



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
MARCH, 2015





LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Local 258 IBEW members
working in traffic control*

Keeping EVERYONE SAFE at roadside worksites



INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

-  BARGAINING WITH BC HYDRO PROVING TO BE FRUSTRATING
-  FORKIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE
-  IBEW'S NATIONAL PAC GEARS UP FOR FEDERAL ELECTION
-  HONOURING OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS - IN MEMORIAM 2014

HOTLINE March 2015

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Viewpoint from your Business Manager Doug McKay p. 3

We've Got Mail p. 4

Upcoming Unit Meetings; Dispatch Info p. 7

Local 258 IBEW News p. 8

Local has success with growing membership p. 9

BC Labour News p. 9

Members working in traffic control p. 10

Saskatchewan Federation of Labour: The folks who brought you the constitutional right to strike p. 12

CLC issues boycott p. 12

Day of Mourning 2015 p. 13

Forkin Scholarship p. 14

Calendar Updates for Unit 1, 2 & 4 Meetings p. 16

IBEW's National Political Action Committee gears up for federal election p. 19

Ruminations of a Retiree. p. 20

Expanding the CPP p. 21

In Memoriam 2014 p. 24

Photo Opportunity p. 26

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 the province of British Columbia, Canada.

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Visit IBEW Local 258's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

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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:

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Vice-President: Dave McMinn

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Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

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Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

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Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Chris Carter

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

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

Local 258 IBEW Membership Development and Organizing: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff - members of COPE 378:

Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Geri Watson, Cathy Keely, Tracey Tilsley

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

COVER PHOTO:



Local 258 IBEW member Sister Regan Yeadon works at Valley Traffic in the lower mainland and represents the union in her workplace as a Shop Steward. As a Traffic Control Person, her job includes making sure everyone is being kept safe at roadside worksites.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

Another two-day bargaining session with BC Hydro has come and gone and has produced little, if any, desired results. Our negotiating committee has been frustrated with this employer's obvious inability to effectively manage their negotiations, a trend of similar "mismanagement" often reported to us as observed in that workplace.

Our union is currently waiting to see BC Hydro's official written response to the lawsuit we launched in December that challenges the role the Public Sector Employers Council is playing in this round of negotiations with the signatory employer, BC Hydro. Once we have had an opportunity to review their response in these legal proceedings, we will determine our next steps.

Since our union was first chartered in 1967, we have held a great deal of respect for this crown jewel of BC's Crown Corporations. Certainly, we have also faced many challenges over the years, especially when it comes time for negotiations. But we have always stuck together as a union and we have always engaged in free collective bargaining to achieve improvements in the collective agreements.

We also intimately understand that as a Crown Corporation, BC Hydro is ultimately 'under the thumb' of whatever political group of the day is in charge. We know the utility is a cash cow for the government, and we also know that the dividend paid annually to the government is supposed to be used to help provide public services for the benefit of all British Columbians.

But, at times, it is beyond belief the circumstances, issues and scenarios our members find themselves in as a result of management directives delivered by personalities who lack the knowledge, understanding and proud history of this public utility and it's relationship with it's workers. I will be travelling the province again in March and April to have conversations with our members who work at BC Hydro about where we're at with these negotiations and to hear what you think about where we should be going.

It was a worthwhile effort to join with IBEW leaders - including our IBEW First District leadership - to meet for a few days and hold frank discussions about the state of affairs for workers in the utility industry and the labour movement in Western Canada.

It was good to hear that decent collective agreements are being fairly negotiated and signed across Western Canada for workers in the electric utility industry. At the same time, it was distressing to have to report that we here in BC are having much difficulty with our negotiations and the lack of foresight with BC Hydro in being able to even offer competitive wage rates for workers who are in high demand across the continent.

Political Action was also on the agenda at the meeting and we had an opportunity to hear from Brother Matt Wayland, IBEW's Political Action/Media Strategist. Some of you will remember

Brother Wayland from his presentation at our Shop Stewards Conference in 2013. With a federal election on the horizon, he mapped out some of the important issues and strategies we will need to focus on for supporting candidates who have our interests at the forefront.

Our group also hosted BC NDP Leader John Horgan for a brief talk, joined by MLAs Shane Simpson and Harry Bains, who took time out of their busy schedules to attend our meeting in Victoria. Many thanks to Brother Laird Cronk, our International Rep and Brother Jimmy Connors from Edmonton's Local 1007 for organizing and leading this important meeting.

