



# HOTLINE






OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
APRIL, 2013

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

## 258 IBEW members providing high quality work on BC's biggest transmission project in 30 years



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

-  **PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2013: LABOUR'S IMPORTANT ISSUES**
-  **MEMBERS AT BC HYDRO RATIFY NEW TWO-YEAR DEAL**
-  **GUEST COLUMN FROM SHANE SIMPSON – WORKERS ARE READY FOR CHANGE, AND SO ARE MANY EMPLOYERS**
-  **CANADIAN WORKERS NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE FIGHT OF THEIR LIVES AS OUR EMPLOYMENT LAWS FACE SERIOUS RISK**
-  **GET YOUR EVENTS CALENDAR OUT AS THERE'S LOTS GOING ON WITH LOCAL 258 IBEW!**

**HOTLINE** April 2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Viewpoint from your Business Manager Doug McKay ..... p. 3**

**We've Got Mail .....p. 4 & 5**

**Upcoming Unit Meetings; Dispatch Info ..... p. 6**

**LU 258 members building biggest transmission line in 30 years..... p. 7**

**BCH members ratify agreement; Traffic & Manufacturing members in bargaining..... p. 7**

**Harrison Winter School ..... p. 8**

**Guest column by Shane Simpson..... p. 9**

**Voting for a Better BC – Labour's Issues .....p. 10 – 12**

**McKay fights for members ..... p. 13**

**Bill C-377 in Senate..... p. 14**

**Canada's Employment Laws facing serious risk ..... p. 15**

**Units 1 – 5 Meetings updated .....p. 16 – 20**

**In Memoriam.....p. 22 & 23**

**Ruminations of a Retiree. p. 25**

**Photo Opportunity ...p. 26 – 29**

**Sister Michelle Laurie moving on ..... p. 30**

**From the Back Corner by Tony Brand ..... p. 31**



# LOCAL 258 IBEW

### *THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS*

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

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Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock



Cover Photo: Thanks to the team from Rokstad who sent in the photo from the ILM job and the first tower erected in Merritt, BC. From left, standing are Darcy Ricard, Jeff Richardson, Neil Shackelly, Greg Hughes, Dave Saunderson, Kelly Preston, Hans Tobie, Brian Stewart, Steve Way, Ron Asperin, Ron Stewart and Bill Stewart. Kneeling in front are, from left, Andrew Greydanus, Doug Williams, Andrew Betteridge, Frank Giesbrecht and Dale Stewart. Thanks to Ron Asperin for sending in the photo to the Hotline.

## VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

The winds of change seem to be in the air. A provincial election has been called and now it's time for British Columbians to make a decision at the voting booth. I know most of you will take the opportunity to express your democratic right to vote, and I hope you do. Voting is the most fundamental benefit of living in a free and civilized country and there have been many who fought and died before us for our right to make your individual choice at the polls. There are numerous opportunities to vote – you can go today to your local Elections BC office and vote right now, you can mail in your ballot if you're working away from home, you can go to the Advance Polls taking place in your community on May 8, 9, 10 or 11, or you can vote on election day on May 14.

Since the BC Liberals came to power in 2001, workers in this province have witnessed and felt the impact of policies, legislation and cuts to services with actions aimed directly against us – low wage workers have suffered with a minimum wage frozen for ten years at \$8 an hour and many were subjected to the \$6/hour “training” wage. The overhaul of the Employment Standards Act has left the majority of workers in BC who aren't union members without the quality resources and support they need to not only know their rights at work but to have them enforced when there is a problem.

The Labour Relations Board has been unfairly stacked against unions with unbalanced, employer-friendly appointments made by this government that have had a serious impact on the fairness of the decision-making process. Workplace safety has been completely compromised by an ideological and legislative shift and the slashing of numerous, important safety regulations and enforcement at the WCB.

And our need for mandatory certification has been ignored. With the stroke of a pen, this government has negatively affected working people in this province time and time again over the past twelve years and I believe it's now time for a change.

Staying with the theme of politics, I recently attended the Canadian Labour Congress' largest ever Political Action Conference in Toronto where more than 1500 delegates – including 200 youth delegates – from unions across Canada met to formulate a plan of action for one of the biggest fights in our times against the unprecedented and escalating attack on unions by the Harper Conservative government. As a member of the IBEW First District's National Political Action Committee (IBEW NPAC), you can be assured we are watching these issues very closely and will be seeking your support, involvement and ideas on fighting this ongoing assault.

It's clear Stephen Harper and his supporters have it out for union members – 4.6 million Canadians and many more union retirees – as they have brought harmful, possibly illegal and anti-Constitutional legislation into place that threatens the ability of your union to continue to provide quality services to you. And they are not stopping with Bill C-377.

### PIECE-BY-PIECE DISMANTLING OF BC HYDRO

*“More and more parts of our public utility are on the chopping block. It's time that BC Hydro's owners, the public ratepayers, understand that an increasing portion of every hydro bill ends up on a private industry balance sheet. The lights are on but it is no longer the crown corp reaping all the profit.”*

*Doug McKay, Business Manager, Local 258 IBEW*




**Local 258 IBEW sponsored a full page ad appearing in  
The Province Newspaper Sunday, March 3, 2013**

There have been some pretty convincing arguments put forward in the Senate debates against Bill C-377 - but we have to make certain BC's Senators know we don't support this unfair legislation. We have more information for you on pages 14 & 15 of this issue of The Hotline and on the Member's Resources section of our website.

With better news, IBEW is celebrating an historic achievement – one of our Locals in Newfoundland recently signed an agreement with the Lower Churchill Transmission Construction Employers' Association Inc. that features wall-to-wall employment for IBEW members on one of eastern Canada's largest hydroelectric projects. This project will see the construction of transmission and related infrastructure for the first stage of the Lower Churchill Project in Labrador and Newfoundland, and it's estimated 2700 IBEW members will be working on this project its peak.

Here in BC, I'd like to thank all of our members working on the ILM Project who took the opportunity to meet with me when I recently visited Merritt. I appreciate your candor and feedback. Thanks for sending the photo we've placed on the cover of your union news magazine.

Looking forward over the next few months, your union has many fun events on the calendar and I hope you can attend at least one of them. You will find save the date information on the back cover of this issue and log in to our website to find out more. As some of our Unit Meeting details have changed since being published in the last issue of The Hotline, we have provided those updates on pages 16-20 and they are also on the website Unit Meetings Calendar, available exclusively to members who have registered.

In closing, I would like to express my personal good wishes to Sister Michelle Laurie who has resigned her position as president of Local 258 IBEW. Her service to our union has been exemplary and we will miss her. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours and sincerely thank her for serving Local 258 and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. 



# We've Got Mail!

Dear Local 258 IBEW,

*Re: Piece-by-piece dismantling of BC Hydro advert (see p. 13)*

Thanks to all at the Union. As Union members we feel that the points that we have all been trying to make were conveyed very clearly in this page. I don't think anyone would have turned the page without checking at least the picture and hopefully reading the text. Your and our message was made very clear. It would be great, if because of the ad, the general public would get more involved in discussing this issue which will affect everyone on the province. Good work and thanks from all of us at the Surrey Mechanical Shop.

Ian Letkeman, Ryan Chalmers, Anthony Dunne  
BC Hydro Field Operations  
Construction Services

President and Executive Board members, Local 258 IBEW,  
Thank you for your generous contribution to the Movember campaign held at John Hart Dam. Contributions were donated to Prostate Cancer Canada, a worthy organization doing the good work to find a cure and treatments for those afflicted with prostate cancer.

The charitable organizations of our modern society often find that donors and benefactors become overused and suffer from donor fatigue. It is re-assuring to know that the labour unions in general continue to support those organizations and charities that need it most. It is especially important to recognize those labour unions that give even after the donor fatigue has set in hard.

A hearty Thank You for this campaign and all the other campaigns, especially the Burn Research funding that Local Union 258 continues to support.

Sincerely,

Mike Pereszlenyi  
Unit 4 Recording Secretary,  
Vancouver Island

*Editor's Note: For more information, visit [www.prostatecancer.ca](http://www.prostatecancer.ca)*

Dear IBEW Local 258,

We are writing to thank you for your wonderful response to our funding drive at the end of the last school year. As you may recall our greatest concern was that we would be unable to continue in this school year. Because of the generosity of people like you we entered this school year no longer concerned about continuing to feed hungry children in our schools.

We have been able to once again supply schools with cases of frozen breakfast burritos made specifically for the program by Today's Entrée.

Thank you seems too small a way to express our gratitude. Your kind support for programs such as Breakfast for Kids demonstrates your commitment to the community of the Sunshine Coast.

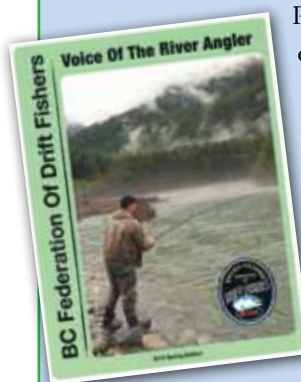
Shannon Quinn, Breakfast for Kids Coordinator

Dear Local 258,

Thank you very much for the fabulous fruit basket. Oh so grateful. Nicole, you are an angel looking out for us. God bless,

Diane Lebrun  
Valley Traffic Systems

Dear Local 258 IBEW,



Please find enclosed a copy of our 2013 newsletter acknowledging your contribution to our recent banquet and encouraging all to support your business. Your contribution plays an important role in ensuring the British Columbia Federation of Drift Fishers can continue our many initiatives in

protecting fish stocks and preserving angler opportunities, particularly for future generations.

As most are aware, our precious natural resources are under attack from many sources and funding to protect these resources has been cut back dramatically both provincially and by our Federal government.

We are dedicated more than ever to act as the "Voice" for those who share our concern. Your past contribution and hopefully again the future will allow us to continue our role as protector of fish and the anglers.

Many thanks again.

Rod Clapton, President  
Cal Aronetz, Banquet Chair  
British Columbia Federation of Drift Fishers  
[www.bcfdf.com](http://www.bcfdf.com)

Dear Local 258 IBEW members,

On behalf of the Cowichan Valley Minor Hockey Association Atom C1 team, I would like to thank you for your generosity and support of our team.

Being part of a team teaches our children valuable life skills such as teamwork, participation, sportsmanship, and most of all fun. Your contribution of \$300.00 goes towards ensuring our team has a successful season and gives us the opportunity to provide an excellent environment for all of our players.

