



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
DECEMBER, 2014

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA



Your Local 258 IBEW Executive Board Members

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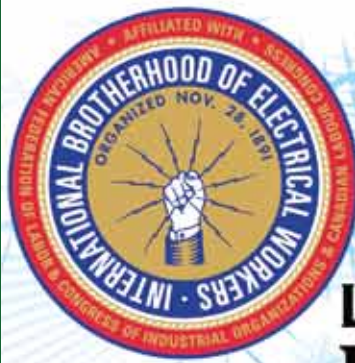
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LOCAL 258 IBEW

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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

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UNION MADE
UNIFOR 780G

Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is affiliated to the British Columbia Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

Executive Board Members:

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Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

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Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair: Trevor Williams

Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Chris Carter

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Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 Membership Development and Organizing: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff: Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Geri Watson, Cathy Keely, Tracey Tilsley

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

Cover Photo:



Elected in union elections in June, your Local 258 IBEW Executive Board with Business Manager Doug McKay. From left: Brother Tony Brand, President; Trevor Williams, Unit 3 Chair; Brother Doug McKay; Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair; Brother Tom Greenwell, Unit 4 Chair; Brother Gerald Pope, Unit 2 Chair; Brother Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair; Brother Chris Carter, Unit 6 Chair.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

The tradition of each fall season bringing powerful windstorms and buckets of rain is now upon us and many of our members have been working very hard to restore power as it gets blown out across the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. From our utility arborists to traffic control and for those working as Power Line Technicians, as well as members working in the dam and generating stations who have been dealing with massive amounts of rainfall, I salute you all in your extra efforts put forward in this stormy season.

I am dismayed your hard work is not as well recognized by some of your employers.

Major contract negotiations for a new collective agreement with BC Hydro has again revealed how unfortunate we are to be locked into the restrictions of the PSEC (Public Sector Employers Council) "box". Our negotiating team has met again with this group that "represents" this employer, and we continue to work hard to achieve a fair and equitable settlement. But they are doing everything they can to frustrate us as we represent you at the bargaining table.

"There are certain kinds of specialized knowledge and experience that you do have to pay for because it's in demand and there's not that much of it."

Energy Minister Bill Bennett
"Smart-meter expert earned \$1.6m"
Michael Smyth, The Province, July 3, 2014

When we see consultants being brought in for short term contracts and being paid outrageous amounts of money for questionable projects, and supportive comments being made by the provincial Energy Minister in this regard, we just have to shake our heads and wonder – what about the reality of the front-line workers who risk their lives on a daily basis – isn't their "specialized knowledge and experience worth" at least the same or more than their counterparts at similar institutions with similar employers across the country? We are tired of being denied the "50th percentile" wage rates we have been promised over and over again without any movement towards this goal.

We're also not happy with the five year agreement structure that's been presented to all public sector workers as we have watched the teachers stand on the street this summer and come back to work without any "real" gains.

As your Business Manager, I hear your frustrations, concerns and your desires, and it may be easy to threaten "to walk", but what's going to bring us back – especially with the confines and restrictions being put on us by "the system".



Brother Larry Byhre and Brother Bob Hirschfield describe their roles as Safety Advocates in their workplace to IBEW leaders from across Canada at the Canadian Utilities Safety Program meeting hosted by Local 258 in Burnaby in November.

I have heard your strong concerns and we have tried to address the overtime "cap" and its falling on deaf ears. There are no provisions in the collective agreement that gives our union the option to challenge this employer through traditional channels – the corporation has the right to manage, and to mismanage. And we are doing all we can to bring pressure to bear upon this set of negotiations, including taking legal action.

In mid-December, we filed a Charter Challenge under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms in regards to our right to engage in free collective bargaining.

We are committed to engaging in free collective bargaining, will continue to put our best ideas forward and will be heading back to the bargaining table in the near future for another round.

With all the sincerity I can muster, PLEASE ensure you are working safe. We have had some very serious and life-altering injuries recently and this is again a reminder that we must all play a part in protecting each other and ourselves in the dangerous jobs we do.

In a national effort to further enhance safety at work for our members, Local 258 was pleased to host a gathering of IBEW leaders from across Canada who have been meeting on a regular basis to share information and developments to improve safe working conditions for our members at every place where we work in the electric utility industry. Many thanks to Brother Steve Hayes from Local 37 in New Brunswick who chairs our meetings and thank you to all who participated, including representatives from one of our major employers, BC Hydro.

It was encouraging to hear that, yes, mistakes have been made, but it is also encouraging to know they are continuing to focus on and make a priority improvements for workers safety, in particular with the establishment of "Safety Advocates" on the job, and IBEW 258 members Brother Larry Byhre and Brother Bob Hirschfield were welcomed at the meeting to give an overview of their roles in this capacity.

(cont'd on page 9)



We've Got Mail!

Brothers & Sisters,

A big Thank You to the Executive and the membership of 258 for allowing me to attend the Summer Union Institute for Women held at the University of Victoria.

It was an opportunity to reconnect with other Sisters from Canada and the United States, and gain new allies from the union sector. During the intense 5-day curriculum, I was schooled in Women in Leadership, Aboriginal Relations, and Creative Activism and Media. Along with these core courses there were also related workshops & round table discussions involving Collective Bargaining, Public Speaking, Stewardship and many more.

We all attended the \$10-a-day Child Care rally held on the grounds of the Legislature which was covered by CHEK News. The Coalition of Childcare Advocates of BC is proposing if and when government puts a plan in place, Child Care will cost families \$10-a-day for a full-time program, \$7-a-day for part-time, and will be free for families who have an annual income of under \$40,000. Every young child will have the right to participate in quality early care and learning programs that meet their needs.

The new skills that I have gained have moved me forward in wanting to pursue the strengthening and need for our membership and all union members to become visible in a time of political want of dismantling our unions. Many have fought for what we have today, and I feel that it is up to us to continue the fight to maintain the union benefits that we all receive now and want to have in the future. With continued involvement within our communities we will gain the public's support on this important cause.

Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity!

In Solidarity,

Lisa Cardarelli, Unit 5 Executive Board Member

To all Members of IBEW 258,
Many thanks for the gift of fruit and flowers on occasion of my accident, I am recovering now. Special thanks to Bro Rick Gammie, and sending all members of 258 warm wishes.
Dave Fremont

Hi Dan Klassen and Local 258 IBEW,
Very many thanks for coming to my UWLM retirement reception and for the good wishes on behalf of IBEW 258 and yourself. The gold watch is much appreciated and will be treasured, even though I'm not sure it's deserved!

It has been great working with you and so many other committed IBEW 258 unionists over the past few years. Your efforts in supporting the Labour-UW partnership have been instrumental in maintaining the somewhat fragile relationship.

Of course, you haven't seen the end of me! I hope to show up at the odd Labour event, and will likely facilitate the Critical Incident Stress Management (and perhaps another) course at Winter School.

Thanks again, and best wishes,
Dileep Athaide

United Way of the Lower Mainland

Dear Unit 6 Chair & Ivan, Frank, James, Kim & Donna,

"In appreciation of your kindness, I have prepared a short but heartfelt speech to express my sincere gratitude: Thanks!"

I'm home now so I just wanted to say "Thank You" for the grand fruit basket. Home is much better for your wishes of a speedy recovery.

Thanks again!!

Dale Haines, Local 258 IBEW Secretary

Dear Tony and Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you very much for the donation to the BC Teachers' Federation hardship fund.

As you are aware, teachers voted by 86% to accept the collective agreement negotiated by the BCTF and the government and classes are now in session.

The gains made in the strike were less than what is deserved and needed, but the most that it was possible to achieve in this round of bargaining. We were able, as well, to reject all the concessions demanded by government.

The picket lines, the media work and the extensive use of social media by our members helped to develop a deeper understanding of the degree to which 12 years of austerity has undermined the conditions in our schools.

Again, we very much appreciate your support in the form of a donation to the strike hardship fund.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Iker,

President, BC Teachers Federation

Dear Local 258 IBEW,

On behalf of the Mid Isle Highlanders U12 Boys Rep soccer team, we would like to thank the IBEW for your donation to our team. This donation will help pay for tournament and travel costs for our players and their families.

These boys are hardworking dedicated soccer players who have a genuine love for the game.