Kudos to our members who stepped forward in the fall and did a great job with United Way campaigns both in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. Community is important to our union, and we support initiatives like the long-standing United Way/Labour Partnership that helps so many. Congratulations to our members who supported the BC Hydro United Way workplace campaign, recognized by the United Way as a "Top Contributor" at their recent Community Spirit Awards.

It's time again for our union's Annual Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship and we invite all members, or dependants of members, to apply for one of three \$1,000 awards to further their post-secondary education. More information is available on page 14 of this issue of the Hotline, including the application form that is also available for download on our website.

We hope you get a chance to read our feature article about our members who work in traffic control. These members work to protect other workers, drivers and pedestrians at roadside worksites across the province - from busy downtown Vancouver locations to rural dirt roads - and face many dangerous circumstances in doing so. We appreciate their skill and commitment to this difficult job.

In closing, please remember to work safe. Look out for yourself, and the person working beside you. If you see something or are being asked to do something that isn't safe - don't do it. Your life may depend on that important decision. 🚧



Business Manager Doug McKay is shown here with BC NDP Leader John Horgan and MLAs Shane Simpson and Harry Bains who took time out of their busy schedules to briefly meet with delegates at the IBEW First District Western Utility Conference in Victoria that took place in February.



We've Got Mail!

Dear IBEW Local 258,

We would like to express our deepest thanks for your recent sponsorship donation to the Burnaby Christmas Bureau's annual gala event 'Fill A Stocking, Fulfill A Wish'.

Your support plays a key role in our success in helping families have a less stressful and happier Holiday Season. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we were able to help 931 families and provided toys to 1,807 Burnaby children and youth last year.

Your Silver Sponsorship is much appreciated and we look forward to a continuing partnership with you.

Yours truly,

Heather Walker

Development Coordinator, Burnaby Community Services

Dear IBEW Local 258,

Thank You!

I would like to thank IBEW for the gift card - it put a smile on my face when I was very sick.

I would also like to thank Brother Mark Davison for coming to my house for a visit and answering my questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Aitken

BC Hydro

Dear Local 258 IBEW,

Many thanks to Dan Klassen who helped me out during my past eye surgery in Vancouver.

Dan picked me up at Horseshoe Bay and drove me to the hospital, to my accommodation and back to my ophthalmologist twice. And return to Horseshoe Bay to catch the ferry home.

Very much appreciated,

Eric Carlson

Attn: Dan Giesbrecht (Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager),

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation to our annual Christmas Silent Auction & Raffle Draw.

Your gift helped make the event a great success which raised more than \$2,600 from our Asplundh employees who participated. All proceeds go directly to assist a family this Christmas season.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours truly,

Remo Maddalozzo

Vice President, Asplundh Canada ULC

Dear Tony & Doug,

On behalf of the Alberni Valley Curling Club I want to thank you and your members for your generous donation to the 2015 BC Seniors Curling Championship. Your support goes a long way to make this event a huge success.

Thanks again,

Rob Brandon

Runaway Adventures Sport Fishing/Eco Tours

Mr. Dan Klassen (Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager),

Thank you to the members of IBEW Local 258 at BC Hydro for supporting your community through United Way, and making incredible things happen.

No problem is easy to solve. But we are working hard to find solutions to move families with young children from poverty to possibility, to help school-age children be all they can be, and to build stronger communities for everyone including seniors who live in isolation. Our partnership with Labour is critical to this endeavour. When labour and United Way work in solidarity towards these common goals, we are a stronger movement.