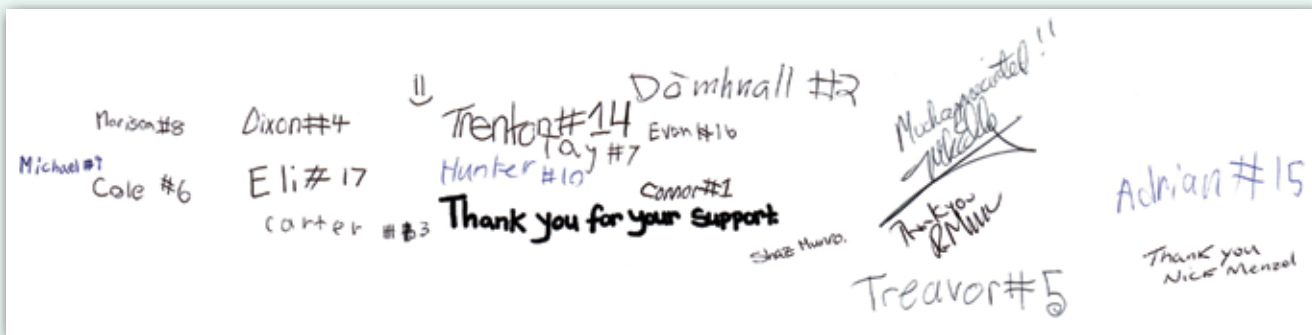
Recreational sport is so important for our youth and without outside funding many opportunities would not be available. We greatly appreciate your time and support of minor hockey in the Cowichan Valley.

Sincerely

Shaz Munro, Team Manager

Eddy/Atom C1

Cowichan Valley MHA



Dear IBEW Local 258,



Thank you very much for the generous donation to our CVMHA Novice Youth hockey team. Your support is very much appreciated.

Sincerely

Max Berard

and the Novice C4 Falcons

IBEW Local 258,

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation of sweatshirts, golf shirts, rugby shirts, drinking glasses, first aid kits, hats and bags to our annual Christmas Silent Auction & Raffle Draw.

Your gift helped make the event a great success which raised more than \$2100 from our Asplundh employees who participated. All proceeds go to directly assist a family this Christmas season.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours truly,

Remo Maddalozzo

Vice President, Asplundh Canada



Dear Cathy,

I'd like to thank you (and all the brothers and sisters) for your kind words and the beautiful gift basket. It was unnecessary, but very appreciated at times like this.

Thank you,

Roland Schneider, Burrard

## 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 meetings:

### Unit 1 - North Coast

Smithers: May 7 @ 5:00 pm in the BC Hydro Line Room

Terrace: June 11 @ 7:00 pm, Best Western Inn

Prince Rupert: June 12 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room

Queen Charlotte City: June 13 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room/Plant

### Unit 2 - Central Interior

Prince George: May 8, June 19 @ 7:00 pm; Coast Inn of the North

Williams Lake: May 9 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room

Fort Nelson: May 15 @ 7:00 pm at the Woodlands Inn

Fort St. John: May 16 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room

Quesnel: June 20 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room

Dawson Creek: June 27 @ 4:30 pm in the Line Room

### Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Bridge River: May 14 @ 5:30 pm in Lunch Room B2

Kamloops: May 15 @ 7:00 pm at IBEW Local 993 Hall,

873 Desmond Street, Kamloops

Vernon: May 16 @ 7:00 pm at the Army & Navy Club, Vernon

Revelstoke: May 20 @ 4:15 pm, Hydro Dam Conference Room

Mica: May 21 @ 6:00 pm at the Mica Curling Rink

Trail: June 11 @ 7:00 pm at the Fireside Inn

Cranbrook: June 12 @ 4:30 pm at the Labour Temple

Invermere: June 13 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

### Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Ganges: May 14 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

Duncan: May 15 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

Courtenay: June 11 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

Campbell River: June 11 @ 7:00 pm, Maritime Heritage Center

Port Alberni: June 12 @ 4:00 pm in the Line Room

### Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: May 9, June 13 @ 5:00 pm at the Local 258 IBEW office

Powell River: June 25 @ 4:30 pm at the Town Centre Hotel

Sechelt: June 26 @ 5:00 pm at Seaside Centre

### Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Langley: May 7, June 11 @ 7:00 pm @ USW Hall, 200th St.

Chilliwack: June 12 @ 7:00 pm at the Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way



## Local 258 IBEW Dispatch Services

Local 258 IBEW offers a Dispatch service for members who are unemployed and are eligible to work (via their trade qualifications) with BC Hydro and Local 258's outside line contractors.

**Members are not allowed to accept jobs directly from employers hiring Local 258 members without first obtaining clearance from Dispatch.** If you look for work with a Local 258 employer and are hired without getting clearance from Dispatch at Local 258, you may be pulled from the job and fined by the union.

### To be eligible for dispatch, please note the following:

It is up to each Local 258 member to sign up to the dispatch list as soon as you are unemployed. Do not delay, as this will affect your standing on the list. Members are called out to work based on a combination of criteria, including trade qualification, union seniority and date of when you called Dispatch to register.

### Procedure for Placement on the Local 258 Dispatch List:


1. Your membership in Local 258 must be current - you must be an Active Member with membership dues paid and up-to-date.
2. It is helpful if you submit a resume including your qualifications and work history, copies of trades qualifications and/or tickets you have. If you are a Journeyman, you must have an Interprovincial Red Seal for applicable trades only.

3. We must have your current contact information, including phone number and full mailing address. Please update your contact information on a regular basis if there are changes, as this impacts our ability to provide you with work opportunities.

4. You must provide copies of your current regular and/or special drivers license.

Please send all of the above required documents - resume, current contact information, copies of trade certificates and drivers licenses PLUS A CHEQUE FOR \$56.50 - via regular mail to IBEW Local 258, ATTENTION: DISPATCH, 7535 Sixth Street, Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2. If you live in the lower mainland area, you can personally deliver these documents directly to the Dispatch office at the union's headquarters.

For Dispatch Inquiries, please contact Jim McKay or Rick Gerrard at the Local 258 Dispatch office at 604-524-3547, or call toll free 1-877-520-3305 and ask for Dispatch. Or email [dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca)

The Dispatch office is open Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:00 am to 2:30 pm. After hours, please leave a voice mail with your name and phone number. 

## Local 258 members providing high quality work on BC's biggest transmission project in 30 years

Highly skilled workers, members of Local 258 IBEW, are providing high quality work on BC Hydro's Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission project. Together with their employer, Rokstad Power, LU 258 members on this job recently celebrated the completion of the construction of the first transmission tower on this major project that will see expansion of BC Hydro's transmission system to bring power from northern BC and the southern interior to the lower mainland and Vancouver Island.

The new 247 kilometre 500 kV line will parallel the existing 500 kV line between the Nicola Substation near Merritt and the Meridian Substation on Westwood Plateau in Coquitlam.

This project is the largest expansion to BC's transmission system in the last 30 years.

Local 258 members working at Rokstad are assembling and erecting transmission line towers and installing overhead conductors including the associated hardware and insulators.

Thanks to the team from Rokstad who sent in the photo!



## Hydro agreement ratified

Members of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers working in distribution, generation and transmission at BC Hydro voted to ratify a new two-year collective agreement featuring wage and benefit increases on January 14, 2013.

"It was a tough round of negotiations and our bargaining committee faced many challenges from this employer. But, working together we achieved fair wage increases, were able to protect our benefit package and negotiated a number of modest improvements for our members working at BC Hydro," said Doug McKay, Business Manager for Local 258.

Copies of the new agreement will be available for members as soon as the proofing and printing processes have been completed. Sign up to the Local 258 website for current information when the new copies will be available. The Local 258 website also features the ratified Memorandum of Agreement. [Z](#)

## Members at the bargaining table

Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager Nicole Biernaczyk reports members working in traffic control at Island Traffic have recently ratified a new collective agreement featuring wage increases and benefit improvement. Negotiations are ongoing for members working at Valley Traffic Systems, High Voltage, Traffic Pro, Lane Tec and ATC Traffic with contracts having expired in November or December of 2012.

Sister Biernaczyk describes negotiations as difficult with some of these employers due to changes in their business structures. "With so many more traffic control companies starting up, there is more competition than ever before," she says. "But we are confident our skilled and experienced members who provide quality services to these employers will be recognized in these negotiations and we look forward to a satisfactory resolution to these rounds of bargaining."

Members working at Valley Traffic are reporting they have been very busy with lots of work since this employer was recently awarded a significant contract.

The collective agreement for Local 258 IBEW members working at Hobart Food Equipment in Delta expired at the end of March, 2013. Bargaining Committee members are Brother Eric Dzus and Brother Bud Omstead, assisted by Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, who reports a tentative agreement has been reached with this employer featuring wage and benefit improvements. Members are voting by mail ballot to be counted in mid-May.

The collective agreement for members working at Western System Controls expired at the end of March, 2013 with discussions to set dates for bargaining taking place. [Z](#)

# Local 258 members attend labour education courses at Harrison Winter School

Since 1974, the Canadian Labour Congress has been holding their Pacific Region Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs in British Columbia. The largest union education school in Canada, thousands of union members from across western Canada and the Yukon attend the week-long programs offered at the school each year.

In 2012, the increased demand for labour education resulted in the Winter School adding an additional week of classes onto their agenda, making the five weeks of labour education opportunities available to more union members.

Labour education is a different kind of schooling for union members – it's where we learn about issues that matter in the workplace and beyond; from how to handle grievances, negotiate contracts, ensure health and safety on the job, exercise labour and human rights, understand politics and our economy and much more. Labour education is critical to an informed and effective union movement.

This year, a number of Local 258 members attended various courses at the School, ranging from Union Counselling, where they learned about peer-to-peer counselling and how union members can help union members by offering referral information on services available in the community to helping workers with issues ranging from personal stress to drug and alcohol addiction problems, to Facing Management, where techniques are taught to assist workers in dealing with issues in the workplace.

Local 258 ABMs Dan Klassen and Nicole Biernaczyk, who have both attended the Harrison Winter School as students, this year served as a co-facilitators. Brother Klassen was involved with the Union Counselling Program, put on in conjunction with the United Way and Sister Biernaczyk led the Shop Stewards Level 1 course.

*Read more on the Local 258 IBEW website*

## Many thanks to the Local 258 members who participated in this year's labour education courses - your new skills help strengthen our union!

To the President and Executive Board, I wish to give thanks to Local 258 IBEW for the opportunity to attend the Harrison Winter School this year.

The course I attended was Shop Steward Level 1. I found the course very informative and helpful and I will be using this information to help my co-workers in my role as Chief Shop Steward.

I had heard many good things about Winter School and am happy to say "yes" it was all true. To be able to interact with so many people from different unions and share experiences was great.

Thank you again to all who thought me worthy of this opportunity.