Back Row: Eric, Tomas, Wyatt, Coach Paul, Coach John
Middle Row: Jordan, James, Christian, Roddy, Logan,
Matthew, Connor; Front: Ryan, Josh

Thank You,
Brian Gueldenstern

Executive Board Local 258 IBEW,

We would like to thank Local 258 IBEW for your contribution in support of the Haven House in Parksville.

With your contribution to our golf tournament, we are proud to say we raised over \$3100.

It is with support from Local 258 IBEW and their members that we can continue to work towards bettering the lives of others in our communities.

Thanks again,

Bob Hirschfield

Lori White, Tournament Organizer

Dear Tony Brand,

I would just like to take a moment to express my gratitude to you along with Business Manager Doug McKay and Assistant Business Manager Nicole Biernaczyk for allowing me to attend the 2014 IBEW "Women in Solidarity" Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

It was an amazing experience that allowed me to learn more about the Union and what "Solidarity" is all about. The workshops were awesome and very educational. I truly enjoyed learning more about what the union does and how it works for us. I feel more confident in speaking to others about our union, its structure and the benefits that membership brings with the new knowledge I obtained from attending this Conference.

In Solidarity,

Sister Shannon Isaac

Valley Traffic Systems

Dear Tony,

Just a quick note of thanks in advance of our 'Drive the Trades Tournament' for your most generous donation.

It is people like you who make this tournament a success in meeting student's needs.

Best regards,

Thompson Rivers University



To the Executive, Staff and members of Local 258 IBEW, Thank you so much for your generous donation in support of our team's efforts in this year's "Run for the Cure" supporting Breast Cancer research, education and support.

Your willingness to contribute to the fight against this disease that has affected so many of our friends and loved ones makes me especially proud to call myself a member!

Cheers all,

Michelle Laurie

Dear Tony Brand and Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you for investing in education at Conestoga through your generous gift to the Conestoga Awards, Scholarships and Bursaries Fund. As requested, your generous gift has been directed to the Powerline Technician Awards – Evan Horkoff Memorial Award.

Sincerely,

Julie Gillis

Manager, Donor Relations & Stewardship, Conestoga College

Dear Friends at IBEW Local 258,

It is such a pleasure to be saying thank you for your very generous support this year. I wanted to let you know some of the impact you are having.

Your generosity is especially significant because you are enabling our researchers to deliver better, more effective treatments and more treatment options. Where once there was no treatment options at all, many patients now have more choices and far fewer side-effects.

Your kindness is having further impact. Every one of us knows someone whose survival depends on getting research funded. Thanks to you, their fight to survive will be enhanced by the many practical services that the Canadian Cancer Society's wonderful volunteers are providing against cancer's costs and terrors.

Thank you again and may your year be filled with all the happiness and hope that your generosity is bringing to so many others.

Stephani Agg

CFRE, Donor Relations

Canadian Cancer Society

We've Got More Mail on the next page...



We've Got More Mail!

To Dan Klassen and everyone at Local 258 IBEW,
Thanks so much for your kind help. Words cannot express our gratitude enough. It was very touching and exemplifies the true meaning of solidarity.

Sincerely,
Gord and Janice Beaton

Dear Tony and Local 258 IBEW,
The ILWU Ship and Dock Foremen Local 514 Golf Committee would like to thank the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 258 for your support of the Doug Sigurdson BC Children's Hospital Charity Golf Tournament held on August 27, 2014, at the Riverway Golf Course in Burnaby.

With the IBEW Local 258 support, we were able to host a tournament that not only received many positive comments, but was able to raise a large amount of money. These funds will be donated to the BC Children's Hospital at the next Miracle Weekend.

Again we would like to thank you for your support.

Kind regards,
Ron Roberts
ILWU Local 514 Golf Committee

To Unit 6 Executive,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Unit 6 Executive for their part in sending me to the CLC Steward Level 1 training this past January.

The class was facilitated very well and gave me the confidence to accept my new role as Shop Steward at BC Hydro Store 1.

In addition to the skills and knowledge I gained it was also beneficial to gain insight and share different situations with members of other unions.

I hope I will have another opportunity to attend other classes in the future so that I can continue to help my brothers and sisters be treated with the respect they deserve.

In Solidarity,
Rob Hamilton

Dear Executive Board, Staff and members of Local 258,

I would just like to express my deep thanks to the Local for the fruit basket and to the many members who contacted me during my recovery from a fall at home.

The concern and good wishes were very important in my recovery.

Thank you all again.

In Solidarity,
Tony Brand

To everyone at Local 258 IBEW,
Sending out a big THANKS for your support in our East Kootenay Memorial Golf Tournament again this year.

As you are likely aware, our tournament took on a very special meaning in 2008. Our event is held in honour and memory of Dirk Rozenboom and Rob Lehmann. Dirk's charity of choice was the East Kootenay SPCA and Rob's charity of choice was the East Kootenay Regional Hospital Foundation for Health.

This year we managed to raise over \$2,700.00 (to be split between these two very admirable East Kootenay charities).

Thank you to everyone who supported the tournament through attending, providing prizes and making monetary donations.

Thank you!
Ian Kozicky
BC Hydro | Cranbrook

Dear 258 IBEW,
On behalf of family members living with the outcome of a workplace tragedy, thank you for your kind support of the 2014 Steps for Life - Walking for Families of Workplace Tragedy event. Your generous donation of \$300 will go towards the Family Support program.

We thank you again for believing in and supporting our mission.

Sincerely,
Shirley Hickman
Executive Director, Threads of Life



Dear Doug McKay and Local 258 IBEW,
On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Rapids PeeWee Lacrosse team, I would like to thank you for your more than generous donation.

Your contribution allowed the entire team to travel to provincials held in Richmond in July.

While we didn't return with a medal, we had some hard fought and competitive games, and our whole team had an awesome time.

Once again, thank you IBEW Local 258 and Doug McKay.

Tommy Johnston, Brother Noel Johnston
Local 258 IBEW



Dear IBEW Local 258,
I would like to thank you for your support through your sponsorship of the annual "Knock 'em Out of the Park Tournament" in Kamloops for Kamloops Minor Fastball this past spring.

I am proud to be a part of this Local and for the continued support that we provide to the youth of this province.

Sincerely,
Kaleb Hutchinson



Postcard from the Caribbean



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

Masset: Feb. 19 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Prince Rupert: Feb. 18 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Queen Charlotte City: June 11 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Smithers: Jan. 13, Mar. 10 @ 5 pm; BCH Line Room
Terrace: Feb. 17, Apr. 8 @ 7 pm; Best Western Inn

Unit 2 - Central Interior

100 Mile House: Mar. 12 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Bella Coola: May 7 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Dawson Creek: Feb. 12 @ 7 pm; George Dawson Inn
Fort Nelson: May 21 @ 7 pm; Woodlands Inn
Fort St. John: Feb. 11 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Hudson's Hope: Apr. 15 @ 4:30 pm; Pearkes Centre
Prince George: Jan. 14, Mar. 11 @ 7 pm; Coast Inn
Quesnel: June 17 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room
Williams Lake: Jan. 15 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Bridge River: Jan. 13, Mar. 10 @ 5:30 pm; Lunch Room B2
Castlegar: Feb. 10 @ 7 pm; Fireside Inn
Cranbrook: Feb. 11 @ 4:30 pm; Labour Temple
Invermere: Feb. 12 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Kamloops: Jan. 14, Mar. 10 @ 7 pm; IBEW Local 993 Hall
Mica Creek: Jan. 20, Mar. 17 @ 6 pm; Mica Curling Rink
Revelstoke: Jan. 21, Mar. 18 @ 4:30 pm; Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room
Vernon: Jan. 15, Mar. 12 @ 7 pm; Army & Navy Club

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Campbell River: Jan. 13 @ 7 pm; Maritime Heritage Centre
Courtenay: Jan. 13 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Duncan: Apr. 8 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Ganges: Feb. 10 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Nanaimo: Mar. 11 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Port Alberni: Jan. 14 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Port Hardy: Apr. 7 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Qualicum Beach: Mar. 10 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room
Victoria: May 13 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: Jan. 15, Feb. 19 @ 5 pm; Local 258 IBEW Hall, 7535 Sixth Street

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Chilliwack: Feb. 11, Apr. 8 @ 7 pm; Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way
Langley: Jan. 13, Feb. 10 @ 7 pm; USW Hall, 9292 200th St.