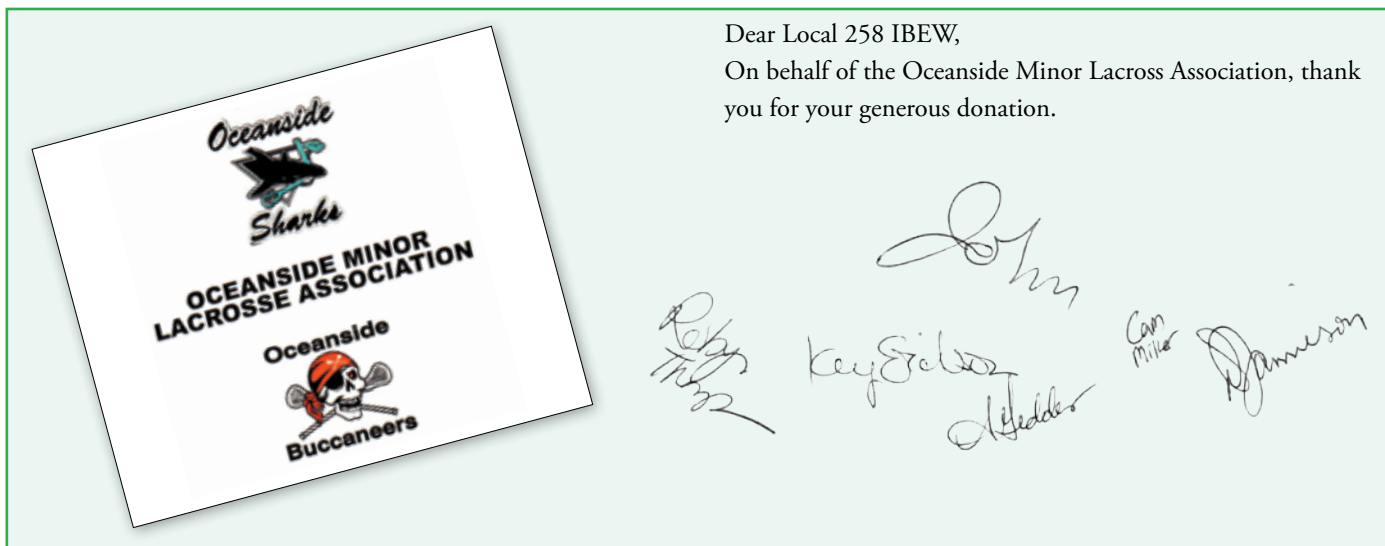
Your support help us create a world of possibilities for everybody. On behalf of the children, families and seniors we help every day, thank you.

Sincerely,

Madeleine Buhlau

Resource Development Strategist

United Way of the Lower Mainland



Dear Local 258 IBEW,
On behalf of the Oceanside Minor Lacrosse Association, thank you for your generous donation.

Mr. President and fellow Brothers & Sisters,
I'd like to thank you all and express my appreciation on behalf of the Fort Nelson Elks Lodge #400 for the donation to our fundraising event.

Your donation, in no small part, helped us raise over \$20,000 for the Northern Rockies Children and Family Action Committee, primarily for assisting children with special needs. The annual event was attended by 100 local men, including myself and three others from our Local, and funds were raised through a combination of ticket sales, donations and prize raffles.

In addition to the thanks that went out to sponsors at the event, a newspaper ad thanking sponsors was run in the local Alaska Highway News.

David Zoerb
Thermal Plant Maintenance Technician

Dear Sisters and Brothers;
We are writing to express our most sincere appreciation for your contribution to the 2014 Labour Community Christmas Dinners. This annual event was another outstanding success, with dinners served to the homeless and low-income families in Vancouver and Surrey. We were able to provide more than 600 food hampers and vegetables, feed more than 2,500 people, hand out hundreds of toys and supply clothing to our guests. They all left with their arms full and wonderful smiles on their faces.

This Christmas event would not be possible without the contributions of many unions, their members, their employers, friends of the labour movement and several hundred volunteers. While we hope that someday all British Columbians can look forward to a Christmas without hunger or homelessness, we know currently that without your continued support this effort would not be possible.

On behalf of the Labour Community Christmas Dinner Committee, thank you.

In solidarity,
Irene Lanzinger, President
Aaron Ekman, Secretary-Treasurer
BC Federation of Labour

Dear Local 258 IBEW and Doug McKay,
I would like to thank the IBEW and staff for all the help and support they have given me and my wife over the last few years following my eye injury on January 28, 2011.

Dealing with WorkSafe is not an easy process for one to take on by themselves so the help provided by the IBEW has been greatly appreciated.

Knowing that our Brothers and Sisters are supporting us means the world, and helps ease the worries one has after being injured and looking at a long recovery or a career change.

The IBEW and our Brothers and Sisters have always been there for us whether we're injured on or off the job and for that I would like to express my gratitude.

Thank you,
Peter Trarup
Work Planner/Scheduler, S.I., BC Hydro





We've Got More Mail!

Dear Tony Brand and IBEW Local 258,
Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$599 to the 2015 Send A Kid to Camp campaign.

Your commitment to helping children enjoy a wonderful positive summer camp adventure helps to benefit families and communities. The value of camp – life skills, leadership skills, social skills – are not only included in the experience but also include the value of building positive relationships with fellow campers and leaders.