Karen Hornsby  
Chief Shop Steward  
Lanetec/DC Traffic Control



Dear Local 258 IBEW,  
I would like to thank Local 258 IBEW for the generous decision to send me to Winter School 2013 at Harrison Hot Springs. I took the Union Counselling Level 1 course.

It was wonderful to connect with brothers and sisters from different unions and share experiences and stories. The course itself provided invaluable information I will be able to reference to help my fellow brothers and sisters connect with community programs they might not otherwise have known about.

Once again, thank you very much for the experience. I really appreciate it!

Kindest regards,  
Carys Evans  
BC Hydro



Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
I would like to think all those individuals involved in the process for the opportunity to attend the 2013 session of the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School.

The Steward Level Training 1 was an outstanding experience. My understanding of the labour movement was greatly expanded and it was valuable to see how different unions deal with similar issues over a wide range workplaces in the public and private sectors. Furthermore, my understanding of the labour movement was broadened significantly to encompass issues

at the local level to issues that are affecting the global community.

The need to become more politically active and become advocates for the union movement was also shared with the brothers and sisters that attended the school. I believe this is going to be critical as we move into the future, as the large corporations seem to have governments willing to change laws and repeal the benefits that our unions have fought so hard to win in the past.

I believe that these types of gatherings of different unions are a fantastic way to promote solidarity and will inevitably strengthen unions and provide better lives for working people and their families.

Regards,  
Brian Widmer



Brothers and Sisters;  
As I sit here and reflect on my week at Winter School, so many things come to mind – the fantastic accommodations and food, the hardworking, friendly unionized hotel staff, and the many friendships that have formed, the true meaning of solidarity to me.

I was honoured to be chosen to continue my role as a Union Counsellor and progress to Union Counselling 2. Throughout the week I met and re-connected with many Sisters & Brothers from a variety of unions which resulted in some very in-depth conversations that always included the importance of standing together with union strength, the need to get our youth members engaged within our own Locals and, as Union Counsellors, to be available to assist our Brothers & Sisters with the resources available to deal with the vast variety of issues that happen in life.

In moving our IBEW 258 Union Counselling Committee forward, it is every member's right to know who their Union Counsellors are within their Units, and that we are here to provide confidential assistance if needed. I would encourage all members to look into the many courses offered at the CLC Winter School, not only for the extensive knowledge and skills, also to strengthen your own membership.

Solidarity Forever,  
Lisa Cardarelli



Guest Editorial by Shame Simpson, recent Labour Critic for the Official Opposition

## There's no question that workers in BC are ready for a change – as are many of their employers

It's been too long since workers in British Columbia had a government responsive to the needs of working people.

Starting in 2001, with the illegal privatization of over 8000 hospital jobs, the current BC government has shown little respect for worker's rights.

Under Gordon Campbell (and his then deputy, Christy Clark), unionized workers in BC saw contracts ripped up, Employment Standards' budget slashed, and wages stagnate as the province's lowest paid workers were denied a minimum wage increase for over ten years. The result of these changes, in part, is a growing gap between rich and poor and increased pressure on middle-income British Columbians.

There's no question that workers in BC are ready for a change – as are many of their employers. Business leaders have been warning about a looming skilled labour shortage for several years. Neglecting this area has a significant negative impact on the economy.

This situation came to a head last year when a mining company announced plans to temporary foreign workers, saying that there were no British Columbians or Canadians with the necessary skills for the jobs available. Miners brought in under the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) program would have few rights, acting essentially as indentured labour, they would be unable to seek work with another employer if they found conditions unsafe or unsatisfactory.

We now know that a number of qualified Canadians who applied for these positions were ignored. This has raised serious concerns about the flaws in the TFW program and the need for a complete and transparent review of the program.

In addition, it is critically important that the protection of all workers in BC, temporary or otherwise, is taken into

consideration. In the case of foreign workers, steps must be taken to ensure worker's rights, both during the recruitment process overseas and when they are in Canada.

Yet, despite the obvious need for investments in this area, the government's most recent three-year budget plan includes a \$70 million cut to skills training and post-secondary education. Apprenticeship completion rates, under the Industry Training Authority, have fallen from 43 to 37 per cent from 2009/10 to 2011/12. This year's numbers are on track to be even worse, at just 35 per cent at the end of 2012. In comparison, the training programs run by the Building Trades and other unions have completion rates over 90%. Clearly, we can learn from those initiatives.

Premier Clark's so-called jobs plan has been the government's central economic development plan. Yet, for over 4 of the first 16 months the BC Jobs Plan has seen a loss of 37,000 private sector jobs while the government spends over \$16 million on taxpayer funded ads to try to mask this reality.

British Columbians are looking for a government that has a serious plan to invest in our workforce so we can compete in a 21st century global economy that demands skilled workers. To that end, our caucus has committed to creating a \$100 million needs based non-repayable student grant program to ensure that every British Columbian has the opportunity to get the skills employers are looking for. Our caucus is committed to following through on investments in trades training, apprenticeships, and trades and training.

In addition, we need a fair and balanced labour code and reinvestments in the Employment Standards Branch that will again protect vulnerable workers. We need to renew the Worker's Compensation Board to ensure injured workers are pro-



*Shane Simpson served as the MLA for Vancouver Hastings since 2005 and most recently was the Official Opposition Critic for Labour. He is seeking re-election in this year's provincial election, taking place on May 14, 2013.*

tected, and that rehabilitation and prevention efforts are given a greater priority.

From raw log exports, to foreign miners, to shipbuilding, this government has not put the interests of British Columbia's workers first. There is much still to be done to restore fairness to our economy, to promote good jobs for working families, and to ensure that workplaces are safe. Adrian Dix and the opposition caucus are committed to putting worker's issues back on the cabinet table.

*Local 258 IBEW thanks Mr. Simpson for his time to write this article for our members.*

# VOTING FOR >

## Labour's Issues

British Columbians go to the polls May 14 to elect a new provincial government. Advance polls are open on May 8, 9, 10 & 11. Working people can mobilize to make a difference in this election and your right to vote is one of the most important rights you have to effectively make that difference.

### We need action to prevent injuries and deaths at work



The numbers are staggering: a total of 104,710 claims were accepted at WCB in 2012. And 149 workers died on the job or as a result of occupational disease.

We need laws that keep people safe at work, provide full compensation when workers are injured and meaningful rehabilitation to help individuals return to work.

Women and men suffered permanent disabilities. Families lost their breadwinner. Children lost a parent. The human cost is heartbreaking and the economic cost is huge.

Since 2001, the BC Liberal government have made workplaces unsafe by gutting safety regulations and cutting the enforcement measures that keep workers safe. They lowered benefits for injured workers and cut people off pensions, then used the "savings" to reduce employer premiums to the lowest level in 30 years.

Negligent employers continue to face trivial fines. Just last year, an employer who had negligently failed to provide any safety instruction, training or supervision was fined just \$3,250 when a worker who fell to his death.

- **Restore full compensation to injured workers, including providing 100% of their net earnings**
- **Restore lifetime pensions for permanently disabled workers**
- **Increase the number of loss of earnings pensions for permanently disabled workers**
- **Increase enforcement and impose meaningful penalties when employers fail to provide a safe workplace**
- **Provide meaningful vocational rehabilitation for injured workers who are returning to work**
- **Ensure worker representatives make up at least 50% of the WCB Board of Directors**

### An economy that works for everyone

Good, family-supporting jobs are critical to sustainable development and an economy that works for everyone. We need action to ensure that ordinary people and especially young people will have the opportunities to succeed and get ahead.

Under the BC Liberals, the middle class is shrinking and many of us are falling behind. Our province has Canada's lowest growth in average hourly wages and the country's highest rate of child poverty.

The Liberals froze the minimum wage for a decade; they tore up collective agreements to drive down workers' wages; they made it harder for young people to go to university by more than doubling tuition fees; they closed 191 public schools; they failed to address the need to train 160,000 skilled workers, instead relying on cheap labour from abroad; and they made it harder for workers to join unions and negotiate fair wages.

The BC government gave cabinet ministers and senior managers massive pay hikes. They shifted taxes away from the rich and imposed huge fee and rate increases on everyone else. During the last election campaign, they misled voters about the HST then immediately shifted \$1.3 billion in taxes away from large corporations.

- **Invest in transportation, energy efficiency and retrofitting of older buildings to create green jobs and reduce emissions**
- **Respect legal contracts and the rights of workers to join unions**
- **Raise the minimum wage and increase it annually**
- **Improve the apprenticeship system to meet the skills shortage and give local people the opportunity to work on projects in their community**
- **Reduce barriers to post-secondary education as well as over-crowding in public schools**
- **Cut raw log exports which have soared 1,000 percent while 35,000 forestry workers have lost their jobs**
- **Stop privatization projects that create profits for a few, but cost the public hundreds of millions of dollars**
- **Ensure that all employers meet their obligation to provide safe workplaces rather than treat worker injuries as a cost of doing business**

# A BETTER BC

## Fair Labour Laws

A good labour relations climate is essential if we hope to build a strong economy that provides profits for employers and fair wages for workers. For employers and workers alike, it is the key to stability, productivity and growth in a changing economy. In every sector, we can do better by working together.

Working families are facing significant economic challenges and more and more workers are stuck in jobs with low wages, little security and no hope of advancement. The middle class is shrinking and it's harder to get ahead, particularly for young people.

It's harder to join a union. New loopholes in labour laws have given unscrupulous employers the ability to undermine the right of workers to belong to unions.

Over the last decade, the BC Liberals have steadily made labour laws unfair and unbalanced. They have torn up legal contracts and have taken away the right to bargain key issues such as contracting out in health care and class size in public education. Students, patients and workers have all paid the price.

It's time for more balance and fairness in the laws that govern how we work together.

- **End employer intimidation and threats**
- **Respect the right to join a union by granting certification when 55 percent of employees have signed a membership card**
- **Grant easier access to mediation to help negotiate first collective agreements that meets industry standards**
- **Close the contracting-flipping loopholes that employers are using to de-unionize their workforces**
- **Protect the right to collective bargaining by repealing heavy-handed legislation**
- **Fix the Labour Board by bringing balance in employer and labour appointments**

Building a strong economy starts with respect for working people.

## Every worker in British Columbia should be treated with fairness and respect in the workplace

Union workers have the benefit of negotiated collective agreements and assistance from union stewards if things go wrong. Non-union workers depend on the minimum provisions of the Employment Standards Act, which is subject to change at the whim of government. Over the past 12 years, the BC Liberals have reduced staffing by one third to just 70 Employment Standards Branch Officers for the entire province, making it easier for employers to ignore employment laws.

