost each worker who has to commute back and forth across it at least \$1500 a year), rising car insurance rates, BC Hydro rates, and ferry travel, I’m getting the real sense British Columbians are beginning to backlash.

It might not be so bad if we felt secure this Province had effective leadership and there was no monkeying around with our Crown corporations. What’s happened to BC Hydro under this government has been shameful. The “BC Energy Plan”, the “Clean Energy



“BC Hydro is going to be cutting a thousand employees... that is my direction to them because we are a government that is about creating jobs for British Columbians...”

Christy Clark, BC Premier
GlobalTV News
February 8, 2012

Act” and the government directed abuse of “deferral accounts”, just to name a few, are initiatives that appear to be nothing more than a guise for pillaging the utility at the expense of growth and maintenance of Hydro’s infrastructure and the very viability of BCH itself. It’s almost like this government is intentionally trying to destroy BCH so they can sell it off to their friends in the private sector!

So what does all this political commentary I am writing today have to do with our members - the guys and gals who gets up every day, sometimes in the middle of night, to trod off to do an honest day’s work to support themselves and their families? Why should our union even be concerned about what the government does? Some may ask, why does the union even get involved in politics?

Well, my friends, our union has to be involved and we have to pay attention and make our opinion known using all the avenues that are open to us. If the government can, with the simple stroke of a pen, change our lives by forcing legislation, mandates, orders and policies that have a negative impact on our working lives, we cannot simply sit back, as an organization who tries very hard to represent the best interests of our members, and be silent.

With the recent awarding of a contract for new transmission line construction to an Alberta-based company who was bringing Alberta workers with them, your union recently had the experience of fighting for these jobs and thanks to the efforts of many here at the Union Hall, we have been successful in securing this work for Local 258 members. We must remain vigilant though as every effort to secure outside labour will be made. It’s bewildering to think we have a government that, in spite of a “Families First” and a “BC Jobs Plan” agenda, the focus appears to be to bring in cheap, low wage workers from anywhere instead of supporting opportunities for BC workers to make a decent wage while working near their families.

I want to encourage each and every one of you to get to know your Shop Steward as they will help bring current information to you about the ongoing negotiations. We will also be using our website for communication and most importantly, attend your union meetings - that is where you will always get the official word and have a chance for discussion about the issues. I look forward to working as hard as I can on your behalf to achieve the best contract. 🇨🇦

Get the scoop on what's going with contract negotiations and other important union business

You pay union dues. You get a say in what goes on with your union.

Come and find out what your union is doing. Have a voice.

Attend your upcoming union meeting:

Unit 1 - North Coast

Terrace: April 12 @ 7:00 pm at the Best Western

Unit 2 - Central Interior

Hudson's Hope: April 19 @ 4:30 pm at Pearkes Centre

Prince George: April 18 @ 7:00 pm, location TBA

Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Castlegar: April 10 @ 7:00 pm at Fireside Inn

Cranbrook: April 11 @ 4:30 pm at the Labour Temple

Invermere: April 12 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

Mica: March 20 @ 6:00 pm in the Curling Rink

Revelstoke: Mar. 19 @ 4:15 pm, Hydro Dam Conference Room

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Nanaimo: April 11 @ 7:00 pm at RCL #256

Qualicum Beach: April 10 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: April 12 @ 5:00 pm at the Local 258 IBEW office

Sechelt: March 28 @ 5:00 pm at Seaside Centre

Powell River: March 27 @ 4:30 pm at the Coast Hotel

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Langley: April 10 @ 7:00 pm @ USW Hall, 200th St.

Chilliwack: April 11 @ 7:00 pm at the Best Western

STRIKES, LOCKOUTS & BOYCOTTS

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

STRIKES & LOCKOUTS

Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union, Local 378 VS. Telecommunication Workers Pension Plan

Major Issues: Wages

Commenced: February 15, 2012

BC Teachers Federation VS. BC Public School Employers Association

Major Issues: Benefits, Wages

Commenced: September, 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

Service Employees International Union, Local 2 VS. Nico-Wynd Golf Course

Commenced: February 19, 2012

Settled: February 20, 2012

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

Commenced: September 26, 2011

Settled: February, 2012

Bargaining for new contracts underway across British Columbia


Local 258 is ready and set to go for major bargaining across British Columbia with the expiry of the BC Hydro and other contracts happening at the end of March.

Business Manager Doug McKay reports, “We are ready as we can be for this round of negotiations with BC Hydro, if you want to call them negotiations. We realize the major challenges we are up against as the Provincial Government has directed a zero mandate when it comes to wages. Our Bargaining Committee for Hydro has had preliminary meetings as we prepare to negotiate and we hope to achieve the best gains possible for our members as we move forward.”

McKay says the aggressive approach by the Provincial Government when it comes to public sector workers has been ramping up as deadlines for major contracts loom. “There has been lots and lots of rhetoric, by both this Provincial Government and their counterparts federally about public sector workers and their “fat”

pensions, how we are costing the public so much money and how this is untenable in the long run. At the same time, the Provincial Government monkeys around with BC Hydro revenues with the creation of 27 deferral accounts and continues to take, take, take and force our public utility to raise the rates for consumers to meet the promises they have made to their “friends” in the private sector as a result of lucrative private power contracts and other financial mismanagement.”

In other bargaining, Acting ABM Nicole Biernaczyk reports Schneider Electric and Canadian Process Controls are at the bargaining table as those contracts also expire at the end of March. Members have stepped forward to participate in bargaining with Simon Creamer from Schneider and Peter Allum from CPC representing their co-workers.

In the union’s traffic control division, members working at Walk the Line in Sechelt are in negotiations as their contract expired last June. 

BC Hydro Bargaining
Bargaining with BC Hydro falls under guidelines imposed by the Public Sectors Employers Council (PSEC), who, by legislation, are responsible for “human resource management and labour relations” for employees of BC Crown Corporations, including union members.

PSEC members are appointed by government with the Chair being the Minister of Public Safety, who currently is the Honourable Shirley Bond (Prince George-Valemount).

This year, the Council’s ability to bargain is restricted to the government’s “2012 Cooperative Gains Mandate” which allows for modest wage increases by finding “productivity increases” within existing budgets – in other words, no new money.

Minister of Finance Kevin Falcon (Surrey-Cloverdale) has confirmed this mandate as recently as his Budget speech in February where he said, “There is no money in this plan for wage increases.”

The Minister of Energy and Mines holds the portfolio and responsibility for BC Hydro is the Honourable Rich Coleman (Fort Langley-Aldergrove).

Your Rank & File BC Hydro Bargaining Committee members are:

Brother Larry Byhre, Unit 3, Kamloops - Electrician

Brother Rupinder Dhillon, Unit 6, Surrey - Meter Tech

Brother Rick Gerrard, Unit 6, Surrey - Storekeeper

Brother Dave Herrington, Unit 5, Port Coquitlam - Op Area Dispatcher

Brother Dave McMinn, Unit 2, Prince George - Lineman

Brother David Mengerig, Unit 2, Fort St. John - Mechanic

Brother David Rathlef, Unit 4, Victoria - CPC Technologist

Brother Frank Nassachuk, Unit 6, Surrey - Electrician

They will be joined by Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay, Local 258 Senior Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell, Local 258 Legal Staff Rebecca Murdock and Professional Negotiator Garnet Zimmerman.

BC Utilities Commission doubles rate rider to pay for Liberal mismanagement at BC Hydro

In a press release issued in mid-February, the Official Opposition cited the BC Utilities Commission ruling to double the Deferral Account Rate Rider that appears on BC Hydro customer's bills every month is a clear rebuke of the BC Liberals' attempt to continue to hide and defer the costs of mismanaged energy policy.