Thanks to donors like IBEW Local 258, the Send A Kid to Camp campaign has provided funding for over 450 children just last year. We hope to increase this number to over 500 in 2015.

Sincerely,

Tracey Staines

Funds Development Coordinator

Camp Jubilee



Dear Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you so much for your generous gift.

With your help and the help of other good friends we have been able to make a difference in the lives of many people who are suffering through hard times.

Thank you sincerely,

Friends of Hudson's Hope Society

Our motto: 'You are never alone'



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

Prince Rupert: June 10 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Queen Charlotte City: June 11 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Smithers: May 12 @ 5 pm; Hudson Bay Lodge

Terrace: Apr. 8, June 9 @ 7 pm; Best Western Inn

Unit 2 - Central Interior

Bella Coola *NOTE DATE CHANGE*: April 30 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Dawson Creek: June 18 @ 7 pm; George Dawson Inn

Fort Nelson: May 21 @ 7 pm; Woodlands Inn

Fort St. John: May 20 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Hudson's Hope: April 15 @ 4:30 pm; Pearkes Centre

Prince George: April 9, May 13, June 16 @ 7 pm; Coast Inn of the North

Quesnel: June 17 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Williams Lake: May 14 @ 4:30 pm; BCH Line Room

Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Bridge River: May 12 @ 5:30 pm; Lunch Room B2

Castlegar: April 7, June 9 @ 7 pm; Fireside Inn

Cranbrook: April 8, June 10 @ 4:30 pm; Labour Temple

Invermere: April 9, June 11 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Kamloops: May 13 @ 7 pm; IBEW Local 993 Hall

Mica Creek: May 19 @ 6 pm; Mica Curling Rink

Revelstoke: May 20 @ 4:30 pm;

Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room

Vernon: May 14 @ 7 pm; Army & Navy Club

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Campbell River: June 9 @ 7 pm;

Maritime Heritage Centre

Courtenay: June 9 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Duncan: Apr. 8 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Ganges *NOTE DATE CHANGE*: May 19 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Nanaimo: June 10 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Port Hardy: Apr. 7 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Victoria *NOTE DATE CHANGE*: May 20 @ 4 pm; BCH Line Room

Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: April 9, May 14, June 11 @ 5 pm; Local 258 IBEW Hall, 7535 Sixth Street

Powell River: June 23 @ 4:30 pm; Powell River Towne Centre Hotel

Sechelt: June 24 @ 5:00 pm; Driftwood Inn

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Chilliwack: April 8, June 10 @ 7 pm; Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way

Langley: April 7, May 12, June 9 @ 7 pm; USW Hall, 9292 200th St.

****UNIT MEETING CALENDAR UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE IN THIS ISSUE FOR UNITS 1, 2 & 4****

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. ☎

Local 258 IBEW News

Bargaining with BC Hydro proving to be frustrating

Business Manager Doug McKay reports that members of the BC Hydro Negotiating Committee met with the employer on February 19th and 20th and were unable to make any gains during this round of bargaining.

The employer appears to be indicating concessions. Interference in free collective bargaining directly with this employer by the Public Sector Employers Council continues to be obvious. The Committee left the table and are awaiting further information from this employer in regards to the court case filed by the union.

Brother McKay has been travelling the province meeting and speaking with members and listening to their concerns about these latest developments. He is encouraged that lines of communication remain open with this employer, and has strongly expressed the union's concerns about the ability of the employer's negotiating committee to bargain freely.

As the Hotline goes to press, no new dates for further negotiations have been set.

Members ratify new agreement at Valley Traffic

Members working in traffic control at Valley Traffic ratified a new three year collective agreement just before Christmas 2014 that saw an increase in wages, benefits and improvements in contract language.

Sister Nicole Biernaczyk would like to thank members at Valley who participated in this round of bargaining and to thank all the members who took the time to vote.

Updates on bargaining at Code Electric & Code Manufacturing

Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, ABM, reports ongoing negotiations between the union and the employer at Code Electric and are now in the final stages. Many thanks to Brother Craig Anselmo who has served on the negotiating committee.

Bargaining for a new collective agreement at Code Manufacturing is ongoing.

Tentative deal reached at Power Flagging - Northern Division

Members working in traffic control at Power Flagging - Northern Division, based out of the Cariboo, will be voting on a tentative agreement reached with this employer that features significant

wage increases for members working in traffic control and in lane closure.