Since 2001, the BC Liberals have gutted Employment Standards and lowered the minimum standards for workers. The minimum wage was frozen for a decade at \$8 an hour, a situation made even worse by the introduction of an often-abused \$6 an hour "training wage" and now the "liquor server wage". Enforcement of minimum working conditions was slashed. Instead of effective, third-party enforcement, workers were told to download a "self-help kit" from the internet.

The BC Liberals also reduced the minimum working age to 12 years old, a violation of international child labour laws.

Many of those who dared to stand up for themselves were fired, given a bad reference and left out of work for long periods. The lack of effective enforcement and penalties has had another harmful effect - it has given unscrupulous employers a financial incentive to squeeze the lowest-paid workers in the province even more.

- **Raise the minimum wage and increase it annually**
- **Eliminate the "liquor server wage"**
- **Restore four hour minimum shifts, along with adequate notice of shift schedules**
- **Increase paid vacation to three weeks for all workers**
- **Pay workers overtime after eight hours on the job**
- **Raise the minimum working age to meet international labour standards (ILO)**
- **Strengthen inspection and enforcement by the Employment Standards Branch to ensure all workers are treated fairly and all employers follow the law.**

The majority of British Columbians think corporate taxes should be increased.

# VOTING FOR A BETTER BC

## Labour's Issues

94% of British Columbians believe trades training and apprenticeship needs to be dramatically increased

### Apprenticeship and Skills Training

For the past decade, British Columbia has faced an acute shortage of skilled workers. Baby boomers in the skilled trades are retiring, but BC is simply not training enough workers to meet the need. A modern, strong and stable economy must produce its own skilled workers, something the BC Government has not done. Instead, they have relied on temporary workers imported from abroad.

An ill-conceived BC Liberal experiment has left us further behind

In 2002, when the priority should have been to expand the trades training, the provincial government ended its involvement in apprenticeship training. It shut down the Industry Trades and Apprenticeship Commission – a partnership of industry, labour, educators and government. Instead, it imposed an unproven privatized system, governed by industry.

Their risky, experiment has been a dramatic failure. Completion rates have plummeted. From the 1960s through the 1990s, 60 to 80 percent of apprentices qualified for nationally recognized certifications. By 2011, the completion rate had fallen to just 43 percent.

The number of employers registered as training sponsors also continued to decline.

- **Double the completion rates for red seal certifications**
- **Provide comprehensive counselling and regional support for apprentices**
- **Provide full scope training - apprentices need to work directly with journeypersons to learn their trades**
- **Provide partnership model of training - industry, labour, educators and government - working together to ensure apprenticeship opportunities**
- **Require apprenticeship opportunities on publicly-funded projects such as roads, bridges and universities.**



Members lose jobs as Surrey Fabricating Shop closes

# McKay fights for members – and British Columbians – as BC Hydro continues to privatize

Business Manager Doug McKay has received great feedback from Local 258 members across BC with the publication of two full page ads in the Sunday edition of The Province newspaper in the month of March.

## Piece-by-piece dismantling of BC Hydro

After members working at BC Hydro's Fabricating Shop in Surrey suddenly received lay off notice earlier this year, McKay wrote a strongly worded letter directly to Premier Christy Clark in early February where he outlined the union's strong opposition to the layoffs and indicated "this is yet another step in the province selling off our public utility on a piece-by-piece basis".

As the union waited, and waited, for a reply from the Premier, McKay decided it was time to share the union's concerns with the owners of BC Hydro – British Columbians – about the ongoing privatization of the publicly owned Crown Corporation, and chose to publish a full page ad in the Sunday newspaper.

Although this government claims it is not in the business of privatizing BC Hydro, the Trucking, Painting, Shipping/Receiving and now the Fabricating Shop have all been closed with private business now performing that work.


In mid-April, more than two months after sending the letter, McKay received a reply, not from Premier Clark, but from MLA Rich Coleman where he confirmed that "the provincial government instructed BC Hydro to examine all elements of its busi-

ness..." and also wrote, "Fabrication is not a core competency for an electric utility and BC Hydro, like many other businesses, needs to focus its limited resources on core competencies."

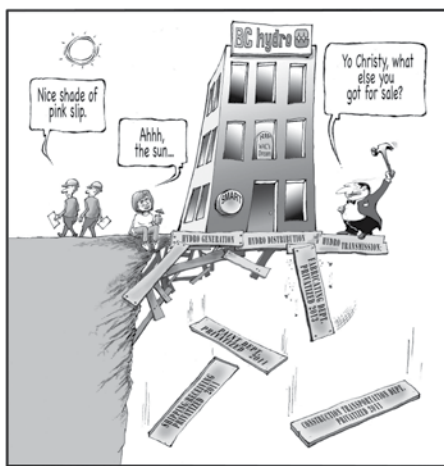
Rich Coleman is seeking re-election this year in Fort Langley-Aldergrove, home to many members of Local 258 IBEW who work at BC Hydro and, like all British Columbians who are concerned about our publicly owned Crown Corporation, have an opportunity to vote in this year's provincial election.

## A Fracking Disaster

In an effort to heighten BC Hydro ratepayers' awareness about government decisions affecting our electric utility, Local 258 IBEW placed another full page ad in The Province newspaper highlighting the government's decision to issue permits, without public consultation or proper environmental studies, to private oil and gas industries to divert water directly out of BC Hydro's Williston Lake reservoir to be used for hydraulic fracturing. Commonly referred to as "fracking", this technique uses huge amounts of water to extract gas and petroleum buried deep underground. Water used for fracking becomes completely unuseable for any future use whatsoever, including hydroelectric power generation.

Brother McKay thanks all the members who wrote, emailed and phoned him expressing their pride and pleasure at seeing their union, Local 258 IBEW, stand up for British Columbians and keeping BC Hydro ratepayers informed. 

### PIECE-BY-PIECE DISMANTLING OF BC HYDRO



British Columbians need renewable clean energy.  
BC Hydro has a track record of providing renewable clean energy to British Columbians for over half a century. IBEW members working at BC Hydro are more than up to the task of continuing this tradition. But the BC Liberals are outsourcing this opportunity and diverting billions of dollars away from the public coffers into private industry.  
With numerous internal departments at BC Hydro being dismantled and privatized, with contracts for future energy development being awarded to private industry, and with contract obligations to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) now reaching \$56 billion, BC Hydro profits are increasingly headed to shareholder pockets, not the public treasury.  
Ratepayers are seeing increases on their BC Hydro bills, but that money no longer flows 100% into the public purse where it can be spent to help provide public services like healthcare and education.  
Instead, as BC Hydro wanes in size and power, those increases will show up as dividends in the portfolios of private industry stockholders.


*"More and more parts of our public utility are on the chopping block. It's time that BC Hydro's owners, the public ratepayers, understand that an increasing portion of every hydro bill ends up on a private industry balance sheet. The lights are on but it is no longer the crown corp reaping all the profit."*

Doug McKay  
Business Manager  
IBEW Local 258

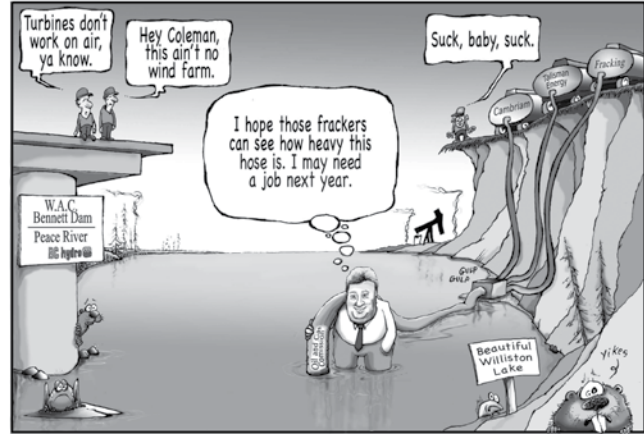
**Keeping Ratepayers Informed**

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 258**

WWW.IBEW258.BC.CA



### A FRACKING DISASTER



British Columbians own the WAC Bennett Dam and the reservoir water behind it, Williston Lake, the largest body of fresh water in the province. Without public consultation, the BC Liberals started giving out permits in 2010 to private oil and gas companies to pull billions of litres of water out of the lake each year. As the price of natural gas climbs so will the demand on fresh water.  
Water used to create hydroelectricity is re-useable as it flows through turbines and returns again to the lake system.  
Water used in fracking is gone forever because it's polluted with methane gas and other toxins.


*"That dam and Williston Lake behind it are the backbone of our heritage power. This is what allows BC Hydro to keep our rates one of the lowest in North America. We're risking it all in letting private industry re-route the water away from the creation of hydroelectricity to a one-time use in fracking. This has all been done without public consultation or proper environmental studies."*

Doug McKay  
Business Manager  
Local 258 IBEW

**Keeping Ratepayers Informed**

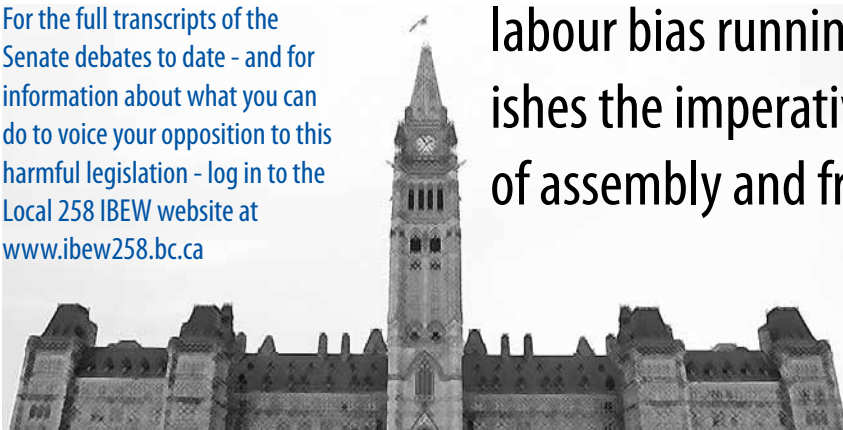
**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 258**

WWW.IBEW258.BC.CA



**Honourable senators,** this bill is about a nanny state; it has an anti-labour bias running rampant; and it diminishes the imperative of free speech, freedom of assembly and free collective bargaining.

For the full transcripts of the Senate debates to date - and for information about what you can do to voice your opposition to this harmful legislation - log in to the Local 258 IBEW website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca)



*Senator Hugh Segal  
Senate Debates Bill C-377  
February 14, 2013*

**Anti-union legislation passed by the Harper Conservatives facing legitimate criticism**

## **Bill C-377 faces opposition in the Senate – Canadian Senators speaking out**

After the Harper Conservative majority government passed Bill C-377 in Parliament in December, Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, representing more than 4 million union workers in Canada, wrote to Prime Minister Harper, stating, “I write to you to express my disgust with the recent conduct of the government regarding Bill C-377. The Canadian Bar Association says that Bill C-377 invades personal privacy, is likely unconstitutional and should be withdrawn. Canada’s federal Privacy Commissioner has also expressed deep concern.”