Sign up to the Local 258 IBEW website to get reminders and important news about your union meetings!
www.ibew258.bc.ca

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 \$62.50 - 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

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. ☎

Bargaining updates

Schneider Electric

Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Local 258 IBEW ABM, reports members working at Schneider Electric have ratified a new collective agreement featuring wage increases totalling 9.25% over the four-year agreement with a 3% increase in the first year. There are also improvements to the benefit package. Many thanks to Brother Roland Soehn and Brother Val Singh for their work on these negotiations.

Eaton Corporation

Members working at Eaton Corporation have ratified a new collective agreement with wage increases totalling 8.75% over three years (3% - 2.75% - 3%); and, unused sick days to be paid out at \$100 each and deposited into the member's RRSP account. Pension increases were also achieved. Many thanks to Bargaining Committee members Brother Eduardo Ouano, Brother Orlando Tagaca and Brother Oscar Miradora.

Cam Tran Pacific

In an on-site vote that took place this fall, members working at Cam Tran Pacific ratified a new contract featuring wage and benefit improvements. Sister Nicole Biernaczyk would like to thank Sister Arlene Runka for her work in these negotiations.

GoTraffic Management (formerly ATC Traffic Management)

In a good show of support, members working at GoTraffic ratified a new collective agreement in a mail-in ballot in November that achieved significant wage increases, advances in benefits and improvements in overtime and Stat Holiday pay, with the addition of truck pick up and drop off premiums. Sister Biernaczyk would like to acknowledge the work of Brother Paul Askin, Shop Steward from Valley Traffic, who assisted with these negotiations.

NCS International– Noramco

Bargaining has taken place over the past few months and members recently ratified a new collective agreement that includes wage increases of 4.5% over three years, addition of the Family Day Stat Holiday added and an increase to the First Aid Attendant premium. Brother Dan Klassen would like to thank Brother Andrew Robertson who served on the Bargaining Committee.

Harbourview Electric

Members working at Harbourview Electric in Burnaby ratified a new three-year collective agreement featuring 5% wage increases over the term of the contract - with 3% in the first year. The Family Day Stat Holiday was also added to the contract. Sister Biernaczyk, ABM, would like to thank Brother Peter Cicansky for his participation on the Bargaining Committee.

Code Electric

Sister Biernaczyk, ABM, is working with Bargaining Committee member Brother Craig Anselmo in negotiations for a new collective agreement with this employer.

Code Manufacturing

With the contract expiring at the end of September this year, bargaining has commenced for a new collective agreement for Local 258 IBEW members working at Code Manufacturing in Port Coquitlam.

Welcome aboard!

Local 258 IBEW welcomes new members working at two new certifications in Traffic Control – at 24/7 Traffic Control in Kelowna and at McGinty Traffic Control in Sicamous, BC.

With frequent changes in ownership and with numerous companies both opening and closing in the busy traffic control industry, we say good bye to 5X Traffic Services and to High Voltage Traffic Control, who have both closed their doors. 🚧

VIEWPOINT from your
Business Manager
Doug McKay

(cont'd from page 3)

Communication is the key to ongoing improvements in safety at work and we look forward to more of these meetings and their positive results.

Thank you to our members working in Traffic Control and in Manufacturing who recently ratified new collective agreements. We appreciate your involvement and support in these rounds of negotiations that have delivered substantial improvements to your contracts.

Our members working for the private outside line employers are busy with construction projects and I am pleased to report we have signed a new agreement with Vallard for the Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area transmission job. We've been working hard to convince this employer that it's in their best interest to be a permanent fixture rather than a "project agreement" so we can all benefit.

Our Local Union has stepped up to the plate again this fall to work with the United Way in an effort to better the lives of people who don't have what they need to live in this province. Under this government and the restraints it has put in place, more and more people are falling through the cracks and it is dismal when the headlines continue to read that child poverty remains the highest in Canada. Thanks to Sister Patty Fredricks who we have assigned as a labour-loaned Rep to help raise funds for the United Way as we continue to support this long standing relationship.

In closing, the Christmas season is upon us and I wish you and your family, friends and those you are close with all the joy and merriment this time of year should bring. On behalf of our staff and Executive and all those who take a leadership role in our union, best wishes, happy holidays and all the best to each and everyone one of you for the New Year. 🎉

For-profit clinics attack Medicare in court, seek US-style system

Right now, there's a legal attack before the courts that could turn Canada's Medicare system into a US-style system.

The attack is driven by Dr. Brian Day, owner of the Vancouver-based Cambie Surgery Centre, a for-profit surgical clinic known for unlawfully billing for medically-necessary care.

UPDATE Fall, 2014: The BC Supreme Court case judge has granted a request from Dr. Day's legal team for a 6-month delay of the trial in order to pursue a resolution with the defendant BC government.

The BC Health Coalition and Canadian Doctors for Medicare welcome the possible resolution of a charter challenge to public health care law launched by for-profit clinic owner Dr. Brian Day.

"We are pleased that Day seems to be finally recognizing the need to abandon a law suit that never had any merit, and was no more than a stalling tactic that has allowed him to flout the basic rules of medicare, rules that virtually all other Canadian doctors respect and comply with," says Rick Turner, BC Health Coalition co-chair. "The case has cost far too much time and taxpayer money already."

"The request for a resolution is a positive first step but we are quite disappointed that, as of yet, we have not heard Dr. Day make a commitment to actually stop unlawfully billing patients," says Dr. Monika Dutt, Canadian Doctors for Medicare chair.

The case is being called one of the most significant constitutional challenges in Canadian history.

This challenge aims to do away with Medicare in Canada by striking down provincial health legislation that limits the for-profit delivery of medically necessary services, claiming that these rules violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

What does this mean for me?

If Dr. Day wins, the public system that Canadians rely on — and overwhelmingly support — will be dismantled across the country. We will be left with a system that looks very much like that of the United States — physicians will be permitted to charge patients any amount they like for services, and the rich elite will get care faster than the rest of us.

Evidence shows that the kind of system Dr. Day is seeking would result in longer wait times and poorer health outcomes for Canadians.

An abundance of evidence shows that for-profit hospitals reduce access to care for everyone but a small elite group. Studies in Canada, Europe, and the UK show that patients who can't pay, and whose doctors work in both public and private systems, have the longest waits. Australian research shows that private for-profit clinics drain the limited supply of doctors and other health professionals from the rest of the health care system, lengthening waiting times for all but those who can afford expensive private insurance.

Why it's a national issue affecting everyone in Canada

Even though the case is in the BC Supreme Court, it threatens health care across Canada. Because of the constitutional nature of the case, if Dr. Day wins the challenge, the laws that protect our public health care system will crumble across the country.

We have to make sure Dr. Day is

defeated. In contrast to the aims of these for-profit clinics owners, Canadians don't want US-style health care. Poll after poll show that the public favours investment and innovation in public health care to improve the system for everyone, not the expansion of for-profit health care that benefits only a few while the rest of us wait longer.

If this challenge isn't the solution, what is?

There is no doubt we are in need of improvements to our system.


Those improvements need to reflect the Canadian values of equity and cost-effectiveness. We need to scale up evidence-based innovations that have been proven to reduce wait times and improve health outcomes. Across Canada, there are dozens of innovative projects improving access, quality, and cost-effectiveness while protecting equitable access to care. For example, the Alberta Bone and Joint Institute reduced wait times from 11 months to nine weeks for hip and knee surgery.

Who's fighting for our public health care system?

The BC Health Coalition and Canadian Doctors for Medicare are interveners in this case. This means that they are participating directly in the litigation, and will be standing up for Medicare in court.

But we know that their participation in the case alone can't ensure this legal attack is defeated. It's going to take a huge public outcry to defend Canadian public health care.

It's going to take talking to our governments, our local newspapers, and our family and friends to make very clear: we want a public health care system that works for all Canadians and this legal attack must be defeated.

This is going to be a big challenge, but we know that together we can win this case and ensure that Medicare is here for generations to come. 