All members working at Power Flagging are reminded to make sure their mailing address is current so they can receive a ballot in the mail. Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, ABM, would like to thank Brother Bob Gunn for his work on these negotiations.

Executive Board accepts members to fill vacancies after 2014 union elections

At the August 2014 meeting of the Local 258 IBEW Executive Board, it was accepted that Brother Dean Kotaras fill the vacancy in Unit 3 as Vice Chair, that Brother Jesse Adams fill the vacancy in Unit 5 as Vice Chair and that Brother Walter Goodwin fill the vacancy in Unit 6 as Recorder.

Tax receipts for union dues now mailed to members' home address

In February, support staff at the union office were very busy with producing 2014 tax receipts for union dues and making sure they got in the mail to members before the end of the month.

Due to their hard work, the receipts were mailed to each member's home address the union has on file in mid-February, in time for filing your 2014 tax return.

Union dues are tax deductible and you should provide your official receipt from the union with your tax return form.


If you have moved and haven't updated your new mailing address with the union, please call 604-520-3305 or toll free 1-877-520-3305 to update your information, or you can register on-line at www.ibew258.bc.ca and access the Address Change Form in the Member Resources section of the website.

Former Local 258 IBEW Unit 1 Chair Ray Clifford passes away

Business Manager Doug McKay joined with IBEW members who gathered at a friendship celebration in Salmon Arm in March for Brother Ray Clifford who passed away in February, 2015.

Ray began his career as a power lineman in Manitoba, and after moving with his family to Salmon Arm in 1987, he worked at BC Hydro until his retirement.

Brother Clifford actively served his union as Unit 1 Chair of Local 258 IBEW in the 1990's.

In lieu of flowers donations will be accepted in Ray's name to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Kelowna Area Office: supporting the Okanagan and Kootenay regions. 

Local has success with growing membership

Brother Rick Gerrard, Local 258 IBEW staff member responsible for Membership Development and Organizing, reports new signatory employers have signed on to the Master Line Contractors agreement, adding new members to the union who work in the union's private power line jurisdiction.


"We've been very busy signing up new members to Local 258 IBEW with our success in organizing employers to sign on to our Master Line Contractors Agreement," says Brother Gerrard. "Our new members can be assured that with a union contract, they will be paid good union wages with benefit packages and additional protections that are guaranteed with a signed union contract.

"We've also had a couple of project agreements signed and now IBEW members are working on various outside line construction projects in the northern parts of the province," Brother Gerrard added.

Brother Gerrard recently travelled with Business Manager McKay up to northern BC where they met with many new members at various worksites and had an opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and respond to questions.

Local 258 IBEW is committed to strengthening our union by growing membership and looks forward to more union member applications coming through the door.

Rights gained under a union contract can include:

- negotiated wages
- paid vacations and holidays
- defined work schedules
- guaranteed overtime pay
- safety protections
- job training benefits
- pension or RRSP benefits
- seniority rights
- grievance and arbitration procedures
- a negotiated health benefits package 

BC Labour News

20 cent minimum wage raise "pathetic", says BC Fed president Irene Lanzinger

In mid-March, little more than a week after representatives with the BC Federation of Labour lobbied MLAs at the legislature in Victoria to discuss a number of important labour issues including increasing the minimum wage from \$10.25 to \$15 an hour, the government announced a 20 cent an hour increase, bringing the wage to \$10.45/hr. For workers serving liquor, the minimum wage will increase from \$9 and hour to \$9.20. The increases come into effect on September 15, 2015, and will be indexed to inflation, .

In response, BC Fed president Irene Lanzinger was widely quoted in news media around the province describing the increase as "pathetic", and in a press release issued by the Fed, said, "Under the government plan, the minimum wage will not reach \$15/hr until 2034. That is unacceptable. The government has abandoned the lowest paid workers in our province, and done so at a time when they are giving tax breaks to the wealthiest 2%."

The BC Federation of Labour has been calling on the government to lift the minimum wage to \$15/hr with their Fightfor15 campaign, launched in November 2014.

Lanzinger also pointed out that there was no formal consultation on the government announcement. "We have been actively lobbying, but never did the government engage in public, thoughtful consultation with stakeholders on what the wage should be."

Current Disputes

Please respect the unions' picket lines in the following disputes, and do not patronize these businesses until the dispute is settled.