Bill C-377, “An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act”, the Private Members Bill brought into Canada’s parliament last year by White Rock MP Russ Hiebert and more commonly known as the Anti-Union Bill, headed into the Senate for debate in February.

The Bill is being sponsored in the upper chamber by Senator Nicole Eaton, a philanthropist, Conservative party fundraiser and known for marrying into the Eaton department store family. She was appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Harper in 2008.

Debates in the Senate got underway in early February and as The Hotline goes to press, three debates have taken place. Surprisingly, there is much opposition that has been voiced against the Bill, by two Senators in particular.

On February 6, on introduction of the Bill in the Senate, Conservative Senator Hugh Segal (Kingston-Frontenac-Leeds) spoke out strongly, noting, “There have been suggestions in the world beyond the Senate that the Conservative government is simply using unions as scapegoats, going after them, trying to reduce the power of unions and silence the voice of unions in any kind of public debate by urging this kind of bill that, once again, is through another door — not the main door — trying to stifle debate and lessen the union’s power and influence in our society.”

In reply, Senator Terry Stratton (Red River Manitoba), who recently retired after serving almost 20 years in the Senate said, “What is wrong with going after unions?”

Senator Eaton strongly defended the legitimacy of this often criticized legislation that takes unfair aim at labour unions and seeks to force every union in Canada to file detailed financial reports with Revenue Canada that will then be placed in a searchable database available to the public on-line.

Debates continued on February 14 with Senator Segal pointing out the great cost to Canadian taxpayers if this Bill is to succeed in being implemented. He said, “Dispatching CRA to police how trade unions spend their money, in denominations of \$5,000 or more, is to increase the role of CRA and of the state in ways that create a bigger, nosier and more expensive government. As a taxpayer and as a Conservative, I oppose that kind of increase in any government’s power or expenditures.”

Senator James Cowan led the debate as it resumed on April 16. His concerns centered around the effect the Bill would have on small businesses that work with labour unions, saying, “... if you work for a labour organization or do business with a labour organization, then you will forfeit basic rights enjoyed by all other Canadians. That is the crux of this legislation. Why is it being done? I believe that the answer can be found in a larger story, one where the Harper government is trying to systematically silence individuals and organizations who dare to challenge it publicly.”

He also said, “...unions are already “accountable to their membership.” If a member wants information, they can get it, by law. If, as Senator Eaton suggested, that is the purpose of Bill C-377, then we can end this right now. The bill is simply not needed. Laws are already in place to do what she wants done.”

## Calling all Canadian workers – preparing for the fight of our lives

# Canada's Employment Laws facing serious risk

Times could be drastically changing for all Canadian workers.

Don't for a minute think that your government "just created" Canada's Labour Code and provincial employment standards laws. Today's decent working conditions may have their flaws, but they are the norm in every province and territory and were gained from the blood, sweat, tears and political action of those workers who joined together to demand them – workers who stood together and lobbied and demanded their politicians to legislate improvements to our workplaces and our work lives.

Since the late 1800s, workers in Canada began a tradition of political action. Many who went before us fought very hard, with some giving their lives, to secure legislation ensuring fair treatment in the workplace. What those workers achieved, many of us take for granted today: workplace health and safety regulations, minimum wage and minimum age to work laws, statutory holidays, maternity and parental leave, eight hour workdays and the 40 hour work week were all the result of political action by workers who basically helped establish the middle class.

In the early days of the electric utility industry, one of every two lineman were killed on the job as there was no such thing as a safety regulation. Our IBEW founding fathers quickly realized they had more strength and power to fight for workplace safety when they stood together than if each of them tried to do it on their own.

History has shown us that workers are stronger when we stand in unison with each other – and in Canada, groups of workers have been the ones who have made significant advances for all workers through political action, resulting in Canadian workers being able to enjoy, in general, the benefit of some of the world's better employment laws.

But today, Canadian workers, and in particular workers who belong to a union, are being challenged on a number of fronts with obvious anti-worker legislation and government actions that seem intent on infringing on our rights and threaten the lawful gains we have made. It's becoming very clear in this country, that unions and their members are being attacked. And it's political.

At the federal government level there is Bill C-377. There has also been direct government interference in the collective bargaining process as we have seen with Canada Post, Air Canada and with the railway workers. Provincially, we see what's happened in BC with the government ripping up legal contracts, firing thousands of health care workers, a ten year freeze on the minimum wage, changes to employment standards that benefit only employers and the stripping of safety regulations at the WCB. Combined with the fact that some provinces are now considering the harsh and misnamed "right-to-work" anti-union legislation, our entire labour movement and the achievements made on behalf of all workers in Canada are now at serious risk.

Some pro-business and employer groups are very politically

active and are lobbying Canadian politicians on a daily basis in all of our houses of government, particularly in Ottawa. They have found many Conservative MPs who are listening and convincing them there are "too many laws and protections for workers" – especially those who are union members. You've probably heard the messaging: "Do we really need unions today? Are unions really relevant? Public service workers cost a lot of money, and look at those pensions!"


Unfortunately, these groups spend millions of dollars to spread their message on the TV, on the radio, in news articles and editorials, and that anti-union and anti-worker messaging is gaining traction. Their calculated effort is seeking to gain public support, as it has already convinced many politicians who seem bewitched by these political lobbyists who are enticing them.

This approach has been very successful in the USA, where unions have been devastated with anti-union legislation, and the "right-to-work" – FOR LESS – laws that are now in force in 24 states. The result? Wages are driven down, the middle class is shrinking, families are left without health care insurance, pensions or other benefits and communities are destroyed.

When workers stand together we are stronger than if we are divided. In the "right-to-work" – FOR LESS – states, if an employee in a unionized workplace decides they don't want to pay union dues, they don't have to. But the union is still required to fully represent them. How fair is that? And how strong can a union be to protect that "freeloading" employee, or the rest of the members who are paying dues? It's no wonder that unions often collapse shortly after these types of laws are brought into effect. And at the end of the day, it's the worker, and their families who suffer the most of all.

In Canada, the freedom to join and participate in a union is protected by our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The Supreme Court (Lavigne 1991) has upheld the importance and the legitimacy of unions engaging in political and advocacy activities. The court has also upheld the legitimacy of requiring all employees who benefit from a collective agreement to pay dues to the union that represents them in the workplace, whether or not they are members – known as the Rand formula – on the grounds that it reduces industrial conflict and permits unions to defend the rights of all workers.

The growing movement among many Harper Conservative politicians in Ottawa to adopt laws like those in the USA can only be defeated if we stand together and fight back. But we have to have the support of more than each other - we have to talk openly about the threats to all workers in this country by the type of legislation the Harper Conservatives are now considering. We have to talk with our friends, our neighbours and our politicians to let them know this just won't fly in Canada.

Brothers and sisters, this is going to be the fight of our lives. 



# Unit 1 Meeting Schedule 2013

\* UPDATED APRIL 2013

## UNIT 1 MEETING SCHEDULE

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



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
 President: Michelle Laurie  
 Vice-President: Tony Brand  
 Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
 Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
 Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
 Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
 Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney  
 Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
 Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
 Unit #6 Chair: Chris Carter

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
 Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,  
 Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva,  
 Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk (Acting)  
 Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371 toll free: 1-877-520-3305





# Unit 2 Meeting Schedule 2013

\* UPDATED APRIL 2013

## UNIT 2 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>PRINCE GEORGE</b> Where: Coast Inn When: 7:00 pm	<i>*Wed</i> <b>JAN</b> 16th	<i>*Tues</i> <b>FEB</b> 19th	<i>*Wed</i> <b>MAR</b> 13th	<i>*Wed</i> <b>APR</b> 10th	<i>*Wed</i> <b>MAY</b> 8th	<i>*Wed</i> <b>JUN</b> 19th			<i>*Wed</i> <b>SEP</b> 11th	<i>*Wed</i> <b>OCT</b> 16th	<i>Thurs</i> NOV 14th	
<b>DAWSON CREEK</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm		<i>Thurs</i> FEB 21st				<i>Thurs</i> JUN 27th						<i>*Thurs</i> DEC 12th
<b>FORT ST. JOHN</b> Where: Line Room * When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 20th			<i>Thurs</i> MAY 16th		<i>*Thurs</i> JUL 11th		<i>Wed</i> SEP 18th			
<b>HUDSON'S HOPE</b> Where: Parkes Centre When: 4:30 pm				<i>Thurs</i> APR 11th				<i>*Thurs</i> AUG 15th				
<b>FORT NELSON</b> Where: Woodland's Inn When: 7:00 pm					<i>Wed</i> MAY 15th				<i>Thurs</i> SEP 19th			
<b>QUESNEL</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm						<i>Thurs</i> JUN 20th					<i>Thurs</i> NOV 21st	
<b>WILLIAMS LAKE</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:30 pm	<i>Thurs</i> JAN 17th				<i>Thurs</i> MAY 9th						<i>*Wed</i> NOV 20th	
<b>100 MILE HOUSE</b> Where: BC Hydro Line Room When: 7:00 pm			<i>Thurs</i> MAR 14th						<i>Thurs</i> SEP 12th			
<b>BELLA COOLA</b> * Where: TBA * When: TBA					<i>Thurs</i> MAY 2nd					<i>Thurs</i> OCT 3rd		

\* denotes Official Meeting where members vote on union business



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### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371 toll free: 1-877-520-3305