"The Liberals have been interfering with BC Hydro for 10 years, adding costs and putting off expenses to future generations, and now the chickens have come home to roost," said John Horgan, MLA for Juan de Fuca and the Official Opposition House Leader and Critic for Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The BC Utilities Commission rejected BC Hydro's request to continue paying back their growing deferral accounts with a 2.5 per cent "rate rider," ruling instead that the premium already being paid by ratepayers must double to at

least five per cent beginning April 1, 2012.

"This is a clear indictment of the way the Liberals have been running BC Hydro. The government's job is to set policy, not rates," said Horgan.

"The Liberals' internal review panel went looking for ways to lower rate increases, but the Utilities Commission has now said they won't allow the billions accumulating in the deferral accounts to continue to grow."

Last October, the Auditor General issued a scathing report showing BC Hydro has racked up \$2.2 billion in deferral accounts, a number set to rise to \$5 billion by 2017.

The BCUC wrote in its Reasons for Decision on Feb. 15, 2012: "Recent history indicates that the Deferral Account net balances have continued and are continuing to grow, without any opportunity in sight to clear them."

The BCUC's ruling accepted BC Hydro's requested rate increase of 3.91 per cent, but noted it was because there is "no precedent for the Commission to grant a higher interim rate than sought by the Applicant." BC Hydro originally requested a 9.73 per cent increase, plus the continued 2.5 per cent Deferral Account Rate Rider, but lowered their request to 3.91 per cent after the Liberals ordered the change.

"Premier Christy Clark made a cynical move to try to lower the required rate increases BC Hydro needs to pay for 11 years of the Liberals' total mismanagement of the Crown corporation," said Horgan. "The damage is done. No one wants to see higher rates, but the blame for this rests squarely with the BC Liberals."

FROM THE BC NDP'S REALITY CHECK FILES

The Liberals' Failure on Electricity Self-Sufficiency

The Clean Energy Act put into law the requirement for BC Hydro to become electricity self-sufficient, defined by a 50-year drought water level, plus a massive insurance requirement of an additional 3000 GWh. This policy has been a major driver of the Liberals' push towards buying high-cost power from Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

February's announcement that the definition of self-sufficiency would be changed is an astonishing admission of failure by the Liberals.

Other policies, such as restricting BC Hydro from building its own new sources of power, and eliminating communities' right to be consulted on power projects in their region, along with reckless programs like the billion-dollar smart meter roll-out, continue to weaken BC's public utility.

While relaxing self-sufficiency requirements, the Liberals plan to maintain the need to purchase

power from private producers by claiming it will be used to fuel new LNG plants on the Northwest coast, despite the fact that intermittent power from run-of-river and wind is virtually useless without firm power sources, such as BC's heritage dams.

The Liberals have forced BC Hydro to rack up \$45 billion in contractual obligations, primarily to IPPs. The Liberals have accused New Democrats of planning to tear up those contracts, which is simply untrue.

The Liberals refuse to admit the costs of their mismanagement of BC Hydro, which is why they have sidelined the independent public oversight of the BC Utilities Commission. New Democrats have consistently made it clear that BC Hydro must have a renewed mandate for a leading role in BC's electricity delivery and development, and the oversight of the BCUC must be restored.

LU 258 Shop Stewards share experiences and enhance service to members with Training Seminar

Nicole Biernaczyk

LU 258 Acting ABM, Organizer

Local 258 brought Shop Stewards from across BC to Surrey in early December for a workshop and seminar focusing on the important roles they play as front line union member representatives in the workplace.

Twenty-two of the union's finest reps participated in the 'jam-packed' day of learning, brain storming and sharing with several new Shop Stewards also having the opportunity to learn about the trials, tribulations and experiences described by some of the union's more seasoned Stewards.

The day-long workshop was facilitated by Brother Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager and Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Acting ABM and Local 258's Organizer.

Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay started the day with an inspirational message of encouragement and appreciation to the Stewards, who, he noted, dedi-

cate themselves to what is often referred to as 'the most thankless job they may ever take on'. Also on hand for the day were Brother Jim Greenwell, Senior Assistant Business Manager and ABM Brother Dan Giesbrecht.


The Stewards attending the training seminar represent members who work at BC Hydro, for Private Line Contractors and Utility Arborists (Tree Services), in Traffic Control and in Electrical Manufacturing. This mix made for interesting break-out sessions with discussions revealing a wide range of experiences as Stewards used their skills in working through sample grievances. Focusing on leadership in the workplace, the 'students' strengthened their knowledge with learning ways their roles in the workplace can provide a wide range of assistance to their co-workers.

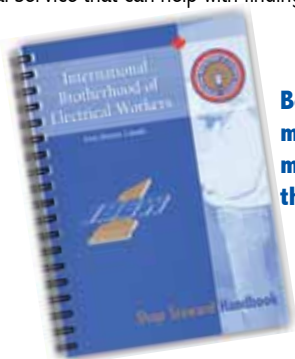
What do Shop Stewards do?

The Shop Steward is a symbol of industrial democracy in the workplace. Stewards are the "guardians of workers rights and benefits gained through negotiations".

Stewards are leaders in the workplace who represent their co-workers. They are the link between the union and management and help enforce the collective agreement with fair and objective assistance to union members. Being a spokesperson for the members to management is a top priority for the Steward and to speak up about safety issues and concerns and carry out general union policies in dealing with the employer. They also help communicate information to members from the Local, the IBEW and the labour movement in general.

Stewards are vital in providing service and support to members. Welcoming new members, informing all members about the protections and benefits gained through negotiating the collective agreement and ensuring new members have a copy of the contract are some of the responsibilities of your Shop Steward. Stewards encourage members to attend Unit meetings and to support union activities. They are also your link to current information about additional services the union offers such as financial assistance for educational opportunities and information about the union's member-to-member counselling and referral service that can help with finding resources to help with problems at work or at home that are affecting your well-being.

Look for your Shop Steward in your workplace and get to know them. Their knowledge, support and assistance helps us all work together to build a stronger union and a better future for our members working in British Columbia. 



Being a Steward is "one of the most vital positions in the labour movement and labour accords it the greatest respect."

*Phil Flemming
International Vice President
IBEW First District*

Many thanks to the following Local 258 members for participating in Local 258's Shop Steward Training Seminar:

David Bjorkman

BC HYDRO

Charles Bridal

BC HYDRO

Terry Ford

BC HYDRO

Anita Friesen

VALLEY TRAFFIC SYSTEMS

Ryan Hawryluk

BC HYDRO

Ian Lamplugh

ISLAND TRAFFIC SERVICES

Adam Lee

BC HYDRO

Paul Lu

BC HYDRO

George (Brad) Malfair

BC HYDRO

Sterling McKay

BC HYDRO

Devon Nye

DAVEY TREE SERVICES

Tyler Orme

BC HYDRO

Marc Spencer

BC HYDRO

Martin Van Beek

FAST LANE TRAFFIC SERVICES

R. Michael Wallace

GALBRAITH POWER

Brian Widmer

BC HYDRO

Tom Wyllie

ATC TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Michael Callaghan

BC HYDRO

Leah Dueck

TRAFFIC PRO SERVICES

Shaun Greenwell

BC HYDRO

Eric Dzus

HOBART

New Unit 6 Chair, Chris Carter, reports on attending the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School

This is a quick report on my experience at the 2012 CLC Winter School. I was selected by the Local's Executive Board to attend "Union Counseling - Level One" during the first week of classes at this year's Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Winter School.