Save Canada's Medicare System

To get involved and for more information, go to

www.savemedicare.ca

or find on Facebook at

Save Canada's Medicare System

UNIT 1 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 1 - North Coast: The North Coast covers members living in the geographic area from Burns Lake to the west and north of Bella Coola, including Haida Gwaii. Unit 1 meetings take place in Smithers, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Masset and Queen Charlotte City. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 1 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Klaus Kraft Vice Chair: Brother Andy Andersen Recorder: Brother Chad Watrich

Executive Members: Brother Shane Zemenchik, Brother Zack Garland

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Don McNabb

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



MASSET Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm

Thursday, February 19

Thursday, October 8

PRINCE RUPERT Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm

Wednesday, February 18

Wednesday, June 10

Wednesday, October 7

QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY Meeting takes place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm

Thursday, June 11

SMITHERS Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 13*

Tuesday, March 10*

Tuesday, May 12*

Tuesday, Sept. 9*

Tuesday, Nov. 10*

TERRACE Meetings take place at the Best Western Inn starting at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 17*

Tuesday, April 8*

Tuesday, June 9*

Tuesday, August 11*

Tuesday, October 6*

Tuesday, December 8*

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 6th Street,

Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

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

toll free: 1-877-520-3305 email: info@ibew258.bc.ca

www.ibew258.bc.ca

“When we work together, real change happens”

Motivated by her own personal experience, Sister Patty Frederick encourages support for the United Way

Burnaby – When Sister Patty Frederick was seconded to serve as a labour-loaned rep from Local 258 IBEW for this year’s United Way of the Lower Mainland’s fundraising campaign, little did she know her own personal experience would play a large part when she spoke to potential donors and encouraging them to make a contribution.

Here, in her own words, is some of Patty’s story.

“I am loaned from the IBEW Union 258 and I am visiting workplaces like yours to inspire donors like you to help the most vulnerable in our community by creating prevention awareness.

Has anyone here ever experienced Bullying? I know I have. And that’s why I have a story to tell you about a boy named Mathew. I met Mathew during my first week of training at the United Way.

Mathew shared how he was kicked, punched and was told he was stupid and worthless. His situation was so bad that he moved schools five times before a school counsellor noticed and helped. I really connected with Mathew’s story because I too was bullied in school. My first grade teacher physically and verbally bullied me, and if that wasn’t bad enough, I, too, was bullied at home.

This affected me to the degree that I was painfully paralyzed by fear. I had no self-esteem. I was afraid to ask for help. All my education experience was painful. I was sent to an alternate school, but that didn’t help.

My family was not aware of available programs to deal with my challenges.

My story took me into the despair of addiction to escape the pain and self-loathing.

It took a near death experience before I could get out from under the despair and move towards the hopeful life I live today. And I am forever grateful to donors like you and the United Way.

For Mathew, it was the Red Cross RESPECT-ED initiative which runs the Beyond Hurt Programs in Metro Vancouver, helping 5,000 kids every year.

You never know where the United Way will touch your life.



Sister Patty Frederick is shown here with Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay at the United Way/Labour Kick-Off Event in September.


The United Way touched my life through the Langley Hospice Society when my sister passed away. The counsellors helped me to prepare for my sister’s death and also deal with the details after.

For over 30 years your donor dollars to the United Way have enabled organizations like the Langley Hospice Society to help those of us in need. Without their counselling, I wouldn’t have had the tools to cope with my sister’s death. Without the Red Cross RESPECT-ED, Mathew would not be the mature, self-assured young man that he is today.

When we work together, real change happens.

Real kids like Mathew can get help BEFORE self-destructive escape routes turn despair into dependence or even death. And real people like my sister Pam can pass away, comforted by the support of family.

Just \$3.30 per day engages 40 children in after-school programs that foster leadership, learning & social skills, and prevent destructive behaviours.

Please join me and give a generous gift to the United Way today. I encourage you to be a leader in your workplace and help your community. On behalf of Mathew and Pam and myself, thank you.” 

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 Local 258 IBEW at 604-520-3305, or toll free at 1-877-520-3305 during regular business hours.

Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.

UNIT 2 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 2 - Central Interior: The Central Interior covers members living in the geographic area of Burns Lake and north of 100 Mile House, including Bella Coola. Unit 2 meetings take place in Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Fort Nelson, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Bella Coola and 100 Mile House. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 2 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Gerry Pope Vice Chair: Sister Karen Porter Recorder: Brother Dave Mengerig

Executive Members: Brother Travis Koehn, Sister Carolyn Furler

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Don McNabb

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



100 MILE HOUSE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Thursday, March 12 Thursday, September 10

BELLA COOLA Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Thursday, May 7 Thursday, October 1

DAWSON CREEK Meetings take place at the George Dawson Inn starting at 7:00 pm
Thursday, February 12 Thursday, June 18 Thursday, December 10*

FORT NELSON Meetings take place at the Woodlands Inn starting at 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 21 Wednesday, September 16

FORT ST. JOHN Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, February 11* Wednesday, May 20 Thursday, September 17

HUDSON'S HOPE Meetings take place in Pearkes Centre starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, April 15 Thursday, October 15

PRINCE GEORGE Meetings take place at the Prince George Legion starting at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, January 14* Wednesday, March 11* Thursday, April 9* Wednesday, May 13*
Tuesday, June 16, 2015 Thursday, Sept. 10* Wednesday, Oct. 14* Thursday, Nov. 12

QUESNEL Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, June 17 Thursday, November 19

WILLIAMS LAKE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Thursday, January 15 Thursday, May 14 Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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www.ibew258.bc.ca

Close vote for new leadership

Local 258 IBEW delegation in action at the 56th BC Federation of Labour Convention

A full complement of Local 258 IBEW delegates attended this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention that took place in Vancouver at the end of November at the Trade and Convention Centre at Canada Place.

With the retirement of Jim Sinclair, who served as president for 15 years, the Convention was guaranteed to have an extra element of excitement as two women were campaigning against one another to lead the Federation.

Sister Amber Hockin, endorsed by Local 258, fell short by 57 votes from the more than 2200 delegates who cast their ballots, resulting in Sister Irene Lanzinger becoming the new president of the Fed and the first woman to lead the labour organization in its 104-year history. Brother Aaron Ekman, also endorsed by Local 258, made a very strong showing at the Convention and was successful in defeating a last minute entry in the race for Secretary-Treasurer.



Highlights of the Convention included speeches from Federal NDP Leader Tom Mulcair and Hassan Yusuff, the recently elected president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

The Fed launched their "\$15 Minimum Wage" campaign at the Convention and delegates had an opportunity to hear from Brother David Freiboth, secretary-treasurer of the King County Labour Council in Seattle, who told the story of their successful initiative to have the minimum wage increased to \$15 in that city.

At a rain-soaked rally outside Canada Place, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson endorsed the Fed's \$15 Minimum Wage campaign.

Delegates debated a number of resolutions over the 5-day Convention, including a close vote on "strategic voting" (voting for a candidate who may have the better chance of defeating a candidate rather than voting for the

candidate of the party of one's choice), supporting a CUPE resolution to actively oppose strategic voting in provincial and federal elections.

This year's Fed Convention was a week full of moving speeches and tributes, vigorous debates and intense campaigning. At the end, Local 258 delegates returned to their homes across the province, invigorated by the experience and encouraged by the opportunity to attend and engage in this historic event. 🗳️

Local 258 IBEW Convention Delegates:

Sister Cathy Tagseth	Brother Ed McEwen	Brother Ben Receveur
Brother Don McNabb	Brother Chris Carter	Brother Jesse Adams
Brother Greg Fanning	Brother Dave McMinn	Brother Rob Hamilton
Brother Rick Gerard	Brother John Hendricks	Sister Lisa Cardarelli
Brother Doug McKay	Sister Nicole Biernaczyk	Sister Michelle Boudreau
Sister Carolyn Furler	Brother Klaus Kraft	Brother Gerry Pope
Brother Trevor Williams	Sister Kim Sortwell	Brother Brian Gueldenstern
Brother Dan Klassen	Brother Dan Giesbrecht	Brother Jim McKay
Brother Walter Goodwin	Brother Sean Greenwell	Brother Justin Gerrard
Sister Regan Yeadon	Brother Doug McKay	



UNIT 3 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 3 - Southern Interior: The Southern Interior geographic area covers members living in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, east from Bridge River and south of Prince George, including the Kootenays. Unit 3 meetings take place in Bridge River, Kamloops, Vernon, Revelstoke, Mica, Castlegar, Trail, Cranbrook and Invermere. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 3 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Trevor Williams Vice Chair: Brother Dean Kotaras Recorder: Brother David Berard

Executive Members: Brother Jeremy O'Laney, Brother Dave Wells

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Greg Fanning

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



BRIDGE RIVER Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Lunch Room 52 starting at 5:30 pm. Phone: 604-259-8221.