# Unit 3 Meeting Schedule 2013

\* UPDATED APRIL 2013

## UNIT 3 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>BRIDGE RIVER</b> Where: Lunch Room B2 When: 5:30 pm	<i>*Tues</i> <b>JAN</b> 15th		<i>Tues</i> MAR 12th		<i>Tues</i> MAY 14th				<i>Tues</i> SEP 10th		<i>Tues</i> NOV 12th	
<b>KAMLOOPS</b> Where: IBEW #993 Hall When: 7:00 pm	<i>Wed</i> JAN 16th		<i>Wed</i> MAR 13th		<i>*Wed</i> MAY 15th			<i>*Wed</i> AUG 14th	<i>Wed</i> SEP 11th		<i>Wed</i> NOV 13th	
<b>VERNON</b> Where: Army & Navy Club 2500 46th Avenue, Vernon When: 7:00 pm	<i>Thur</i> JAN 17th		<i>*Thur</i> MAR 14th		<i>Thur</i> MAY 16th		<i>*Thur</i> JUL 11th		<i>Thur</i> SEP 12th		<i>Thur</i> NOV 14th	<i>*Thur</i> DEC 12th
<b>MICA</b> Where: Curling Rink When: 6:00 pm	<i>Tues</i> JAN 22nd		<i>Tues</i> MAR 19th		<i>Tues</i> MAY 21st				<i>*Tues</i> SEP 17th		<i>Tues</i> NOV 19th	
<b>REVELSTOKE</b> Where: Hydro Dam Lunch Room When: 4:15 pm	<i>Mon</i> JAN 21st		<i>Mon</i> MAR 18th		<i>Tues</i> MAY 21st				<i>Mon</i> SEP 16th		<i>*Mon</i> NOV 18th	
<b>CASTLEGAR/TRAIL</b> Where: Castlegar: Fireside Inn Trail: Terra Nova Hotel When: 7:00 pm		<i>*Tues</i> Castlegar FEB 12th		<i>Tues</i> Castlegar APR 9th		<i>Tues</i> Trail JUN 11th				<i>Tues</i> Castlegar OCT 8th		
<b>CRANBROOK</b> Where: Labour Temple When: 4:30 pm		<i>Wed</i> FEB 13th		<i>*Wed</i> APR 10th		<i>Wed</i> JUN 12th				<i>*Wed</i> OCT 9th		
<b>INVERMERE</b> Where: Line Room When: 4:00 pm		<i>Thur</i> FEB 14th		<i>Thur</i> APR 11th		<i>*Thur</i> JUN 13th				<i>Thur</i> OCT 10th		

\* denotes Official Meeting where members vote on union business

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



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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: Chris Carter

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva,

Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk (Acting)

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

**LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS**

7535 Sixth Street,

Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371 toll free: 1-877-520-3305

[www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca)





# Unit 4 Meeting Schedule 2013

\* UPDATED APRIL 2013

## UNIT 4 MEETING SCHEDULE

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

\* denotes Official Meeting where members vote on union business



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
 President: Michelle Laurie  
 Vice-President: Tony Brand  
 Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
 Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
 Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
 Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
 Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney  
 Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
 Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
 Unit #6 Chair: Chris Carter

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
 Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,  
 Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva,  
 Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk (Acting)  
 Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

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 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371 toll free: 1-877-520-3305



# Unit 5 Meeting Schedule 2013

\* UPDATED APRIL 2013

## UNIT 5 MEETING SCHEDULE

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>* BURNABY</b> Where: Union Hall, 7535 Sixth St., Burnaby When: 5:00 PM	<i>*Thur</i> <b>JAN</b> 17th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>FEB</b> 14th	<i>Thur</i> MAR 14th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>APR</b> 11th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>MAY</b> 9th	<i>Thur</i> JUN 13th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>JUL</b> 11th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>AUG</b> 15th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>SEP</b> 12th	<i>Thur</i> OCT 10th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>NOV</b> 14th	<i>*Thur</i> <b>DEC</b> 12th
<b>* SECHelt</b> • Where: Driftwood Inn, 5454 Trail Avenue, Sechelt When: 5:00 pm			<i>*Wed</i> <b>MAR</b> 20th			<i>*Wed</i> <b>JUN</b> 26th				<i>*Wed</i> <b>OCT</b> 23rd		
<b>POWELL RIVER</b> * Where: Town Centre Hotel When: 4:30 pm			<i>Tues</i> MAR 20th			<i>Tues</i> JUN 25th				<i>Tues</i> OCT 22nd		

\* denotes Official Meeting where members vote on union business



### Your Local 258 IBEW

#### Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay  
 President: Michelle Laurie  
 Vice-President: Tony Brand  
 Treasurer: Larry Byhre  
 Recording Secretary: Dale Haines  
 Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft  
 Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope  
 Unit #3 Chair: Colin Kenney  
 Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell  
 Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth  
 Unit #6 Chair: Chris Carter

### Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell  
 Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,  
 Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva,  
 Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk (Acting)  
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### LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 Sixth Street,  
 Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2  
 phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371 toll free: 1-877-520-3305

# Sign up today on Local 258's website!

The updated website for Local Union 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is seeing members sign up on a daily basis and continues to send regular news bulletins via email to those registered members.

Launched in September 2012 at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca), the website features the "Members Resources" section. To view the "Member Resources", you have to be a current, active member in good standing of Local 258 and complete the sign-up process, linked from the home page, by completing the Member Registration form. You will need your union member number, available on your IBEW union card, to confirm your membership as this part of the website is exclusive for members of Local 258 IBEW.



By including your personal cell phone number and email address on the registration form the union will be able to communicate with you directly from the website, notifying you of important news and events via your smart phone and email. Receiving text messages is optional, but recommended.

Although every effort will be made to activate your registrations as soon as possible, the process can take up to 48 hours. If your membership is not current you will be notified by email your registration has been rejected and you won't be able to log in and view the Member Resources or be notified via text or email about important union events.

If you can't recall your union member number or can't find your card, you can retrieve your number by calling the Local office at 604-520-3305 or toll-free 1-877-520-3305.



Once your registration is approved, you can then log in and view member-specific information and have quick access to a number of downloadable forms as well as detailed information about the Dispatch process. This secure section of the website is ONLY available to members of Local 258 IBEW and will also feature regularly updated member-specific information on the Member Home page. Many collective agreements are now available for viewing.

A Unit Meeting Calendar is available on the Member Resource section, listing dates, times and locations of your union meetings.

We hope you find the updated website a source of information that you can use as a member of Local 258 of IBEW. We look forward to your feedback and suggestions - please contact us by email at [communications@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.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 through Friday, from 8 am to 6 pm.

**BCFED Health & Safety centre**

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)

# In Memoriam

*In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, who passed away in 2012 (unless otherwise indicated).*

## **FREDERICK ALLISON**

*Retired BC Hydro, Journeyman Cableman; Died: March 12, 2012*

## **INGLIEF ARNESEN**

*Retired BC Hydro, Operator/Area Dispatcher; Died: January 13, 2012*

## **RAY ALBERT AUGUSTINE**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman; Died: January 27, 2012*

## **LESLIE EARL BALDWIN**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: June 14, 2012*

## **ARTHUR BEADLE**

*Retired BC Hydro, Patrolman; Died: December 18, 2012*

## **JOSEPH BENZER**

*Retired; Died: September 5, 2012*

## **ROBERT BEHL**

*Retired BC Hydro, Area Dispatcher; Died: November 12, 2011*

## **RONALD E. BOFFY**

*Lineman; Died: January 5, 2013*

## **DANIEL BOTKIN**

*Driver/Helper; Died: December 29, 2011*

## **TOM BRUCE**

*Retired BC Hydro, Journeyman Electrician; Died: February 2, 2012*

## **HENRY BUHLER**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman; Died: November 29, 2011*

## **GEORGE BUTCHER**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman; Died: November 30, 2012*

## **WILLIAM CHAPPLE**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: November 25, 2012*

## **THOMAS DAVIDSON**

*Retired ; Died: November 9, 2012*

## **WALLY DOSKOTCH**

*Retired; Died: October 30, 2012*

## **FRANKLIN EDMUNDS**

*Retired BC Hydro; Mechanic Diesel Station; Died: October 27, 2012*

## **JOHN W. ELANDER**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: February 1, 2012*

## **VICTOR FAVEL**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman; Died: March 20, 2012*

## **CLARENCE FORSBERG**

*Retired BC Hydro, Serviceman; Died: December 11, 2012*

## **GEORGE W. FRANTZEN**

*Owner of Alpine Contracting (Honourary Withdrawal Card);  
Died: November 27, 2011*