The course I took was facilitated by Dileep Athiede, a retired Professor of Geology who served some time as a representative for the CLC and is currently working at the United Way of the Lower Mainland. The co-facilitator was our very own Michelle Laurie.

This course was the first in a four part system. The skills that were taught in the Level One course included history of the CLC, information about Employee Family Assistance programs, reflection on "isms" in the workplace, community referrals, interview skills, stress at home and in the workplace, and, finally, we looked at addictions and dependencies.

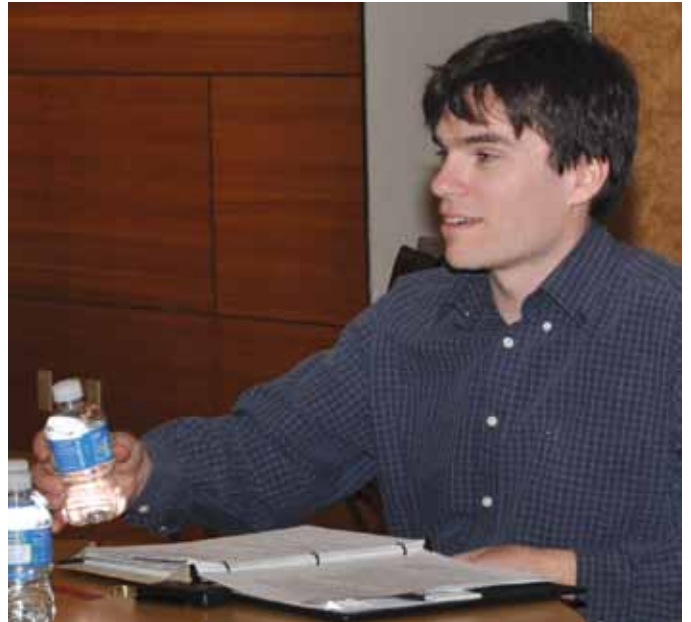
These issues were presented and then we would role play scenarios that may be encountered at a workplace. I was surprised to find on Sunday as I checked the class list that there was 21 people in my class. Having a big group gave the class a great spectrum of experiences from many different workplaces.

The above activities took place between 9:00 am to 4:30 pm each day of the week of classes. Outside of the hours spent in class, I found myself very busy with all the pre-organized events organized by the CLC, with events starting from arrival to check out.

To get my credentials, I had to tour a forum of labour displays by local unions and vendors. Sunday evening we were welcomed to the 38th CLC Winter School at Harrison by Amber Hockin, the CLC Pacific Region Director and our MC for the week.

Monday evening was a presentation from Karl Flecker on temporary foreign workers in Canada and Tuesday evening we attended an informal presentation from RCMP Sgt. Dave Smith, the labour communications liaison in BC. He distributed his card and asked for a 'heads up' on rallies and strike activities, with an emphasis on successful civil movements with reduced criminal violations. Wednesday was, of course, Choir Night, with our performance rating a 3-way tie. Thursday night we enjoyed a dinner and dance before our departure on Friday afternoon.

In 2008, I was selected to attend Shop Steward Level One at the Harrison Winter School. I find that I use those skills in all my day-to-day encounters with management. The skills I learned in Union Counseling Level One, I hope, will complement my role as a Shop Steward, and I look forward to helping my co-workers with



Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter at the Unit meeting that took place in February in Langley.

difficulties they may be having in their personal or work lives in a professional and confidential manner.

As a member of the Executive as Unit 6 Chair, I would like to make two recommendations to our Executive Board.

1) Encourage negotiation of attendance by a Local 258 member to the Union Counseling program with all our employers we hold agreements with, if we are not already doing so.

2) Keep the CLC Winter School front and center year-round on our Local Union's website, in the Hotline and at local meetings to enhance awareness of these valuable learning experiences so members can apply in the fall

In closing I would like to thank all the members of the IBEW 258 for recognizing the importance of education and its role in the labour movement. I look forward to using my skills and experiences to further the goals of our union.

In Solidarity,
Chris Carter
Unit 6 Chair
LU 258 IBEW



Are you interested in participating in a Fishing Derby this summer? Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter wants to put the word out he is seeking members who are interested in both helping to plan and participate in an IBEW Local 258 Fishing Derby! Please contact Chris directly via email at: krisdogmatic@hotmail.com

To the Executive of IBEW Local 258,
I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the CLC Winter School this past February 6-10, 2012. The course I took was "Steward Training One". The thought of learning something new was both nerve-racking and exciting at the same time. The facilitators of this course were both knowledgeable and entertaining. The role play was extremely enlightening and shed new light (for myself) as to how a Steward is to operate while on duty at their worksite.

Getting into the head of management was tough, but required to better understand where they're coming from when dealing with different workplace situations.

As a first step to becoming more proactive I think this course was a great start for anyone who wants to be more involved with their Local. For me personally, I thought it was great.

On a final note, the young activists I met (18-21 years of age) really impressed me as to how committed they are to taking on the issues on behalf of themselves and their union brothers and sisters. I noticed they really excel in the new communication era and they sure could teach an old dog like me a thing or two about Facebook, Twitter, texting, etc.

Thank you again for the opportunity to learn and interact with a great bunch of all aged union brothers and sisters. I am excited and willing to take more training to become a better contributing member in good standing with IBEW Local 258.
Yours fraternally
Walter Goodwin

Madam President Michelle Laurie,
I recently attended the CLC Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs and took the Shop Steward 1 course. I found the course very informative and eye opening. There was a great amount of knowledge passed to me that will help me gather information when my duties are called upon to help a fellow brother or sister.

During the course I kept thinking back to the most recent grievance proceeding I had been involved with and could not stop thinking of how I would have worded things differently to change the outcome. Many thoughts went to how I should have conducted myself in the meetings and the questions I should have asked. Now I have the information and can then be able to tackle the issue with a different view.

I would like to attend another training session like this in the future to help further my knowledge of union/company relations. One thing that caught my attention was that our union is set up such that the ABM's work with the majority of the grievances, while the shop stewards just gather information and pass it along. Other unions it appears that the shop stewards do a lot of the first stage work. Something I would like to be able to take forward is to deal with the first stages of a grievance at my level and when the next stages come along then pass it on to the ABM's or BM as needed. Being the eyes and the ears on the floor I feel we become more intimate with the issue and would like to pursue it as far as we can.

I want to thank you for allowing me to attend this training and look forward the next opportunity to attend.

Coleman Mercereau
IBEW 258 Shop Steward
Gordon M. Shrum Generating Station



Local 258 is seeking young members (under 35 years of age) to join the union's Youth Committee and be part of creating the future of our union.

By taking an active role in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker's campaign to engage young members in our union, we invite you to step forward to have your voices heard and to work with your ideas for shaping our union to meet the challenges of the future.

While continuing to provide valued services for all members of our union, looking forward is essential. By engaging our younger members we hope to build upon ideas and suggestions for organizing and for meeting the needs of the next generation. This is your opportunity to get involved!

If you want to have your voice heard and are interested in serving on Local 258's Youth Committee, please contact Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager at Local 258 by e-mail at dan.klassen@ibew258.bc.ca or by phone at 604-520-3305.

142
DAY OF MOURNING
for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job
or who have died as a result of
Occupational Disease
April 28

142 workers died in 2011

Watch the union website for events in your community.

British Columbia Releases Natural Gas Strategy



Will BC Hydro be able to supply the energy if this latest government strategy proceeds?