Tuesday, Jan. 13* Tuesday, Mar. 10 Tuesday, May 12 Tuesday, Sept. 8 Tuesday, Nov. 10

CASTLEGAR Meetings take place at the Fireside Inn starting at 7:00 pm. Phone: 250-365-2128.

Tuesday, February 10* Tuesday, April 7 Tuesday, June 9

CRANBROOK Meetings take place at the Labour Temple starting at 4:30 pm. Phone: 250-426-4871.

Wednesday, February 11 Wednesday, April 8* Wednesday, June 10 Wednesday, October 7

INVERMERE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm. Phone: 250-368-3355.

Thursday, February 12 Thursday, April 9 Thursday, June 11* Thursday, October 8

KAMLOOPS Meetings take place in the IBEW 993 Hall starting at 7:00 pm. Phone: 250-376-8755.

Wednesday, January 14 Wednesday, March 11* Wednesday, May 13 Wednesday, Sept. 8

MICA CREEK Meetings take place at the Curling Rink starting at 6:00 pm. Phone: 250-834-7218.

Tuesday, January 20* Tuesday, March 17 Tuesday, May 19 Tuesday, Sept. 15 Tuesday, Nov. 17

REVELSTOKE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room starting at 4:15 pm.

Wednesday, January 21 Wednesday, March 18* Wednesday, May 20 Wednesday, Sept. 16 Wednesday, Nov. 18

TRAIL Meeting takes place at the Best Western Terra Nova Hotel starting at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 6*

VERNON Meetings take place in the Army & Navy Club starting at 7:00 pm. Phone: 250-542-3277

Thursday, January 15 Thursday, March 12 Thursday, May 14* Thursday, July 16*
Thursday, September 10* Thursday, November 12 Thursday, December 10*

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM OTTAWA

What the Federal government is doing that affects you as a worker, as a union member and as a Canadian

Bill C-377 – the “anti-union bill” – has been resurrected by the Harper Conservatives and is back in the Senate... AGAIN


Bill C-377 – a damaging piece of federal legislation brought in as a Private Members’ Bill that unfairly seeks to impose rules on unions that are much more detailed and restrictive than any other organization must follow – was originally sent to the Senate for approval in December 2012 after being passed by the Harper Conservative majority in Parliament.

After weeks of debate, committee reviews and dozens of witness hearings, the Bill was “found lacking” and was returned to Parliament with a list of amendments.

BUT - when Stephen Harper prorogued Parliament in the fall of 2013, all the recommendations from the Senate and all the work they did with reviewing this Bill was thrown out!

It came back to Parliament last fall in its original form and was passed AGAIN by the Harper Conservatives, and has now returned AGAIN to the Senate... and, so far, the majority of the Senate discussion does not reflect any support for this Bill.

Nonetheless, at the end of November, the Bill was sent to the Senate’s Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs for further review.

Here are some excerpts from the Senate discussions to date. To read the transcripts of all the discussions that have taken place in the Senate since September, please visit the Local 258 IBEW website, log-in and select the listing on the left side of the page “Bill C-377”. 

Comments by Senators supporting Bill C-377

... Bill C-377 is both reasonable and necessary.

Senator Bob Runciman
Conservative

Thousand Islands & Rideau Lakes, Ontario

-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Comments by Senators opposing Bill C-377

Honourable senators, I have never seen any bill that is so intrusive into the private affairs of Canadians... Bill C-377 is not really about who must account for a taxpayer-subsidized benefit. Bill C-377 is an anti-union bill. It is designed to bury labour unions in so much paperwork that they will not be able to represent their workers as fully and capably as they do now. Why labour unions? The conclusion being reached by many Canadians is that it is because unions have been less than enthusiastic about how this government has handled labour relations. Bill C-377 is really a message to Canadians that it is no longer safe to disagree with the Government of Canada.

Senator James Cowan - Liberal
Nova Scotia

... this is an unconstitutional bill to begin with and it does not comply with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Hon. Diane Bellemare - Conservative
Alma, Quebec

Give me a break. This (Bill C-377) makes the biased assumption that political advocacy and lobbying is not a legitimate part of union labour relations activities on behalf of their membership. It is, as far as I am concerned, a legitimate way to bring attention to workers’ concerns.

Hon. Pierrette Ringuette - Liberal
New Brunswick

This bill is an absurdity. This bill is an affront to labour relations...

Senator Elaine McCoy - Independent (PC)
Alberta

UNIT 4 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island: This geographic area covers members living on Vancouver Island. Unit 4 meetings take place in Victoria, Ganges, Duncan, Qualicum, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Courtenay and Campbell River. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 4 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Tom Greenwell Vice Chair: Brother Brian Gueldenstern Recorder: Brother Mike Pereszlenyi

Executive Members: Brother Zane Gauthier, Brother Baptist Crompvoets

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Dan Klassen

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



CAMPBELL RIVER Meetings take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre starting at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 13

Tuesday, June 9

Tuesday, November 9

COURTENAY Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 13*

Tuesday, June 9

Tuesday, November 9*

DUNCAN Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm. Phone: 250-748-2722.

Wednesday, April 8*

Tuesday, December 8

GANGES Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 10*

Tuesday, May 12

Tuesday, October 6*

NANAIMO Meetings take place at the Legion #256, starting at 4:30 pm. Contact phone number: 250-754-8128.

Wednesday, March 11*

Wednesday, June 10*

Wednesday, December 9*

PORT ALBERNI Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, January 14

Wednesday, September 9*

PORT HARDY Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, April 7

Tuesday, September 8

QUALICUM BEACH Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, March 10

Wednesday, October 7

VICTORIA Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, May 13*

Tuesday, August 11*

Tuesday, November 10

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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Website member registration continues to grow

Local 258 members are continuing to register on our union's website after a brief glitch in the early summer that slowed things down and saw a drop in registrations due to a design problem that has since been resolved.

The good news is we have been up and running and more and more members are signing up to get exclusive access to the "Member Resources" section that features current union news, including collective agreements, as well as the union meetings calendar. By signing up to the website we can also connect with you by sending regular and important email news blasts, so

you're up to date with what's going on in your union.

We encourage Local 258 members to register on the website so you can access the "Member Resources" section.

To register, you have to be a current, active member in good standing of Local 258 IBEW and complete the sign-up process. 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 current, dues paying members of Local 258 IBEW.

By including your personal cell phone number and email address on the on-line registration form, your union will be able to communicate with you directly from the website, notifying you of important news and events via your smart phone and/or 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 website 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, or send an email to info@ibew258.bc.ca.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas about the website, please contact 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

UNIT 5 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 5 - Greater Vancouver: The Greater Vancouver geographical area covers members living on the Sunshine Coast and in the Lower Mainland north of the Fraser River to Powell River and east to the Pitt River. Unit 5 meetings take place in Burnaby, Sechelt and Powell River. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 5 Executive Members:

Chair: Sister Cathy Tagseth Vice Chair: Brother Jesse Adams Recorder: Brother Burke Lundy

Executive Members: Sister Lisa Cardarelli, one position vacant

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



BURNABY Meetings take place in the Local 258 IBEW Union Hall starting at 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 15* Thursday, Feb. 19* Thursday, March 12 Thursday, April 9* Thursday, May 14
Thursday, June 11 Thursday, Sept. 10* Thursday, Oct. 8 Thursday, Nov. 12* Thursday, Dec. 10*

POWELL RIVER Meetings take place at the Powell River Town Centre Hotel starting at 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 24* Tuesday, June 23 Tuesday, October 20

SECHELT Meetings take place at the Seaside Centre starting at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, March 25 Wednesday, June 24* Wednesday, October 21*

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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IBEW 258 members compete at Kansas City International Lineman's Rodeo

Local 258 members working at BC Hydro and at Allteck Line Contractors travelled to Kansas City in October to compete in the 31st Annual Kansas City International Lineman's Rodeo featuring a total of 204 teams.