Unifor Local 114 vs. Magnacharge Battery (Delta)
Major Issues: Two-tiered vacation time; Wages and Term
Commenced: March 11, 2015

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 7000 vs. Southern Railway of British Columbia Ltd. (Province-Wide)
Major Issues: Wages, Overtime, Post-Retirement Benefits
Commenced: Locked Out January 5, 2015

Unifor 2000 vs. Cowichan News Leader (Duncan)
Major Issues: Wages, Benefits, Two-tier proposals
Commenced: December 1, 2014

Marine Workers and Boilermakers Industrial Union vs. SSAB Swedish Steel (Delta)
Major Issues: Job Classifications
Commenced: October 3, 2014

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 608 vs. Naramata Centre (Okanagan)
Major Issues: Contracting out, Job Security, Wages, Benefits
Commenced: May 15, 2014

Local 258 IBEW members working in traffic control

Keeping the public, drivers, other workers – and themselves – **SAFE** near roadside worksites

Standing in or near moving traffic is not easy work – just ask any of the 600 or so members of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers who spend their workdays keeping the public, drivers, other workers and themselves safe near roadside worksites.

Faced with an ever increasing array of distracted and sometimes hostile drivers and pedestrians, many Traffic Control Persons (TCPs) report being yelled at, spit at, cursed at, threatened and have had objects thrown at them while at work.

Clearly, it can be a very tough job.

Local 258 IBEW has been representing workers in traffic control since the 1990's, when the union began organizing workers whose jobs were related directly or indirectly to work associated with BC Hydro. TCPs are also known as "Flaggers".

Over the years, Local 258 IBEW TCPs have participated in and supported collective bargaining that has provided steady improvements in wage and benefit packages as well as working conditions. Unfortunately, we have also seen workers in traffic control killed, and seriously injured, on the job.

In an effort to improve safety, training and public awareness initiatives, Local 258 IBEW has been an influential partner with many important organizations, including the Workers Compensation Board (WorkSafeBC), the Construction Safety Alliance and the Work Zone Safety Alliance.

"As a member of the Work Zone Safety Alliance, we strongly support the annual Cone Zone campaign", says Doug McKay, Business Manager for Local 258 IBEW. "This campaign brings the reminder that drivers, and the general public, have to pay attention at worksites where TCPs operate. Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, one of our Assistant Business Managers, has a background of working in traffic control and is always on top of members' concerns as well as the current safety issues in the industry."

ABM Biernaczyk adds, "This industry can be described as one that is undergoing constant change. We've seen traffic control companies expand their presence in the industry, and in competing with one another, we often see huge turn-overs of staff.



Sister Regan Yeadon, one of Local 258's Shop Stewards at Valley Traffic, really enjoys her job as a TCP. "I used to work as a retail store manager, but this job pays better, is more interesting, and has a different set of challenges. And we have the union, and I like that - it's a modern day way to help improve your work life."

“There used to be a few companies that would get most of the work, but today it seems like companies spring up, exist for a few months or maybe even a few years, and then just disappear. Many new companies face serious challenges in competing in an industry that demands good business management. Unfortunately, some companies try to take shortcuts when it comes to making safety a number one priority. Having a union contract can go a long way to not only developing but enforcing safety standards.”

Biernaczyk notes a recent report from WorkSafe BC where a traffic control company and the contractor they were working for were both fined for violating safety requirements and putting traffic control workers at high risk of serious injury or death.


“It wasn’t one of our signatory employers,” says Biernaczyk, “But we know the company well.”

Local 258 IBEW has been a leader in ensuring that high standards of safety are included in every collective agreement signed with an employer – standards that are upheld through the provisions in the contract. But everyone, from workers and their unions to employers, the public and the WCB are essential when it comes to enforcement and ensuring everyone stays safe on this dangerous job and comes home from work at the end of the day.

Training is paramount to roadside worker safety. Local 258 IBEW supports, encourages and demands that employers take advantage of all current training opportunities. Ultimately, it’s the employer’s responsibility to provide ongoing training and to ensure all traffic control workers they employ are certified for the jobs they are doing. The union does support workers who want to take training on their own and applications for training assistance are available on the union’s Member Resources section of the website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

Specific clauses have been negotiated in many of the Local 258 IBEW contracts with traffic control companies concerning Safety Practices, and include, but are not limited to, the provision of safety equipment, hours of work, ongoing training for the Workplace Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS) and a utility safety orientation course.