By Ed Higginbottom

On February 3rd, the Province of British Columbia released its natural gas strategy. One of the key elements of the strategy is to open up new markets for BC's natural gas. The Province wants to develop a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry to ship BC gas to Asia, where the price paid for natural gas, in

Province estimates that industry could invest up to \$20 billion on new infrastructure by 2020, creating 9,000 construction jobs, and 800 permanent jobs in the LNG export terminals.

LNG is simply natural gas in a liquid state. Liquefying natural gas is achieved by removing impurities from the gas, and then refrigerating the gas to minus 160 degrees Celsius (-260 degrees F). At this temperature, the gas reduces to 1/600th of its original volume (like reducing a beach ball to the size of a Ping-Pong ball). This process makes it feasible and economical to transport the LNG long distances in specially designed tankers. At the receiving end, the LNG is reheated for conversion back to a gaseous state for injection into the pipeline system. The facilities (equipment and processes) used to purify, refrigerate, and liquefy the natural gas is called an LNG train. Each LNG export terminal consists of one or more LNG trains.

There are currently four LNG export terminals proposed for the area around Kitimat, BC. Two of these projects, those proposed by Kitimat LNG and the BC LNG Export Cooperative, have received

LNG export licences from Canada's National Energy Board. The other two projects, proposed by Royal Dutch Shell and the Malaysian state-owned petroleum company PETRONAS, are not as far along in the planning and permitting process. The first LNG terminal could be operating by the end of 2015. The provincial government hopes that three of the proposed terminals are operating by 2020.

It is still anyone's guess whether any of these proposed terminals will be built. Many challenges and questions remain. Commercial arrangements have yet to be finalized, environmental assessments have to be performed, new pipelines need to be built, and there is a growing list of countries, many of which already have LNG facilities in place, that are rushing to serve the Asia market.

There are also concerns whether BC Hydro is able to supply the energy needed to run the export terminals in a timely and cost effective manner. The energy requirements of a LNG export industry will depend on how many LNG trains are eventually built, but one estimate quoted in the press suggests that three LNG

(cont'd on next page)

It's still anyone's guess whether any of these proposed terminals will be built.

today's market, can be many times higher than it sells for in North America.

For this to happen, the natural gas industry will have to make large investments in new infrastructure. Potential exporters will need to build new pipelines to transport the gas from the gas fields in the Northeast part of the province to the coast, and build new LNG export terminals to liquefy the gas and load it onto tankers for shipment across the ocean. The

(cont'd from previous page)

terminals would require between 12,000 to 15,000 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of energy annually. By BC Hydro's reckoning, this is enough energy to power the equivalent of well over 1 million homes, and it represents two to three times the annual output of BC Hydro's proposed Site C hydroelectric project (5,100 GWh). In addition, there are concerns about environmental impacts arising from the use of hydraulic fracturing, a necessary process in the extraction of BC shale gas.

Why LNG? Why now?

British Columbia currently produces about 1.1 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas a year. BC consumers use about 16% of this gas, while 43% is shipped to eastern Canada, and 41% is exported to the United States. But the volume of natural gas exports to the US has been almost cut in half since 2005, and natural gas prices across North America are the lowest they have been in over 10 years, about \$2.50 per million British Thermal Units (MMBtu).

This situation is a largely a conse-

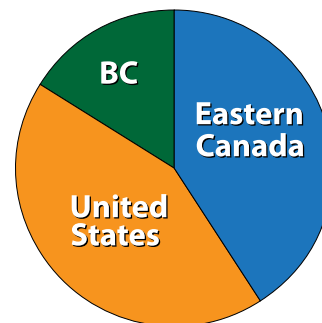
quence of the emergence of "shale gas", which has transformed the North American natural gas industry. Only a few years ago the US Department of Energy forecast that North America would soon be facing natural gas shortages. Now, estimates of shale gas reserves suggest that the US alone has enough domestic shale gas to meet its natural gas needs for over 100 years, at current levels of consumption.

BC also has large reserves of shale gas, about 78 Tcf and growing. The fear is, though, that at the current low prices producers will leave much of this gas in the ground, because the cost of extracting the gas is higher than the price received for it. In Asia, however, because of the way the natural gas market developed, the price for natural gas is more closely linked to the world price for oil, and natural gas prices are therefore much higher than they are in North America. A recent study released


by a natural gas consultancy suggests that natural gas prices in Asia will range from \$11 per MMBtu to \$18 per MMBtu over the next decade. The Province and BC gas producers want to access this market. The Province estimates that if the proposed LNG projects are built, annual provincial

British Columbia Natural Gas Use

Of the approximate 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced a year in this province, BC consumers use about 16%, with the remaining being exported to Eastern Canada and the United States.



production of natural gas could triple to 3 Tcf per year.

None of the proposed pipelines or export terminals associated with the LNG industry are connected or associated with the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway project, which proposes to transport bitumen from Alberta's oil sands to Kitimat for export to Asia and the western United States. 

Environmental Concerns

There are some concerns about the effects shale gas drilling has on the watershed, land-use footprint and increase in carbon dioxide emissions, among other environmental issues. Drilling

and hydraulically fracturing wells can be water-intensive procedures. In the United States, where water is extensively used in hydraulic fracturing, producers developing the Barnett Shale in Texas used one per cent of all the water consumed in the Fort Worth basin in 2007. Water that has been used to fracture a shale gas well can contain chemicals and additives so it is never allowed to enter the watershed. Typically, it is disposed of by injecting it deep below the earth's surface into rock formations, which is a common practice in Western Canada and strictly regulated by provincial authorities. The land-use footprint of shale gas development is not expected to be much greater than conventional operations because advances in horizontal drilling allow for up to ten or more wells to be drilled from the same wellsite. While not all shale gas contains significant

amounts of CO₂, the potential growth in carbon emissions from some shale gas is being addressed with proposals for carbon capture and sequestration. Still, it is very early to make any conclusions about how developing this resource will impact the environment.

The above definitions are from the National Energy Board of Canada's website.

What is Shale Gas?

A form of unconventional gas that is trapped within shale, a sedimentary rock originally deposited as clay or silt and characterized by extremely low permeability. The majority of the gas exists as free gas or adsorbed gas though some gas can also be found in a dissolved state within the organic material.

What is Adsorbed Gas?

Natural gas that is electrostatically bonded to the organic matter within a reservoir and requires the depressurizing of the reservoir to produce.

Thanks to our Local 258 volunteers!



Local 258 members volunteered again this year to support Vancouver's St. Paul's Hospital Foundation with their donation of time, skill and hard work in helping to set up (photos above center and right) and take down the Foundation's "Lights of Hope" display, a major annual fundraising event. This year, the Lights of Hope campaign raised \$2.27 million for the hospital.

Shown above on the left are members from Galbraith Power and Valley Traffic who joined with Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen and Acting ABM Nicole Biernaczyk and Local Union staff member Janice Krieger to help with the takedown of the light display at the end of January. ⚡

LU 258's Michelle Laurie recognized with the United Way's Joe Morris Labour Community Service Award

December, 2011 - Local 258's president Michelle Laurie was the recipient of the United Way's Joe Morris Labour Community Service Award at the gala 18th Annual United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner that took place at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby.

Sister Amber Hockin, Director of the Canadian Labour Congress - Pacific Division, was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening's event. She read a note from Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay, who was out of town and unable to attend the event, sending best wishes to Sister Laurie on being awarded this most prestigious honour and offering congratulations on behalf of the officers and members of LU258.