## **JOHN YASUO FUJISAWA**

*Retired BC Hydro, Electrician; Died: January 22, 2012*

## **ERNIE FULTON**

*Retired, Electrician/Lineman; Died: May 28, 2012*

## **MATTHEW GOODINE**

*Died: March 30, 2012*

## **JOHN GRAHAM**

*Retired; Died: September 3, 2012*

## **LLOYD GRATTON**

*Retired BC Hydro, Electrician; Died: December 29, 2012*

## **WELLINGTON HANCOCK**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: September 26, 2012*

## **DONALD HEPPNER**

*Retired; Died: August 19, 2012*

## **HERMAN HERINGER**

*Retired BC Hydro, Mechanic; Died: May 25, 2012*

## **EDWIN HOHERTZ**

*Retired BC Hydro, CPC Technologist Subforeman; Died: April 28, 2012*

## **JOHN HYNDMAN**

*Retired BC Hydro; Lineman; Died: November 1, 2012*

## **IVAN JOHNSON**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman; Died: June 4, 2012*

## **ROCK JOHNSTON**

*Died: January 12, 2012*

## **MARK KALLASMAA**

*Died: September 18, 2012*

## **GEORGE KARENS**

*Died: October 18, 2012*

## **DARIN KNUTON**

*Died: October 20, 2012*

## **NESTOR KOTYK**

*Retired BC Hydro, Cableman; Died: March 13, 2012*

## **WILLIAM LABADIE**

*Retired; Died: October 17, 2012*

## **MARCEL A. LAMARRE**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: August 25, 2012*



# In Memoriam



**JAMES LAW**

*Retired BC Hydro, Serviceman; Died: December 29, 2011*

**MILTON LIDDLE**

*Retired BC Hydro; Driver/Helper; Died: July 29, 2012*

**JOHN R. MacNICOLL**

*Retired BC Hydro, Lineman; Died: January 1, 2013*

**BARBARA MATHIESON**

*Traffic Pro Services; Died: May 19, 2012*

**ALLEN J. McCULLOCH**

*Retired BC Hydro (disability), Area Dispatcher; Died: November 23, 2011*

**NEIL McEACHNIE**

*Retired BC Hydro, Machine Operator; Died: January 20, 2012*

**WILLIAM RUSSELL McELWAIN**

*Died: August 13, 2012*

**HENRY (HARRY) FRANCIS McLEAN**

*Retired BC Hydro, Driver/Helper; Died: January 15, 2012*

**DANIEL S. McLEOD**

*Retired BC Hydro, Operator/Area Dispatcher; Died: December 14, 2011*

**ROGER McNEIL**

*Died: July 9, 2012*

**PERRY McROBERT**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: November 2, 2012*

**MICHAEL McWILLIAMS**

*Mechanic; Died: April 20, 2012*

**STANLEY MILUM**

*Retired BC Hydro, Utility Man; Died: March 31, 2012*

**PAUL G. MYSKO SR.**

*Retired; Died: November 10, 2012*

**THOMAS E. MURRAY**

*Retired BC Hydro, Mechanic; Died: February 26, 2012*

**EARL NELSON**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: June 16, 2012*

**GORDON REEVES**

*Retired BC Hydro, Foreman Patrolman; Died March 31, 2012*

**JAMES RIPLEY**

*Retired BC Hydro, Utilization Technician; Died: January 9, 2012*

**EMIL RURKA**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: June 20, 2012*

**ROBERT SANDERSON**

*Retired BC Hydro, Telecontrol Tech Foreman; Died: May 5, 2012*

**DONALD G. SAUL**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: July 10, 2012*

**DUAINE R. SCHLACK**

*Lineman; Died: April 21, 2012*

**JEFF SCHRAM**

*Asplundh, Slasher; Died: March 17, 2012*

**OTTO STURM**

*Retired BC Hydro, Industrial Technician; Died: January 26, 2012*

**BRIAN FREDERICK TAYLOR**

*Traffic Control; Died: June 17, 2012*

**WOLODYMYR TICHONOW**

*BC Hydro, Driver/Helper; Died: December 6, 2012*

**EDWARD TODD**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: August 18, 2012*

**EDWARD TORILLO**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: October 1, 2012*

**ROD TRENHOLM**

*Retired; Died: November 18, 2012*

**NORMAN TUDDENHAM**

*Retired BC Hydro, Meterman; Died: September 13, 2012*

**RICHARD WALTER VILLERS**

*BC Hydro, Winder; Died: February 15, 2012*

**SIEGFRIED VOTTER**

*Retired BC Hydro, Machine Operator; Died: March 18, 2012*

**DAVID G. WEAR**

*Retired BC Hydro, Journeyman Lineman; Died: November 25, 2011*

**WILLIAM WRIGHT**

*Retired BC Hydro, Diesel Station Attendant 1; Died: January 14, 2012*

**VERNON ZEILER**

*Retired BC Hydro; Died: June 9, 2012*



## 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 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 so we can make sure you continue to receive important information from the union, be notified about current events and to receive your copy of the Hotline news magazine. **Please note: your employer is not responsible for forwarding your new mailing address**, so please let your union know where you are.

Call the office at 604-520-3305, toll free at 1-877-520-3305, 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!

Send your items via e-mail to [communications@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.ca), or mail to:

Local 258 IBEW, Attention, The Hotline  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

*Seeking Adventure?*  
*Leaving Town?*  
**Looking elsewhere for work?**

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

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

Please contact Janice at Local 258's headquarters in Burnaby for further details. Call 604-515-3530 or 604-520-3305  
Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

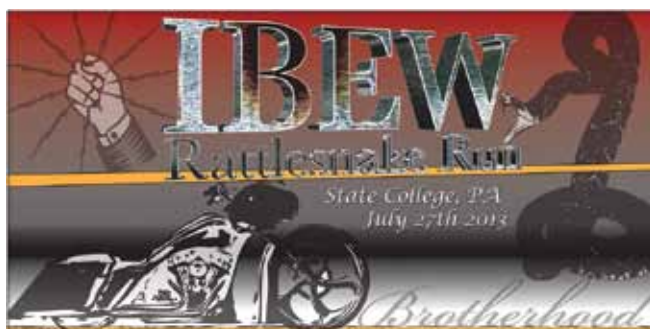
## RIDE WITH THE IBEW!

The IBEW Rattlesnake Run will take place on Saturday, July 27, 2013 at 10:00 am in Pennsylvania.

Registration fee is \$25.00

Register online by visiting [www.ibew.org](http://www.ibew.org) and clicking on the IBEW Rattlesnake Run button.

**Deadline for registration is June 25, 2013.**





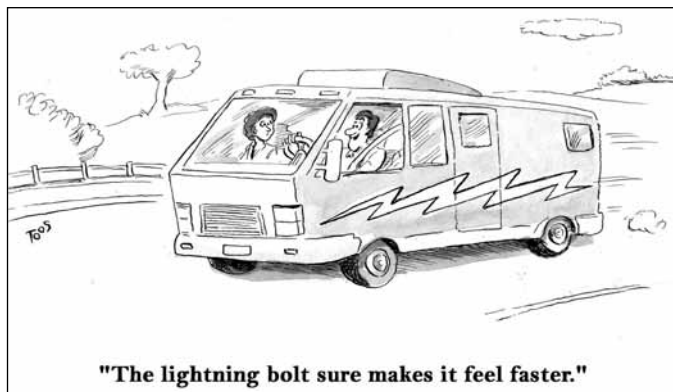
# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen  
Retired Local 258 member

It was a dark and stormy night. That sentence is declared by literature experts to be the worst opening line ever written. I don't really have anything to write about dark and stormy nights. I just wanted to see how it looked as an opening line for this column. However, "dark and stormy" does kind of refer to weather and I do have something to report that is somewhat weather related.

On our trip home to New Westminster from sunny southern California we encountered many of the several varieties of weather including clear and sunny, gale force winds, snow, sleet and, of course, rain. Of all the conditions listed I dislike the gale force winds most. It is my contention that air should be still and not allowed to move around like that. Air in motion also makes the other weather conditions more uncomfortable. Snow, sleet or rain by themselves and falling straight down are tolerable and make the use of devices like umbrellas possible. When wind is added and the stuff is coming at you sideways it is difficult to remain warm and dry. I have always found warm and dry preferable to cold and wet. Even on clear sunny days moving air will gather up dust and sand and grit from the ground and dash it into your eyes, ears and mouth. One day while driving somewhere in Nevada the air was moving so violently that the scenery was obliterated by clouds of dust and sand and grit. Now what good is scenery if you can't see it? Then if that sandy stuff gets in your mouth it kind of makes your teeth grindy. I would guess that if you lived where there is a combination of sand and moving air for a long time your teeth would wear right down. All in all, still air is better than moving air. Just to finish with comments on the weather, at least for now, when we left sunny southern California the daytime temperature was around 35 to 37 Canadian degrees. When we arrived at New Westminster the daytime temperature was around 7 to 9 Canadian degrees. That's quite a difference and somewhat of a shock to the system. That difference had me rummaging around in closets and drawers looking for long pants. I don't necessarily need 35 or 37 degrees but 7 or 9 degrees is a little on the low side. It would be nice if we could sort of split the difference and end up with about 20 to 22 Canadian degrees and non-moving air.

Our route home from sunny southern California was along what I call the Casino Trail. We stopped the first night in Pahrump, Nevada where there are, of course, casinos. The next night found us at Reno, Nevada in a RV park conveniently attached to a casino. During Our drive the next day we faced a route decision at Klamath Falls, Oregon. We had to decide whether we should continue north to and through the Okanagan or head west to I-5. After a brief discussion the westerly route prevailed and we spent that night at Seven Feathers Resort and Casino in Canyonville, Oregon. Now the Seven Feathers RV Park is not right next to the



casino but they send a bus around to gather you up and deposit you at the casino. The bus runs all day and all night. At least I think it runs all night. It was driving around when I went to sleep and was driving around when I got up in the morning. I don't frequent the casinos myself. Well, except if there is an all you can eat buffet with prime rib for \$9.95. When Catherine Dear goes to the casino, Indio, the dog, and I spend quality time together doing crossword puzzles and watching TV. Our last night on the road was spent at a RV park in Kent, Washington. There was no casino but we were in close proximity to a Winco Food Store, which, to Catherine Dear, is almost as good as a casino. Notwithstanding the Casino Trail our financial status is no better or no worse than when we left sunny southern California.

While not quite weather related I would like to mention that the long pants I found at the bottom of a drawer had not shrunk too much during their time of neglect. The waist button was still serviceable but perhaps fit a bit more snugly than the last time it was used. At another time maybe we can discuss and explore the phenomenon of shrinking clothes in closets and drawers. Wearing the long pants was a thought provoking experience in that some people I met remarked that they didn't know I owned long pants while others didn't recognize me at all.

Anyway, here we are back home safe and sound just in time for the provincial election. I am sure the results of the election will give lots of material for rumination. Amid all the hooraw and bombast of the politicians and the strident interpretations of the media pundits I hope we can fairly assess individual candidate's positions and select the ones that will work with and for our often abused and much neglected labour force. Please be sure to vote. It is important and we can make a difference.

That's it for this time. Please continue to work and play safely because even on dark and stormy nights retirement is great. ⚡



**PHOTO  
OPPORTUNITY  
LU 258**



*Congratulations to Brother Mike Stiglic who was initiated into IBEW at the October meeting in Sechelt. He is welcomed to the union by Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair.*



*Congratulations to Brother Phil Nundal and Brother James Lowe who were awarded their 5 year service pins at the Prince Rupert meeting by Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, center.*



*Welcome to new members who were sworn in at the January Unit 6 meeting by Chair Chris Carter (left); Brother Brandon McKay, center and Brother Michael White, right.*



*Business Manager Doug McKay congratulates Brother Don Luney on his recent retirement.*



*Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft awarded Brother Mike Richard his 10 year service pin at the union meeting in Masset.*



*Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft awarded Brother John Camp his 5 year service pin at the union meeting in Masset.*



*Local 258 IBEW congratulates Brother Pat Hagel who recently topped out as a lineman. He is shown here with Earl Lockhart, Manager at Arctic Power, left, and Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Local 258 Assistant Business Manager, right.*



*Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft awards Brother Charles Stewart-Burton his 20 year service pin at the recent union meeting held in Masset.*



*Welcome aboard to membership in the IBEW to Sister Robin Felletta, shown here being sworn in by Unit 4 Chair Tom Greenwell at the April Unit 4 meeting in Victoria.*



*Congratulations to Brother Ken Duhamel who received his retirement watch and service award pin from Local 258 ABM Dan Giesbrecht. Enjoy your retirement Ken!*



*Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth, right, initiated new members to the union at the October meeting in Sechelt. Welcome aboard to Nicki Dinsdale, Robin Timothy, Kayla Otis and Kristina Robinson.*



*At the February Unit 1 meeting in Terrace, Unit Chair Klaus Kraft presented Brother Herb Burbee with a 40 year IBEW service pin award. Congratulations Brother Burbee!*



**PHOTO  
OPPORTUNITY  
LU 258**

***BC Hydro's Inaugural United Way Campaign awarded***



*The BC Hydro United Way Labour Campaign was the recipient of the 2012 "Welcome to the United Way" Spirit Award recognizing the significant contribution of Local 258 IBEW and COPE 378 members who work at the public utility.*



*At the April Unit 4 meeting in Qualicum Beach, Unit Chair Tom Greenwell presented Brother Ryan Grant, left, his 10 year service pin and Brother Greg Peachy, right, his 25 year service pin. Congratulations!*



*New members sworn in by Brother Mark Davison at the Unit 5 meeting in March are Darren Van Leeuwen, Zachary Tomko and Craig Vandokumurg. Welcome to the IBEW!*



*The January Unit 5 meeting welcomed new members Ryan Boehm and Richard Jordan who are shown here with Chair Cathy Tagseth. Welcome aboard!*