Supported by both our union and their employers, competitors engaged in numerous events, including Hurtman Rescue, Pole Climb, and Mystery Events. Local 258 IBEW also supported the BC teams with supplying custom t-shirts for the competitors.

Linemen from across North America competed and teams were entered from the Contractor, Military, Municipal, Rural Electric, Investor Owned Utilities and Seniors Divisions, including teams entered directly by IBEW Locals and a team from IBEW District 11. Apprentices also engaged in competitions against one another.

Local 258 members competing in the Kansas Rodeo:

BC Hydro Teams:

Apprentices Brother James McKeachie and Brother Ephriam Nelson
Brother Scott Toop, Brother Zane Gauthier and Brother Brian Gueldenstern
Brother Sheldon Canning, Brother Darcy Davis and Brother Jeff Campbell
Brother Steve Lang, Brother Chris Smith and Brother Paul Kramer
Attending as Judges: Brother Ed Howker, Brother Gerry Wright and
Brother Will Van Den Born

From Allteck Line Contracting:

Apprentice: Brother Shawn Welde

Brother Brad Miller, Brother Dean Bell and Brother Dustin Campbell

Attending as Judges or Alternates: Brother Bob Bell, Brother Wade Watson



UNIT 6 Union Meetings 2015

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley: The Fraser Valley geographic area covers members living in the Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland south of the Fraser River and east from Pitt Meadows to Hope. Unit 6 meetings take place in Langley and Chilliwack. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 6 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Chris Carter Vice Chair: Brother Rob Munro Recorder: Brother Walter Goodwin

Executive Members: Brother Tim Mitchell, Brother Justin Gerard

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



CHILLIWACK Meetings take place at the Best Western Inn, 43971 Industrial Way starting at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 Wednesday, April 8 Wednesday, June 10 Wednesday, Oct. 7 Wednesday, Dec. 9

LANGLEY Meetings take place at the USW Hall at 9292 200th Street starting at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 13 Tuesday, Feb. 10 Tuesday, March 10 Tuesday, April 7 Tuesday, May 12
Tuesday, June 9 Tuesday, Sept. 8 Tuesday, Oct. 6 Tuesday, Nov. 10 Tuesday, Dec. 8

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning,

Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Don McNabb,

Nicole Biernaczyk

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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www.ibew258.bc.ca

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.

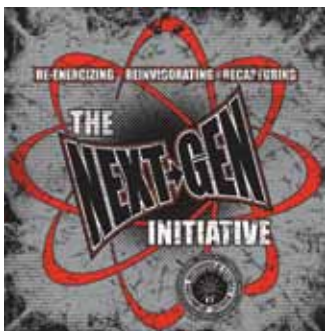
Call the office at 604-520-3305, toll free at 1-877-520-3305, fax us at 604-522-3371, or e-mail us at info@ibew258.bc.ca

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, or mail to:

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



Local 258 IBEW is seeking young members (under 35 years of age) to join the union's Next Gen initiative and be part of creating the future of our union. **Contact Dan Klassen, LU258 ABM at dklassen@ibew258.bc.ca or by phone at 604-520-3305, toll free 1-877-520-3305.**

Seeking Adventure?
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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.

Phone Direct:
604-515-3530
Phone Toll Free:
1-877-520-3305

LOCAL 258 IBEW

PROBLEMS AT

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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 Local 258 IBEW at 604-520-3305, or toll free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours. Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.

Finding out a bit more about our “Resident Retiree”

Brother Ken McEwen

In every issue of The Hotline since at least 1998, Brother Ken McEwen has penned the column “Ruminations of a Retiree”.

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

Brother McEwen has been faithful in corresponding with his “Ruminations” for 45 issues of The Hotline, and we look forward to reading more of his thoughtful observations in upcoming issues of our magazine.

But, in the meantime, we thought you may enjoy getting to know a bit more about our “Resident Retiree”.

Brother Ken McEwen became a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in mid-1967 when he took a job at BC Hydro. At first, his membership was designated with Local 213, but when he went to his first union meeting to get initiated, he was told to “hold on” – things were changing and a new Local was being chartered to represent the IBEW members working at the young Crown Corporation.

Ken was a Power Engineer by trade and at BCH, he worked as a steam plant operator at Burrard Thermal.

As Ken described in a recent interview with the Hotline, “I worked at Burrard with Brother Bob Peel, and as co-workers, we often discussed our union. After he was elected as our union’s Business Manager, he approached me and asked if I would be interested in becoming an Assistant Business Manager with the union. I think this was back in 1982.”

Ken took Brother Peel up on his offer and began working in the union hall where he was assigned various roles, including organizing, training, apprenticeships, and just as he was “learning the ropes” in all these important areas, the massive layoffs at BC Hydro started.

“I was assigned to devoting my time in the union office exclusively to help our members who were being laid-off at BC Hydro - and there were hundreds of them,” he said. “I was kept busy every day for many years dealing with layoffs, seniority, bumping, grievances, arbitrations, and everything that went along with that. It was tough times. There weren’t any jobs and we were always on the search for job placements for our displaced members who were looking for work.”

As things quieted down on the layoff front, changes were



also taking place at the union. Brother Gerry Bramhill became Business Manager and ABM McEwen began representing the Local’s membership who worked on Vancouver Island.

When a vacancy appeared in the union’s Dispatcher position with Brother Brian Smith leaving, Brother Ken was assigned that role in addition to being the ABM, and for awhile worked as Dispatcher in the morning and ABM in the afternoon! After about 6 months, he was reassigned back to full time ABM again representing Unit 4 members on Vancouver Island.

As the union’s membership numbers continued to grow, reorganization continued in the union office and the new role of Senior Assistant Business Manager was created and assigned to Brother McEwen, a role he maintained until his retirement in 1998.

“I have been very fortunate to have served in so many roles with Local 258, including – I almost forgot! – I was also the Editor of the Hotline for awhile too! One of my most satisfying accomplishments though was when I took on a role with our Shop Steward Training. We put together a strong training course and travelled around the province to deliver it.”

“I’m glad to be able to continue to contribute by writing the “Ruminations of a Retiree” column, but I’m sure someone will be coming along soon who may want to take that over.”

These days, Brother McEwen is a frequent visitor in the union hall in Burnaby, just up the road from where he lives in New Westminster. Ken and his wife “Catherine Dear” make an annual road trip to their “pad” in sunny southern California, where his ruminations are shared with other snow birds and American compatriots at their winter home.

As Brother McEwen often says, “retirement is good...”. 🚩

Local 258 Golf Tourney

raising funds for the MS Society of Canada



Thanks to our generous sponsors and participants, the 21st Annual IBEW 258/BC Hydro Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success this year, raising more funds than ever before – \$10, 500 – for the MS Society of Canada, BC & Yukon Division!

Much appreciation to staff at the beautiful Pitt Meadows Golf Club who made sure the day went without a hitch and for preparing the excellent steak BBQ with all the fixins!

Thank you to ABM Dan Klassen and Brother Mark Davison who helped organize the event and to everyone who participated. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



Many thanks to our generous sponsors, we couldn't do it without you!





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Safety First

GMS Emergency Response Team practice drill scenarios preparing for on-site action

Kamloops - In mid-September, members of the GM Shrum Emergency Response Team has an opportunity to practice their drills with simulated rescue scenarios in the event of having to go into action at any time. They attended a four-day practice drill training session at a local fire hall and at the Kamloops Blazers hockey arena.

The ERT is responsible for high angle rescue, fire fighting, swift water rescue, ice rescue, confined space rescue and auto extrication at both GMS and the Peace Canyon Dam.

Many thanks to Brother Dave Mengerling, Unit 2 Recorder for sending photos. 📷

Members of the GMS Emergency Response Team:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Coleman Mercereau | Fred Micholuk |
| Dan Fladmark | Dave Mengerling |
| Justin Power | Bleu Rowe |
| John Herrington | James Cryderman |
| Abe Swanson | Burton Middleton |
| Craig Stephenson | Rodney Rice |



West Kootenay skilled line work performed by Local 258 IBEW members



Highly skilled high voltage line work is just one of the thousands of 'specialized work procedures' that our IBEW Local 258 'Red Seal' Lineman perform on a daily basis for BC Hydro and the private sector of the Province of British Columbia


June, 2014 – Local 258 IBEW members, Power Line Technicians working from BC Hydro's Cranbrook facility, completed a significant maintenance project on a 500 kilovolt line in the West Kootenay region in June.