Yuri Fulmer, Chair of the United Way of the Lower Mainland's Board, introduced Michelle, saying it has been a pleasure to work with her over the years of her involvement with the UWLM and United Way Canada.

Sister Laurie took to the podium to accept the award and described the importance of community in her acceptance speech. She also thanked her family and labour colleagues for their support.

More than 300 guests attended the dinner that featured guest speaker Adrian Dix, Leader of the BC NDP.

Former Vancouver & District Labour Council president Brother Bill Saunders was awarded the VDLC Syd Thompson

Award and Sister Rene Poley, retired BCGEU member, was the recipient of the New Westminster & District Labour Council's Community Service Award.

Congratulations to Sister Michelle Laurie! ⚡



LU 258's president Michelle Laurie was named the recipient of the 2011 United Way of the Lower Mainland's Joe Morris Labour Community Service Award. She is shown here with the award, from left: Brother Jim Greenwell, LU 258 Senior Assistant Business Manager; Brother Colin Kenny, LU 258 Unit 3 Chair; Sister Susan Longva, LU 258 Assistant Business Manager; Jeff Laurie; Sister Michelle Laurie, President LU 258 IBEW; Brother Tom Greenwell, LU 258 Unit 4 Chair; Brother Dan Klassen, LU 258 Assistant Business Manager; Ed Higginbottom; Rebecca Murdock, LU 258 IBEW Legal Counsel.

Call for submissions

Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Student Scholarship

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

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




To be eligible, applicants must be registered, or plan to register in a full-time post-secondary program in 2012/2013 at a BC educational institution. Special consideration may be given to applicants who are attending or planning to attend a post-secondary institution outside of BC, if the program they will be attending is not available in BC. Applicants must have a letter-grade standing of C or better, and copies of the letter-grade standing must be included with the application letter. Mature students may have this requirement waived if approved by the Executive Board.

Applications can be mailed to:

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



All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 20, 2012.

The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by May 18, 2012. Successful applicants will be notified immediately, but the scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment is provided. 


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.



Save the Date!

This year's LU258
GolfTourney takes place on
Monday, September 17
@ Newlands in Langley.

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 member

We live in a world of permanent change. Someone once said that. Another someone said that the more things change the more they stay the same. About all I can take from those seemingly conflicting statements is that change happens but not really. Now that I've totally confused myself I'll try to illustrate the results of my ruminations on change.

One of the things subject to permanent change is the price of gasoline. The price is changing so much that it is the lead story on just about every newscast in the Coachella Valley. Of course the change is that gasoline prices are rising, not falling. Now, every year around this time the price of gasoline goes up dramatically. So, while the price changes the fact of price increase doesn't change. Therefore I surmise that the more things change the more they stay the same. The newscasts inform us that gasoline prices haven't been this high since this time last year. Again, not much change there. The pundits and talking heads on the TV have all kinds of reasons for the increase in gasoline prices. They cite things like tensions in the Middle East, changing the gasoline formula to summer standards, a fire at the Cherry Point refinery, etc., etc. The one cause of rising prices the experts never talk about is greed. Pure unadulterated unabashed greed. I guess the fact that speculators and investors are using fear to reap windfall profits is not something the news purveyors deem worth reporting. One thing that doesn't change is my opinion of the immoral manipulation of the oil industry by profiteers.

Governments in general are another entity subject to permanent change while in reality staying pretty much the same. I know I would like to see meaningful permanent change in the Government of British Columbia. The USAmericans are being bombarded on television with the need to change the government. As a Canadian guest in the USA I am somewhat perplexed with the process of changing (or not changing) the government in power. Given the surfeit of television coverage you would think that I would have the process down pat by now. This year appears to be the Republican Party's turn to monopolize television coverage. Something called "The Primaries" is happening. From what I can gather a bunch (a half dozen or so) of Republicans who want to be president travel from State to State debating with each other and telling people who vote in that State how bad the other debaters are and how bad they would be as president. Then, after all the States have been visited and votes counted, presumably one of these debaters who all the other debaters think is bad will be a candidate for President of the United States of America. All the Republicans will then gather together and say what a good guy this person is and please forget all the stuff that was said about him being bad and vote for him to be president. Even after this process is over the television will be full of politics. In the next step the Republican Party and the Democratic Party will be telling everybody how bad the other Party is and that

to vote for anybody associated with it would be a mistake. Eventually someone will emerge victorious and then the television people and their experts will dissect the results for about six months after which the process will start all over again. Once more, even if there is change, things remain pretty much the same.

Our Retiree's lifestyle has undergone another change. Regular readers of this spot may remember that Sesame the dog, our companion of fourteen years, left us last May to go to that great doggy park in the sky. That certainly occasioned a major change in our lifestyle. There we were, two semi-old people, footloose and fancy free with no encumbering responsibilities. Well that reality has changed again. See, Catherine Dear chanced to visit a place where the Indio Animal Shelter had rescue dogs available for adoption. To make what could be a long story shorter I will just say that we now cohabitate with a rescued puppy. To say that our lifestyle has experienced change would be an understatement. It's one thing to share living quarters with a laid back sedate older dog and quite another thing to share the same living quarters with a three month old puppy. Our new roommate Indio, so named because he came from the Indio Animal Shelter, has settled in with us to the extent that the whole household revolves around him. I am somewhat nonplussed when people ask what kind of a dog he is. He is purported to be a Spaniel-Chihuahua cross. I'm not sure what kind of a Spaniel or for that matter what kind of a Chihuahua. The veterinarian we consulted seems to think he will grow to about 18 or 20 pounds (however much that will be in kilos). Given that he is still puppyish it is difficult to say what he will eventually look like. Right now he appears to me to have a long body and short legs which could indicate some Dachshund or Corgi in the mix. Speaking of mix, most dogs we saw at the adoption place were thought to be a Chihuahua cross. If that is truly the case those Chihuahuas really get around. So anyway, there it is. Notwithstanding the changes to our lifestyle, we once again have a canine travelling companion. The more things change the more they stay the same.

A person could compose a whole column or perhaps even a book on the subject of stray and abandoned dogs in the Coachella Valley. It is truly heartbreaking. The animal shelters do the best they can but there is only so much they can do. I'll leave that subject for another time or maybe even a book.

As you have probably surmised by now we are still in sunny southern California where winter is fading into spring. The temperatures are increasing (along with the gasoline prices) and the blossoms are appearing on the orange tree. It won't be long now until Catherine Dear, Indio the dog and I are winding our way home for the spring and summer seasons in Beautiful British Columbia. The more things change the more they stay the same.

Please continue to work and play safely because retirement is a change worth waiting for. 🍷

In Memoriam

In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, who passed away in 2011 (unless otherwise indicated).