With a Local 258 IBEW collective agreement in place, workers in traffic control have also been able to secure clearly defined wages and benefits, rest breaks, job descriptions, seniority and probation, various leaves, call out pay and shift work premiums.

Our Local 258 members who work in traffic control have been instrumental in growing their collective agreements through their ongoing participation with their union. By attending meetings, by letting their Shop Stewards and union reps know what is going on in their workplaces and by standing strong together to achieve gains in their contracts, members working in traffic control will continue to improve their workplaces. 

Between 2004 and 2013, 239 roadside worker motor vehicle incidents were reported to WorkSafeBC – 15 resulted in a fatality.



Local 258 IBEW members Sister Karen Hornsby and Sister Lillian Chute, who both work at Streetwise in traffic control, stopped in after work for a visit to the union office.

Local 258 IBEW currently represents workers at the following Traffic Control companies:

- Ace Flagging
- Ace Traffic Control Ltd.
- Central Interior Traffic Control
- GoTraffic Management
- Island Traffic Services
- LaneTec/DC Traffic Control (1996) Ltd.
- Power Flagging & Traffic Control Inc. – Northern Division
- Traffic Pro Services (2012) Ltd.
- Streetwise Traffic Controllers Ltd.
 - 24/7 Traffic Control Ltd.
 - Valley Traffic Systems Inc.
 - Walk the Line Traffic Control
- West Coast Traffic Control Ltd.



As a partner with the Work Zone Safety Alliance, Local 258 IBEW supports important messaging to employers and contractors, like the ad on the back cover of this issue of the Hotline, that makes safety a #1 priority for all of our members including those working in traffic control.

Labour News from across Canada

Saskatchewan's Labour Movement

The folks who brought you the constitutional right to strike!

"Saskatchewan's Labour Movement: the folks who brought you the constitutional right to strike!" said Saskatchewan Federation of Labour (SFL) president, Larry Hubich, as the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) sided with working families on January 30, 2015.

The SCC ruled, in no uncertain terms, that the SFL was right – the Saskatchewan Party government's Public Services Essential Services Act (Bill 5) was heavy-handed, unworkable, and violated a Charter-protected right to strike.

"The decision by the Supreme Court to grant every worker in Canada a constitutional right to strike is a profound victory for our movement," said Hubich.

"The Court also delivered a strong message to conservative governments everywhere: your rigid ideology does not trump workers' rights," he added.

The Public Services Essential Services Act (Bill 5) was introduced by the newly-

elected Saskatchewan Party government in 2007. As soon as it was introduced, workers, their unions, lawyers, and academics all said the Bill was overreaching, unnecessary, and probably illegal. The Saskatchewan Party, though, continued to only listen to their corporate friends instead of Saskatchewan families. As a result, a long Charter Challenge was launched by the SFL and its affiliates against Bill 5 to protect working families.

Despite the long and expensive court process, workers and their unions were gracious in their victory – extending an invitation to the Saskatchewan Party government to work together.

"We know that a work stoppage is always the last resort, and unions always prefer a negotiated agreement that is good for both sides," said Hubich. "Our victory does not change any of that, and we want to work with the provincial government to develop labour laws that are fair, bal-

anced, and respect the rights of workers."

However, just a few days after the SCC ruling, Premier Brad Wall floated the option of using the notwithstanding clause so that he and his government could continue violating Charter rights.

"This is a time for reconciliation and leadership, not a time for the premier to stomp his feet and threaten to deny Saskatchewan families their Charter rights," said Hubich. "Workers and their unions continue to offer our cooperation to create good public policy, and we hope the premier will come to the table in good faith."

From the Labour Reporter, the official news magazine of the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour; Spring 2015 edition. The SFL represents over 100,000 members from 37 national and international unions who work in Saskatchewan.

Canada-wide BOYCOTT issued

BOYCOTT Crown Cans

A cross-Canada boycott has been issued by the Canadian Labour Congress against Crown Holdings Inc., an aluminum can manufacturer.

120 workers, members of United Steelworkers Local 9176 in Toronto, have been on the picket line for 18 months against their employer, Crown Holdings Inc, an incredibly powerful multi-national company with more than 140 plants worldwide. Just before the labour dispute began, the Toronto plant was recognized with the company's "Plant of the Year" award.

The employer is seeking concessions at the bargaining table, including a two tier wage proposal with 42% pay cuts for new hires.

You can support this boycott in the following way:

STOP purchasing beverages in aluminum cans made by Crown Holdings Inc. (see graphic to right). Visit www.bottlesnotcans.ca.