The specialized crew used helicopters to help install more than 1,800 spacer dampers and 250 arcing horns on the high voltage towers and wires.

On high voltage power lines, spacer dampers hold the individual bundled wires apart. The new spacer dampers have high grade rubber to absorb vibration, wind and the impact of inclement weather. It is anticipated they will extend the lifespan of the lines by 70 years.

New arcing horns were also installed as part of this project. Arcing horns protect the insulators from lightning damage, which are designed to prevent insulator damage and reduce maintenance costs.

To complete the work, PLT's climbed the towers or landed on the top of the towers using a helicopter, and lowered themselves into buggies. The buggies were hung on the wires and moved along the line using specialized gas powered motorized pullers. Tools and materials were transported to the crews via helicopters.


The work is part of an ongoing provincial project. BC Hydro will replace thousands space dampers and arcing horns across the province this year. 

Editor's Note: Adapted from The Kootenay Advertiser, June, 2014

Local 258 IBEW recognized for significant donation

The 2014 Vancouver General Hospital/University of British Columbia Foundation Annual Report, covering the period from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014, featured a full page report on our union, Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and our significant financial donation to support the ground breaking burn and wound research being done by Dr. Aziz Ghahary and his team of researchers at VGH's Burn and Wound Healing Lab in Vancouver.

Dr. Ghahary, an internationally renowned wound expert, and his team are developing new drugs, devices and treatments that will reduce painful scarring and disfigurement caused by burns, deep traumatic injuries and surgical incisions.

As described in the Annual Report, "The generous members of Local 258 IBEW have been passionate supporters of this transformative research since 2006, with cumulative donations that total almost \$400,000. It's community leaders like IBEW who are helping to profoundly improve the quality of life for people who suffer from severe burns and other wounds." 



IBEW 258 Shop Steward Tyler Orme appreciates his union's support for an amazing charity event

On September 20th, 2014, IBEW 258 donated money and labourers to the cause of a surprise "Extreme Makeover" of the Easter Seals Camp in Winfield, BC. The event was the first of its kind in the province and it was a huge success!

More than 300 volunteers took part in what started out to be a half million dollar renovation of the camp, but ended up being closer to \$1.5 million by the time they added up donated materials, labour, equipment, fuel, etc.

What started as a "Wish List" of 12 jobs that the camp caretakers had identified, ended up being a project with over 200 items by the time the organizing committee was finished.

The idea for the "extreme Makeover" came from Rob Ellis, owner of Relish Transport Contract Hauling out of Armstrong, BC. He and his friends who play on a local ball team set up an organizing committee and they spent a year planning the event, all the time keeping it a secret from and a complete surprise for the Easter Seals Organization.

The President and Vice President of Easter Seals only found out about the event that morning as they flew overhead and watched the 300-plus volunteers march down the driveway to the camp. A&W setup a surprise helicopter tour of the Okanagan Valley with a flyby of the Easter Seals Camp Winfield for the President and Vice President and as they flew over the camp and saw the volunteers marching down the hill they were informed of what was going on.

I would personally like to thank the union for their support of this charity event. Thank you so much. 🙏

Tyler Orme

**Mechanic/IBEW 258 Shop Steward
Bridge River Generating Station**



"Tyler Orme, you did an amazing job my friend and I'm extremely proud to call you a great friend. Thank you to all those in the union that helped out this project."

Rob Ellis, Event Organizer



Ladysmith Light Up Parade!

In early November, four Local 258 IBEW members from the Nanaimo Line Room who work for BC Hydro, donated their time to help set up and participate in the Festival of Lights in Ladysmith on Vancouver Island.

On “Ladysmith Set Up Day”, the volunteers donated their time to install holiday light fixtures on buildings in Ladysmith while BC Hydro donated the bucket trucks to help do the work.

“It’s a good scenario between our union and this employer as we come together for the right reason – to bring some joy and happiness to local residents for the holiday season”, said Brother Brian Gueldenstern, Unit 4 Vice Chair and one of the volunteers.

The bucket trucks are essential to hanging the lights and displays on the buildings. “This partnership of IBEW members, BC Hydro and the Town of Ladysmith has been going on for a number of years”, said Brother Gueldenstern.

“Each year we help set up at the beginning of November. We decorate our trucks for the Festival of Lights Parade and then finish the job in February with helping with the tear down.”

Many thanks to Brother Gueldenstern, Brother Brian Benjamin and Brother Ryan Malcolm, Journeyman PLTs and Apprentice Brother Bryce Von Barga from BC Hydro’s Nanaimo Line Room who volunteered their time for this fun community event. ⚡

Photo captions: Top two rows - Up go the holiday displays in downtown Ladysmith!; 3rd row: Brother Brian Gueldenstern and son Eric on the lighted bucket truck in the Festival of Lights Parade; Final row: Brother Brian Benjamin, his wife Krista and kids Jori and Reed in the “Parade Float”! Thanks Brother Gueldenstern for submitting the story and photos.





**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



Unit 2's Bella Coola meeting in October, from left: Brother John Androsky, Brother Tom Bernier, Brother Joe Hinke, Brother Ray Hern and Brother Brant Underhill.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft attended the September Unit 2 meeting in Bella Coola where Brother Tom Bernier and Brother Gunnar Moren showed off their new IBEW FTR wear, compliments of Local 258.



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, right, swears in "new members" at the 100 Mile House meeting in September. From left are Brother Angus Matherson, Brother Gillies Gagnon and Brother Stephan Melcosky.



Congratulations to Brother Peter Perfect on being awarded your 55 year service award pin by Unit 4 Vice Chair Brother Brian Gueldenstern.



Welcome to members initiated at the September Unit 2 meeting in Fort Nelson. From left, Chair Gerald Pope, Brother Kemar Lewis, Brother Ryan Minchim and Brother Anthony Lee.



Congratulations Brother Wayne Bagnell - a 51 year member of the IBEW - on your retirement, shown here at Kidd 1 Substation in Vancouver.



Local 258 IBEW ABM Dan Klassen joined IBEW International Rep Laird Cronk and hundreds of supporters at the Rally for Public Education in Vancouver in September that helped put the pressure on the government in their lengthy labour dispute with the teachers this summer.



Congratulations to Brother Len Androsky, former Local 258 Dispatcher, on your retirement. He is shown here on the right with Brother Jim McKay, current Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher.



Local 258 IBEW members initiated at the August Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby by Unit 5 Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth (center), from left, Brother Blake Keddy, and Brother Todd Meadows. Congratulations!



Brother Dennis Harper is awarded his 15 year service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Congratulations and thank you to Brother Tim Mitchell, left and Brother Bruce Byrnell, right, on being awarded your 35 year service pins at the Unit 6 meeting in Langley in October, here with Chair Chris Carter.



Congratulations on your initiation Brother Jordan Holt, at the Unit 2 meeting in Prince George in September, with Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft.



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



The Fort Nelson Unit 2 meeting in September saw members being awarded 5 year service pins by Chair Gerald Pope, on left. Congratulations to Brother Jesse Pardiac, Brother Junior Phillips and Brother David Zoerb.



At the Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack in October, Brother Darcy Lockhart, left, was awarded his 30 year IBEW service pin and Brother Ken Mitchell received his 5 year service pin award.



Sister Amber Hockin, Director of the Canadian Labour Congress – Pacific Division, attended the Unit 6 Meeting in Langley in November to meet and speak with members. Local 258 IBEW endorsed Sister Hockin and Brother Aaron Ekman in their bid for leadership at the BC Federation of Labour.



Congratulations are in order for Brother Fred Connor and Brother Jason Portras on being awarded your 5 year service pins by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Welcome to new members initiated into the union at the Unit 6 meeting that took place in Chilliwack in October.



Brother Bill Dodd is awarded his 60 YEAR IBEW SERVICE PIN (!!) by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams. Congratulations and thank you!



Brother Steve Oraschuck is awarded his 50 YEAR IBEW SERVICE PIN (!!) by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams. Congratulations and thank you!



Congratulations to Brother Brent Hall on your retirement and for being a member of the IBEW for 41 years! He is shown here with ABM Dan Klassen who presented some union goodies, including a gold watch.



The November meeting of Unit 6 in Langley saw a huge number of new members being sworn into the union by Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter.