Jack C. Adam	Robert Kungl
Calvin A. Albright	John W. Laktin
Harvey Andrews (2010)	R. Jason N.D. Langhorst
Alex Bereczki	Jon L. Leus
Kevin R. Bochon	Roy MacQuarrie
Floyd A. Bouchard	John Martin (2010)
Archie A. Boyd	Paul Martin
Dan Burns	Thomas McCadden
Hugo Byman	Robert (Bob) McCrae
Edwin Carbert	Angus McKirdy
Frederick (Rick) A. Clarke	William Moehling (2010)
Graham Clarke	Arland Morse (2010)
Charles H. Claydon	Ken Murcklen
Percy E. Cooley	Scott Naylor
Walter Dahlman (2010)	Robert H. Orrey
William Defrane	James A. Rochfort
Joseph Delgiglio (2010)	Thomas Roesen
James D. Denton	Peter Roesen
Thomas Frizell	Mervin Ronnquist
John M. Gibson	Karl Rose
Phillip D. Grainger	Alexandre Sagan
Keith Heriot	Ernest Sampson
Walter T. Hockey	Eldy J. Serwatkewich
Evan Horkoff	Mathilde Skrety
Sverre Humborstad	Alexander Smith (2010)
John H. Ingram	Thomas R. Smith
Edward Irwin	Thomas Ivan Beavis Smith (2010)
Douglas W. Jensen	William Sofiak
Lawrence Ronald (Ron) Johnson	Samuel Tanner (2010)
George (Geordie) C. Johnston	Wayne Tippet
Dennis M. Kilba	Brian Tully
John M. Kinsey	Basil L.A. Van Horne
Emil Kopchiak	Glen (Tom) Wharton
Karl Krueckemeier	Carl E. Wicklund



BC Hydro's decreasing reliability – who's to blame?

Workers rushed for medical attention as Atchelitz substation burns



Residents in Chilliwack and Sumas found themselves without power on a cold winter day in January as an electrical transformer caught fire and exploded at BC Hydro's Atchelitz substation forcing a power shutdown. Thick black smoke could be seen for miles as residents scrambled with health concerns as advisories were issued telling residents to stay "inside". Media reported a toxic oil spill occurred and 38,000 residents were left without electricity.

According to BC Hydro's website, 12 on-site employees were working at the substation when the fire broke out and all were accounted for, with four being transported to hospital for assessment but able to return to work.

Local firefighters managed to extinguish the blaze. Power was eventually restored and an environmental cleanup was undertaken. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

The Atchelitz substation fire is the latest in a growing list of attention gathering infrastructure problems that are causing power outages for BC Hydro's customers.

In June of last year, a leaning 500-kv transmission tower on the Fraser River near Coquitlam caught the public's attention. On



July 4th, a the spectacular collapse of a 230-kv transmission tower on the south

bank of the Fraser River near Surrey occurred, resulting in the closure of both the Trans-Canada and Lougheed Highways and part of United Boulevard. Marine traffic was shut down, the morning commute was interrupted and 25,000 customers were immediately left without power. Serious concerns about the public utility were raised by residents and local officials and bigger questions were being asked - what's happened with BC Hydro and their trusted ability to reliably deliver power?

According to a government review of BC Hydro released last July, decreasing reliability can be attributed to "aging assets". BC Hydro's own industry benchmarking review noted, "amongst other items, that BC Hydro's spending, overall, has increased dramatically for all stations when compared to earlier benchmarks and that plant performance problems identified in the maintenance section may be indicative of historically low levels of investment over many years. It has also led to the need to invest to maintain and grow the system."

While understanding that accidents do happen, the union be-

lieves kudos need to go to our members, the BC Hydro workers, who have managed to maintain the aging electrical, generation and transmission infrastructure across the province to the best of their abilities. And there's a degree of frustration at not being allowed to do a quality job on additional necessary work when restrictions from "the higher-ups" prevent you from doing so. You can only do the job you're told to do...

Meanwhile, as the public sees their electricity rates rise and the questions and concerns about spending initiatives such as Smart Meters run rampant across the province, the questions remain: What's going on with BC Hydro? And who's to blame? 🗣️

The Availability of BC Hydro's Generation Facilities is declining...

... decreasing reliability can be attributed to aging assets. Specifically, the very high outages in the fiscal years 2009 and 2011 are a result of equipment failure and rock falls including the following:

- **GM Shrum Unit 3** turbine failed catastrophically in 2009 forcing the unit out of service for the entire fiscal year (the unit was out of service for a total of 14 months);
- **Bridge River Unit 4** was forced out of service for about 6 months in F2009 due to explosive failure of the unit circuit breaker;
- **Whatshan Unit 1** was forced out of service for about 4 months in F2009 due to a rock fall in the penstock tunnel which also resulted in damage to the turbine;
- **Alouette Generating Station** has been forced out of service since February 2010 due to a rock fall at the intakes (and remains out of service);
- **Shuswap Unit 2** was forced out of service for about 9 months in F2011 due to severe vibration in the turbine bearing and damage to the exciter; and
- **Ruskin Unit 2** turbine bearing failed, forcing the unit out of service for about 4 months in Fiscal 2011

From the Review of BC Hydro, June, 2011

Buy Union! **Get your car repairs done by certified union workers** Buy Union!

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, IAMAW District 250, represents workers at a number of Automotive Service and Repair Shops in the lower mainland, on Vancouver Island and in Sparwood. Local 258 IBEW recommends you patronize one of the following companies when you need auto repairs:

BURNABY

Carter Dodge Chrysler Ltd.
4650 Lougheed Hwy., Burnaby, BC
Phone: 604-299-9181

Coastal Ford
5750 Lougheed Hwy., Burnaby, BC
Phone: 604-294-6525
*Accredited ICBC Glass Shop

Vancouver Hino Trucks
4975 Regent Street, Burnaby, BC
Phone: 604-291-2240

DUNCAN

Ken Evans Ford Sales Ltd.
439 Trans Canada Hwy., Duncan, BC
Phone: 250-748-5555

MAPLE RIDGE

Maple Ridge Chrysler
11911 West Street, Maple Ridge, BC
Phone: 604-465-8931

West Coast Ford
20370 Lougheed Highway,
Maple Ridge, BC
Phone: 604-465-5434

NANAIMO

Canadian Tire
6900 North Island Highway,
Nanaimo, BC
Phone: 250-390-1400

Laird Wheaton Chevrolet
2590 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC
Phone: 250-758-1514

Three Point Motors Ltd.
303 Terminal Avenue, Nanaimo, BC
Phone: 250-753-1444

NEW WESTMINSTER

Kal Tire
969 Cliveden Avenue,
New Westminister, BC
Phone: 604-526-1854

Vulcan Automotive Equipment Ltd.
#121-788 Caldew Street,
New Westminister, BC
Phone: 604-526-1167

Westminster Toyota
210 - 12th Street,
New Westminister, BC
Phone: 604-520-3333

NORTH VANCOUVER

Pacific Honda
816 Automall Drive,
North Vancouver, BC

PORT ALBERNI

Dennis Jonsson Motor Products Ltd.
3800 Johnston Road,
Port Alberni, BC
Phone: 250-723-3541

RICHMOND

Richmond Chrysler Dodge Jeep
5491 Parkwood Way, Richmond, BC
Phone: 604-273-7521
*Accredited ICBC Body Shop

Richmond Honda
13600 Smallwood Place,
Richmond, BC
Phone: 604-207-1888

SPARWOOD

Kal Tire
601 Sparwood Drive, Sparwood, BC
Phone: 250-425-2562

VANCOUVER

Brown Bros. Ford Lincoln
270 SE Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-321-5100

Burrard Acura
2222 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-736-8890

Coastal Ford
530 Evans Avenue, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-873-2363

Don Dockstader Motors Ltd.
8530 Cambie Street, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-325-1000

Jim Pattison Toyota Downtown
1290 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-682-8881

MCL Motors
1730 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-738-5577

MCL Motors (Porsche Division)
1718 West 3rd Avenue, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-736-7911

Vancouver Honda
850 SW Marine Drive, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-324-6666

VICTORIA

Ensign Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ltd.
1061 Yates Street, Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-386-2411

Glenoak Ford Sales
2829 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-384-1144

Three Point Motors Ltd.
2546 Government Street, Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-385-6737

Wheaton Chevrolet Buick Cadillac
2867 Douglas Street, Victoria, BC
Phone: 250-382-7121

**For other products and/or services made/provided by union workers,
visit the shopunion.ca website.**



WIN A HARLEY!