*It was a proud moment for IBEW member Brother Jim Rae as he sees his son Allan topping out of his apprenticeship. They have had the chance to work with each other this past winter in Powell River, where Allan served his apprenticeship with Midway Powerlines.*



*Welcome aboard new members Tara Lee and Sarah Virgint who were sworn in at a Unit 5 meeting in Squamish by Chair Cathy Tagseth.*



*Aaron Rokstad, left, owner and president of Rokstad Power, one of Local 258's signatory employers, thanks Local 258 ABM Dan Klassen for the joint effort in helping St. Paul's Hospital Foundation raise more than \$2.4 million for the 2012 Lights of Hope campaign, exceeding their goal of \$2 million. Congratulations to all who volunteered on this outstanding fundraising event.*

***Congratulations to the Campbell River Line Crew for raising funds to support Movember!  
At the beginning Success!***



***Local 258 IBEW at the Women Building California and the Nation 3rd Annual Conference***



*Local 258 IBEW Sisters Nicole Biernaczyk (ABM) and Lisa Cardarelli (Member, Local 258 Union Counselling Committee) were part of the 90 member-strong Canadian contingent of 650 delegates from across North America who gathered in Sacramento for the 3rd Annual Women Building California and the Nation Conference in April. Leadership on the jobsite and in their union halls was the focus of this important gathering where tradeswomen networked and gained insights to help build stronger communities. Sisters Cardarelli and Biernaczyk met IBEW President Ed Hill at the Conference and made many connections with women leaders from unions in Canada. A very worthwhile event!*

***IBEW at work***

*Local 258 members working at Rokstad Power are shown here performing some of the replacement and reconductoring of 500kV steel towers over the Fraser River in the Port Mann area of Metro Vancouver. Thanks to Brother Dan Giesbrecht for sending in the photo.*



## Sister Michelle Laurie officially moving on



After much thought and discussions with the Business Manager and Vice President, Sister Michelle Laurie has decided to resign as President of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Michelle's involvement with our union started when she was hired as a journeyman electrician at BC Hydro's Electric Shop, which soon became PowerServ Pacific. Michelle was on the bargaining committee at PowerServ, and was also elected as Unit 6 Recording Secretary in the 1994 union elections. She began working full time at Local 258's training school, EITI (Electrical Industry Training Institute) in the mid 1990's and was hired by Business Manager Gerry Bramhill as a Local Union Organizer in 1995.

She recalls, "We worked very hard to get new members joining the union and I remember both the highs and the lows. Being an organizer is very hard work and

I believe the key was having patience and understanding. When employees in a workplace seek to join a union, it can be a very stressful time, still, it is rewarding to help others find the power in their common voice in the workplace".

In 1998, Michelle took over full time duties as the Workers' Compensation advocate for members needing assistance with claims and appeals. She says, "This was both extremely rewarding – when we win an appeal and a member gets the benefits they are entitled to – and extremely painful when members are denied justice because of bad policies or decisions."

In 2002, Michelle successfully ran for president of Local 258. She says, "I recall there were a number of things that I wanted to do for the membership of our union and the only way to do it was to get more involved. My interest in worker safety issues was paramount and I wanted to help our members and give our Local union a larger voice in the labour community in BC so that our advocacy for workers would be heard."


While serving as president, Sister Michelle Laurie can be proud of her many accomplishments that have brought significant benefit to the membership as a whole and has elevated Local 258 in the local labour and community spheres.

During her three terms serving as president, Michelle also served as an Executive Officer and Vice President at the BC Federation of Labour and chaired the Fed's Occupational Health & Safety Committee. With her volunteer commitment to the United Way, she served

as Chair of the Board locally, and Secretary of the National United Way Board. In 2011, Sister Laurie was recognized by her peers with the Joe Morris Community Service Award, presented by the United Way of the Lower Mainland at the Labour Appreciation Awards.

Last year, Michelle stepped aside as president of Local 258 while she campaigned to become president of the BC Federation of Labour against long time incumbent Jim Sinclair. "I learned a lot during that campaign and thank everyone who supported me, especially my own Local 258 and the other IBEW Locals in BC, and across Canada. It was a unique opportunity and I think overall it was good for our labour movement in British Columbia to have a discussion about the nature of leadership."

Although she is committed to the labour movement, Michelle says "It has been an honour to serve the membership of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and to work with our Executive and with Business Manager Doug McKay. But it is time for new leadership, with new ideas, to take on the president role.

"I believe very strongly in the IBEW and will continue my membership. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Unit 6 meetings and I encourage each and every one of you – especially our IBEW women – to consider taking an active role in our union. It's been a very rewarding experience and I thank everyone at 258 and in the IBEW for the incredible opportunity you gave me to serve our union." 



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In this issue of The Hotline, I am coming out of the voter's booth, so to speak.

I recall voting for the BC Liberals in the 2001 provincial election. Back then, I wanted a change and couldn't wait to throw out the NDP. At that time, there appeared to be only one viable choice, so I held my nose and voted Liberal. They promised an income tax drop the next day and that was important to me at the time. Little did I know that I would be paying for that tax break over and over again with increased fees and premiums, and then there was the HST.

Many of us who still remember the 1990s will also remember the creation of the Public Sector Employers Council – PSEC. Brought in by the BC NDP in 1993, this legislation was intended to ensure coordination of human resource policies and collective bargaining activities amongst public sector employers, including BC Hydro, who employs many of our members. But it changed the way we bargained with BC Hydro as we no longer truly engage in free collective bargaining when we are at the table with this Crown Corporation.

But since the BC Liberals came to power, public sector workers in BC have seen an escalation of government interference in PSEC, including an uneven expansion of their mandate that has extended outside of its original intent. Combined with anti-worker policies applied to employment standards, labour relations and the WCB, policies that clearly favour employers and create a hostile environment for workers, the Liberals have not been friends to working people and I truly believe it's now time for a change.

It's funny how we have kind of come full circle and can't wait to throw out the Liberals. Will it be the same as 2001 when the NDP was decimated? Looks like it to me. Does it mean that down the road I will have the same feelings again about the NDP? Who knows!

Believe it or not I am going somewhere with this. Throughout this whole time I have never missed a chance to vote. I didn't do it because it was my "right"; I did it to voice my opinion. Sure, I may have voted for "Richard the Troll" on one occasion, but at least I voted. Did it always work? No. I regretted my "X" a few times.

So this year I ask that you make the effort to get out and vote – there's lots of opportunities. I may have an opinion on who you should vote for, but that is not for me to meddle in at this point. Your vote can make a difference. It's like me pedalling to work for the last 21 years — does it save the environment? Probably not in the big picture it doesn't, but it's what I can do. So I ask you to do what you can do and vote.

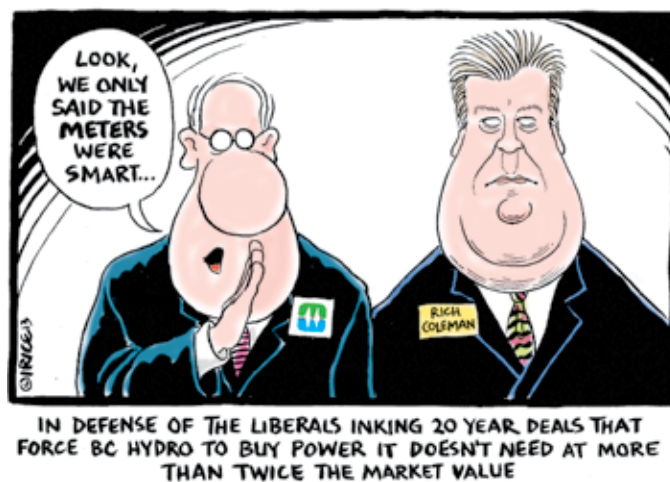
While we are on the subject of elections, let's consider our own house, Local 258. The age demographics are the same as the general public; we are getting older and will be moving on to our next job, as our Ruminations author Ken McEwen calls it, retirement. Members who have served our union by stepping forward for election as Unit Executive members, in some cases for three and four decades, will soon be moving on and making room for the next generation of labour activists.



I'd like to hear from you if you're interested in learning more about the great experience you can gain by getting more involved in your union. I know many of you are busy with family responsibilities and just 'plain life' and spending time away from family and other interests to serve your union brothers and sisters may not be something you've ever contemplated. But maybe you should.

Over the next year, when you go to your Unit meetings (you do go, don't you?), or have some interaction with your union executive members, take a moment and ask yourself, "Could I do this and do I want to?" If you're even a bit interested, I encourage you to ask me, or your Unit Chair or you can ask our Business Manager Doug McKay for more information. When I became more involved in our union, it quickly became part of my routine, and I appreciated the opportunities to learn more about the labour movement and what can be achieved when we work together. I hope by starting this conversation now we can have a full roster of candidates on the ballot for our union elections next year. Stepping forward to sit on your Unit Executive is a great way to contribute to strengthening our Local and learning more about the important role unions play in the community.

So, there's lots to consider. Let's hope we can restore balance to the provincial political scene, keep our union local vibrant and let us old guys retire in peace. Enjoy life, it's the only one you get. 🇺🇸



Visit your union website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) for details:

**IBEW** 2nd Annual  
LOCAL 258  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
presents the

# Al Ross Memorial Fishing Derby



**PRIZES!  
FREE CAMPING!  
TROPHY!**

**SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST LONG WEEKEND**

## 20th Annual IBEW – BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT



**SAVE THE DATE:  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013  
PITT MEADOWS GOLF CLUB**

LOCAL 258 IBEW



# FAMILY PICNIC

**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013  
LOCATION: SEMIAHMOO FISH & GAME CLUB, SURREY**

## The IBEW represents workers from many communities.

The Electrical Workers  
Minority Caucus meetings  
take place on the  
4th Tuesday of each month  
and alternate between  
the IBEW 213 office,  
1424 Broadway Street,  
Port Coquitlam, BC  
and the IBEW 258 office at  
7535 Sixth Street,  
Burnaby, BC  
Meetings start at 7:00 pm.

Electrical Workers  
**Minority Caucus**



Local 258 IBEW 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 IBEW'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. **If you are interested in Local 258's Youth Committee, please contact Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager at Local 258 by e-mail at [dan.klassen@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:dan.klassen@ibew258.bc.ca) or by phone at 604-520-3305, toll free 1-877-520-3305.**

**PROBLEMS AT  
HOME OR  
AT WORK?  
NEED TO TALK  
WITH SOMEONE?**

*To arrange a completely confidential phone call with a trained union counsellor to talk with someone who can help, call IBEW Local 258 at 604-520-3305, or toll free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours. Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.*

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
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