Congratulations to Brother Justin Matchett, center, on your graduation! He is shown here being presented with graduating papers by Brother Dave Menger, Unit 2 Recorder and IBEW Representative on the Mechanic Apprentice Sub-Committee and Rob Gill, Management Rep on the Committee. Photo taken October 21, 2014 at the GM Shrum Generating Station.



Congratulations to Brother Bryan Buratto, center, on your graduation! He is shown above being presented with graduating papers by Brother Dave Menger, Unit 2 Recorder and IBEW Representative on the Mechanic Apprentice Sub-Committee and Rob Gill, Management Rep on the Committee. Photo taken October 21, 2014 at the GM Shrum Generating Station.



ABM Don McNabb presents Brother Paul Davis with his 35 year service pin award at the 100 Mile House Unit 2 meeting in September.

St. Paul's Hospital Foundation in Vancouver

Local 258 IBEW members supporting Annual Lights of Hope set-up



Many thanks to all the Local 258 IBEW members in the lower mainland who answered the call and volunteered to help set up the St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) Foundation's Annual "Lights of Hope" display that adorns the downtown Vancouver hospital's Burrard Street facade.

Nine year-old Leah Biernaczyk, grand-daughter of Local 258 ABM Nicole Biernaczyk, was on hand for the 7th year in-a-row (yes - she's been coming to the set-up since she was 2 years old!), and this year she was more than just an observer!

Young Leah was carefully harnessed in to one of the lifts, accompanied by a Local 213 IBEW tradesman, and raised up to help carefully install the Local 258 Star on the front wall of the massive display! And it didn't end there - Leah was selected by the Foundation as one of the children to pull the switch to turn the display on at the "Official Lighting" on November 27th!



From members who trimmed the trees to those who set up the electrical displays on the scaffolding to those who connected it all together AND who helped control the busy downtown traffic, IBEW members contributed

their skills and their time to help the Foundation with this annual event.


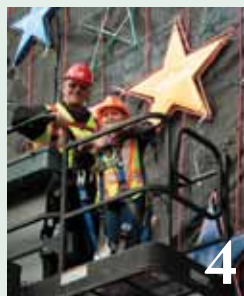
Special thanks goes to Sister Nicole Biernaczyk and Brother Dan Klassen for helping to organize Local 258 IBEW volunteers for this event. Volunteers are still needed to help with the takedown January - if you would like to participate, please contact the union hall or visit the Local 258 website for details. 



Photo captions: 1) Local 258 IBEW ABM Nicole Biernaczyk with her grand-daughter Leah, who 2) flipped the switch to turn on the display of lights; 3) The volunteer installation team getting to work in early November; 4) Leah Biernaczyk harnessed into the lift to raise the Local 258 IBEW star; 5) Sister Jennifer Schmidtke who works for Valley Traffic; 6) Fireworks at the "Official Lighting" on November 27th; 7) Volunteer Local 258 IBEW members who work at Rokstad and Valley Traffic; 8) Sister Morgan Neufeld with Valley Traffic.



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The motto of Local 258 is the “Union of Hearts and Minds”. What does this mean and why would a labour union care about hearts and minds? To the average Joe or Jane Public, unions are usually only heard from during a labour dispute, protesting a government action or some other self-serving reason. They don’t hear about the “good” things unions do either as a whole group or individually. Why? Well Mr./Ms. Public has a tendency to watch the news and good news isn’t made up of burly union enforcers planting a vegetable garden or delivering turkeys to the less fortunate. In reality, our Local is much more than that as are many of the unions in BC. We support good causes and get involved in our communities.

I admit before becoming president I wasn’t totally aware of the good deeds done by individual members, our Local, or especially the labour movement as a whole. As vice president, I wasn’t involved enough to see the good work unions do in the community for the less fortunate. Now as president, I am exposed to a whole side of the labour movement I really wasn’t aware of.

Simply by being around a wider group of our members, I hear what they believe in and support, and how they think Local 258 could help. The range of these beliefs goes from individuals supporting local minor hockey, right up to giving up many hours of personal time to major charities. And, as a group, the labour movement raises millions of dollars and donates thousands of hours of time supporting numerous good causes, like the MS Society and the United Way.

Let’s look at the United Way. Just by doing a little research, I discovered labour has had a relationship with them since the early 1900’s across Canada. Not only does the labour movement work across Canada with over 100 chapters, the United Way embraces working with labour, and in 1988 formalized an agreement with the Canadian Labour Congress for a long term cooperative relationship.

In addition, about 20 major unions across Canada have endorsed the United Way Campaigns and strongly support them both financially and by providing “Labour-loaned Reps” to carry out fundraising initiatives. That certainly champions the term “United Way” doesn’t it? Local 258 has been a strong supporter for many years – ABM Dan Klassen recently won the Joe Morris

Community Service Award presented by United Way of the Lower Mainland, and



From the Back Corner

Report from Tony Brand,
President, Local 258 IBEW

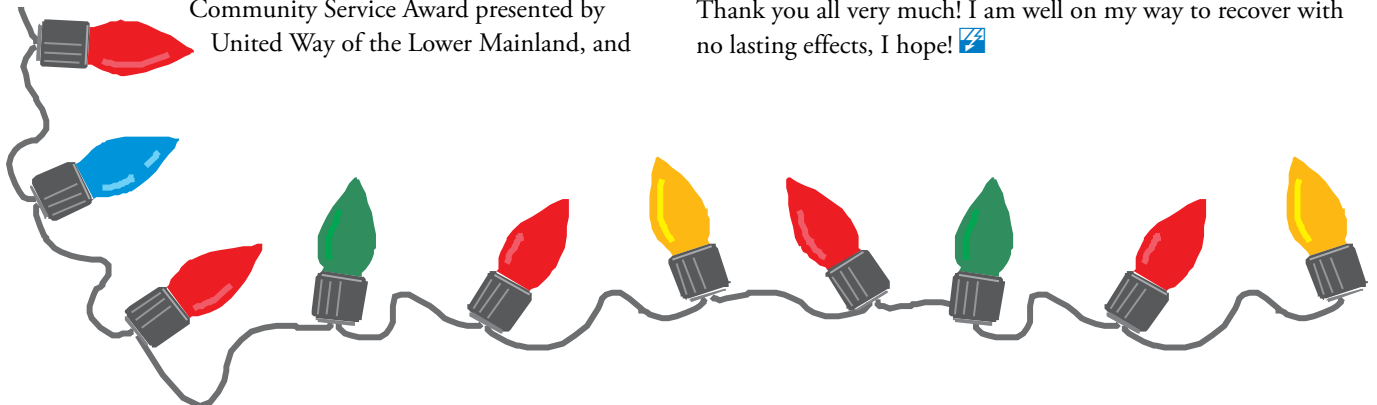
past vice-president Murray MacDonald has been recognized by the charity for his work also. No amount of donation will surpass this kind of dedication.

This year, we are proud to add Sister Patty Fredericks to the long list of Local 258 IBEW activists who have actively been involved with the United Way, like Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth and Unit 6 Chair Brother Chris Carter.

Why should unions care about supporting charities and communities? It goes back to one of the reasons unions were established in the first place. A better life for all people. I agree, the union’s first and most important task is to look after our members. But there is no reason not to extend that help where we can. A healthy community can be a happy one, and will ultimately be a better place to live for all of us.

I don’t think Local 258 or any other union gets the proper respect for the charity work they do. I could care less though. In fact I am happy to fly under the radar. As long as we continue to follow our hearts helping the less fortunate, whichever way we can, then the reward will be a clear mind. Simple stuff.

The subject of this column couldn’t have come at a more personal time for my family and me. On September 8th, I was at home working off a ladder. As I have joked, gravity won. Without all the gory details, I ended up spending four days in intensive care and another 6 weeks in a neck brace. I cannot over-emphasize how the calls, texts, and visits helped us heal. I say us because the compassion shown by my co-workers present and past, union staff, private sector crews and managers was outstanding. It went a long way to keep our minds focused. Thank you all very much! I am well on my way to recover with no lasting effects, I hope! 🙏





LOCAL 258
IBEW

*Celebrate the holidays
with peace, love and
friendship!*

*Merry Christmas from your
IBEW Officers, Staff
& The Hotline*



And Happy New Year Too!

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