Get your tickets now and have your **CHANCE TO WIN** a 2012 Harley-Davidson FLHRC Road King® Classic motorcycle and/or a cash prize of \$5000!

EARLY BIRD DRAW!

Win \$5000 in the Early Bird Draw that takes place May 24, 2012, at the 24th 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!
For tickets, contact Lesli at the union office today!

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 Halifax, NS, on August 22, 2012, where a second \$5000 cash prize will also be drawn. *Proceeds to assist in fundina of the reception at the 2016 IBEW International Convention.*

**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.**



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

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 though Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Congratulations to Brother Ed Sobchak on being awarded his 50 year service award as Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney presents him with a plaque.



Congratulations to Brother Dave Campbell on receipt of his 5 year membership pin presented by Unit 3 Chair Colin Kenney.



Congratulations to Brother Fred G. Forch who recently received his 60 year Service Award as a member of the IBEW. Brother Forch started his career working at Hume and Rumble in New Westminster and later worked for Commonwealth Construction until his retirement.



Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, congratulates Brother Fred Harvey on receipt of his 35 year service pin award at the February meeting.



Brother Bruce Baker was the lucky winner of the IBEW watch at the Unit 3 meeting as Unit Chair Colin Kenney congratulates presents him with the gift.



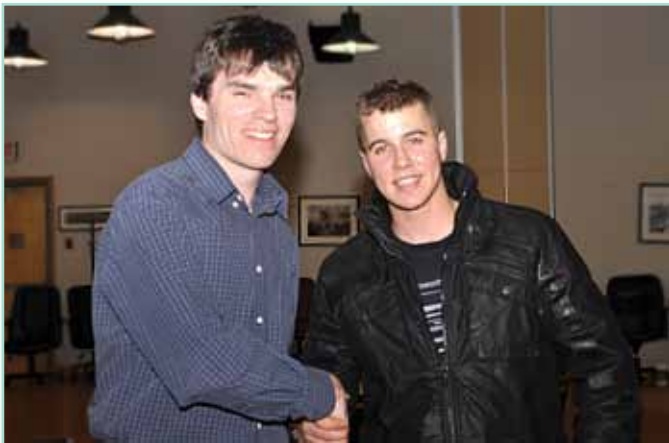
Brother Brian Durand was awarded his 35 year service pin at the Unit 3 meeting by Unit Chair Colin Kenney.



Brother Bernie Glowatski was awarded his 45 year service pin at the Unit 3 meeting by Unit Chair Colin Kenney.



Brother Al Malone was recently awarded his 20 year service pin.



Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter, left, congratulates Brother Dennis Forbes on being initiated into the IBEW at the February meeting in Langley.



Unit 6 members at the February Unit meeting in Langley.



LU 258 ABM Dan Klassen and Unit 6 Recording Secretary Rick Gerrard recently congratulated Brother Rick Stenson and Brother Gary Croply on their retirements.



Congratulations to Brother Bill Russell, who worked as a machine operator and Brother Brian Hugo, who worked as a cable splicer, on their recent retirements!

Photo correction from last issue of The Hotline



Brother Dwight Stevens, left, and Brother Bruce Derrien, right, received their IBEW retirement gifts from Local 258 Assistant Business Manager Don McNabb, center, at a retirement BBQ in Dawson Creek in September of 2011.



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**

Local 258 joins with Local 213 in supporting the BC Chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus



Members of IBEW Local 213 and 258 have gathered together to launch the BC Chapter of the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus (EWMC). The EWMC has been a fixture in

the IBEW for almost 40 years, with the first chapter being created at the 30th International Convention that took place in Kansas City, Missouri.

Focused at helping advocate for equal rights, opportunities and greater minority representation for IBEW members, the BC Chapter of the EWMC has established a regular meeting schedule and has already produced a poster and brochure for distribution (to download, visit your union's website at ibew258.bc.ca). For the meeting schedule, please see the notice on the back cover of this issue of The Hotline.

With a strong commitment to social and economic justice, the BC Chapter of the EWMC would like to invite all IBEW members to join them for the conversation about human rights and issues relating to advancing equity in our union, including:

- Age
- Race
- Ancestry
- Colour
- Family Status
- Marital Status
- Place of Origin
- Political Belief
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Duty to Accommodate
- Respect
- Harassment
- Unrelated criminal conviction
- Physical and Mental Disability
- Sex (including gender and pregnancy)

EWMC BC Chapter Mission Statement

- *To promote equity, inclusion and employment for equity groups at all levels of the IBEW structure;*
- *To foster leadership development and empower equity groups to become active participants and leaders in the IBEW;*
- *To assist IBEW equity group members who have discrimination and/or harassment complaints;*
- *To promote, support and assist the organizing of equity group workers in the IBEW;*
- *To promote, support and assist the leadership of the IBEW on the issues and concerns of equity group workers in the IBEW;*
- *To encourage equity group workers to be greater activists in community and political affairs;*
- *To be actively involved in Human Rights on issues that impact LGBTQ, women, workers of colour, Aboriginal workers and workers with disabilities as well as support organizations that advance the cause of equity group workers.*

Resolution 13 from the 2011 International Convention, passed unanimously by delegates:

WHEREAS, the IBEW has stood as a leader among the great unions in the American and Canadian labour movements; and

WHEREAS, one of the IBEW's greatest strengths is the diversity of its membership; and

WHEREAS, diversity and inclusion are issues of respect, and the IBEW must have a goal of equal welcome and opportunity for all in hiring, organizing, representation, outreach, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, when inclusive, the labour movement has broken barriers, challenged prejudice, improved wages and benefits for all workers, opened doors, and created opportunity for leadership; and

WHEREAS, the IBEW cannot build a better future for working families without the full strength brought by sisters and brothers of every description, and this strength is the core of the IBEW for collective bargaining, political and legislative action, organizing, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, many people from different walks of life still encounter negative stereotypes and discrimination throughout society and, sadly, even within the labour movement; and

WHEREAS, the IBEW Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion was established and provided recommendations to the International President on methods to achieve greater visibility for people of color, women, and other underrepresented groups in union activities, and as representatives of the IBEW;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that building on the successful work of the IBEW Committee on Diversity and Full Inclusion and the introduction of the Amplified Membership Participation = Strength (AMPS) training program, the IBEW will continue to devote time and resources to promote an organizational culture of respect that makes our Brotherhood a union that welcomes, values, and gives voice to all members, protecting members from discrimination and inequality and promoting awareness of and skills for respecting differences and building solidarity across a diverse membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IBEW will continue to encourage diverse representation at all levels of the organization, provide education to inform of the unique needs of a diverse membership, and ensure that training and opportunity for leadership is inclusive rather than arbitrary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IBEW will accelerate its effort to attract and recruit a diverse pool of young people into the union; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the IBEW will be a model of hiring and promotion practices for women, people of color, and other underrepresented groups and review internal policies and practices with an eye toward making them as open and inclusive as possible.

HOTLINE



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Before coming to work for our members at Local 258, I worked in the private sector and then, the public sector. As you may have noticed over the past years, I am a very strong supporter of public ownership and management of the services we rely on. But, from my experience working under a collective agreement in the private sector, I recall how much clearer negotiations seemed to be. You could see the balance sheets, you could see how much money the workers were making for the company, and you had a much clearer idea of both your bargaining position and the leverage you held.

On the other hand, when bargaining with government, it appears ideology can trump evidence, money can be moved from one pot to another, and objectives can change in a heartbeat. The critical focal point that has emerged from bargaining with government over this past decade is the complete lack of recognition of the full value that public services deliver, including the appropriate value of the workers who deliver those public services. That means respecting workers' right to have a voice about the work they perform, both in terms of the working conditions and the remuneration – no different than in the private sector.

Over the past months, public sector bargaining issues have been getting louder and louder in our media and in the spar and parry with government, reaching a peak most recently with the teachers' dispute. Whether you work in the private sector or the public sector, this debate touches you, either through your own children or through your community. I'm certain it also brings to mind your own various contract negotiations and ratifications over the years – many of which have been fought with intractable management, some of which have achieved real strides in improving your working conditions and benefits, and some of which have seemed like a tooth and nail battle trying to hold ground for what you fought for in the past. I doubt, though, if many of us in Local 258 have ever had a government so violently attack our right to collective bargain as is the case today with the teachers and Bill 22. It



Thousands, including Local 258 members, rallied on the lawns of the legislature in March to support BC's teachers in their ongoing dispute with government and the introduction of Bill 22.

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



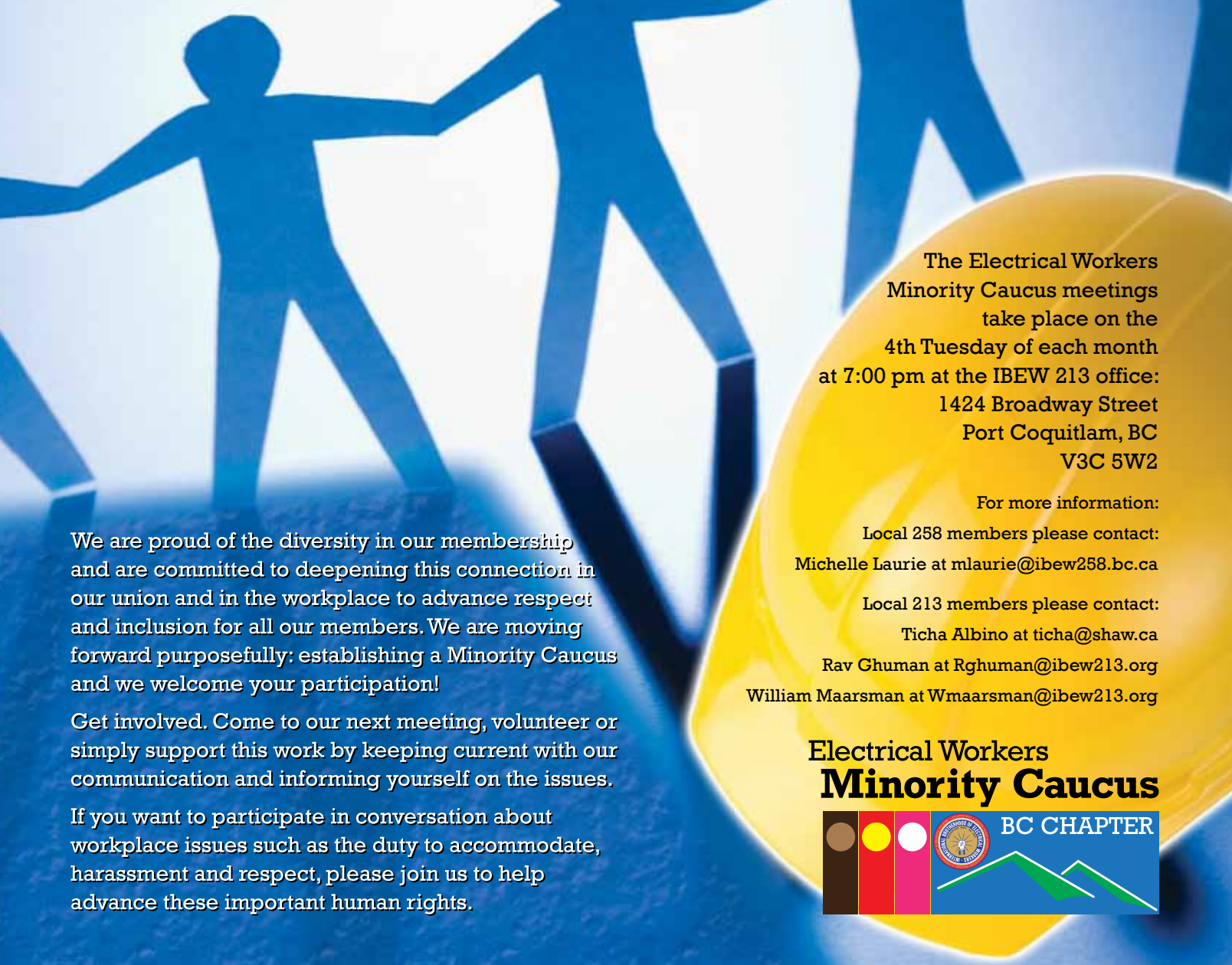
isn't the first legislative attack on teachers either – this government imposed legislation to take away their rights in their last contract negotiations, too. Same thing for health care workers – legislation instead of negotiation – legislation that has been determined, in the courts, to be unlawful, yet, this government persists.

Yes, we are in tough economic times (one might argue that our current government with its massive deficits is at least partly responsible), but does that mean we should destroy the public system that will give the next generation the tools to cope with the world we are leaving them? Does that mean we should further cripple our economy by impoverishing workers so they can't afford to support that very economy?

It seems fairly certain that we will be changing our BC government come May 2013, and you know I hope the BC NDP have a strong win. But expectations will need to be carefully considered – how do we come back into a decent economy with measured and careful change? I don't envy the next government, coming in with huge deficits and massive discontent... but let's be realistic about what we require as a society, both input and output. Lowering taxes and lowering wages does not strengthen the economy, and it does not create jobs. I encourage you to read "Behind the Numbers" at <http://www.behindthenumbers.ca/2012/02/14/in-the-wake-of-the-crisis-bully-capitalism/> (we'll put the link on our website) to see how government and corporate strategy is creating a downward spiral for all of us.

As I write this piece, it is International Women's Day, and I have had the opportunity to speak to a number of different groups about my own experiences as well as more general issues for women in the workplace and in leadership. I am very proud of the support I have always received from the IBEW, and in particular the members of Local 258, who, I believe, have supported me and always judged me by my work, not my gender. Women comprise more than half the workforce in Canada, and we need to step up in leadership roles to reflect that, both in our unions and in our politics. Bread and roses, sisters... bread and roses. 🍷

The IBEW represents workers from many communities.



We are proud of the diversity in our membership and are committed to deepening this connection in our union and in the workplace to advance respect and inclusion for all our members. We are moving forward purposefully: establishing a Minority Caucus and we welcome your participation!

Get involved. Come to our next meeting, volunteer or simply support this work by keeping current with our communication and informing yourself on the issues.

If you want to participate in conversation about workplace issues such as the duty to accommodate, harassment and respect, please join us to help advance these important human rights.

The Electrical Workers
Minority Caucus meetings
take place on the
4th Tuesday of each month
at 7:00 pm at the IBEW 213 office:
1424 Broadway Street
Port Coquitlam, BC
V3C 5W2

For more information:

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Ticha Albino at ticha@shaw.ca

Rav Ghuman at Rghuman@ibew213.org

William Maarsman at Wmaarsman@ibew213.org

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus



WE WELCOME ALL TO OUR EQUITY CAUCUS.

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
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