If you are buying cans of Molson, Labatt, Moosehead, Steam Whistle, Creemore and other beers, they are probably made by scabs - someone who takes another person's job during a strike.

Please buy your favourite beverages in bottles - not cans.

How to identify a Crown can



**Step 1:
Find a can**



**Step 2:
Turn can
to barcode**



**Step 3:
Find the
crown**



Day of Mourning

Last year, 173 B.C. workers died. Now, 173 families mourn.
Let's make our workplaces safer.

Tuesday, April 28

Visit your union website at www.ibew258.bc.ca for a complete list of labour-sponsored Day of Mourning ceremonies that will be taking place in communities across British Columbia.

dayofmourning.bc.ca



Day of Mourning
April 28, 2013



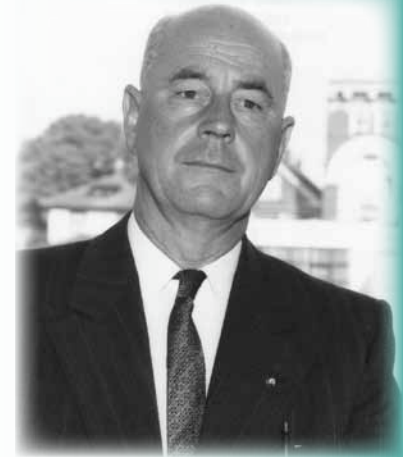
Business Council of
British Columbia



WORK SAFE BC

Call for submissions

Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Scholarship



Once again, it's time for Local 258 IBEW's annual Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship was created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President - Brother Tom Forkin, and is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258 IBEW. Up to three (3) individual Scholarships of \$1,000.00 will be awarded.

We are asking participants to write an essay on the following topic:
"Are unions still relevant and what would life be like without them?"


Applicants must also complete the **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**, available on the next page and on the union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca. Please include the application form with your essay and additional documentation (as requested on the Application Form) and send by mail to the address below or via email to info@ibew258.bc.ca. Email submissions must include "Tom Forkin Scholarship" in the subject bar of the e-mail.

To be eligible, applicants must be registered, or plan to register in a full-time post-secondary program in 2015/2016 at a BC educational institution. Special consideration may be given to applicants who are attending or planning to attend a post-secondary institution outside of BC, if the program they will be attending is not available in BC. Applicants must have a letter-grade standing of C or better, and copies of the letter-grade standing must be included with the application letter. Mature students may have this requirement waived if approved by the Executive Board.

Completed applications and essays can be mailed to:

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



All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2015. The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by **May 6, 2015**. Successful applicants will be notified. Scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment (registration) at a BC educational institution is provided. 

LOCAL 258 IBEW
TOM FORKIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2015

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone: (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

Email address: _____

UNION AFFILIATION

Who in your family is a member of Local 258 IBEW? Please list all that apply, and their relationship to you (ie: self, father, mother, etc.):

EDUCATION

Please ensure you attach a copy of your high school or post-secondary transcripts demonstrating a C, or better, average.

Current level of completed education: _____

Name of the Institution that you plan to attend within the next year:

Program of study: _____

Please describe your career goals:

ESSAY

Please attach an essay of no more than 500 words on this year's topic:

"Are unions still relevant and what would life be like without them?"

Please mail this application form and your essay to:

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

You can also submit your application via email to info@ibew258.bc.ca and "Tom Forkin Scholarship" must be included in the subject line.

Note: All submissions for the 2015 Tom Forkin Scholarship must be received by 4:00 pm on **Friday, May 1, 2015**. The Local 258 IBEW Executive Board will make a final and unalterable decision by May 6, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified. Scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment of the Institution you plan to attend is provided.

UNIT 1 Union Meetings 2015 - UPDATED 03/15

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 at the Hudson Bay Lodge, 3251 East Highway 16, 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

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

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



UNIT 2 Union Meetings 2015 - **UPDATED 03/15**

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.

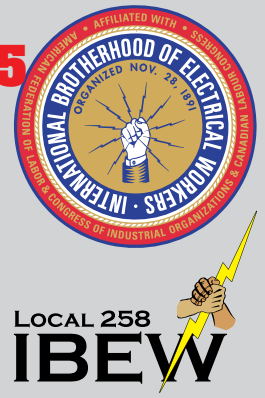
Your Unit 2 Executive Members:

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 (tentative)

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

DAWSON CREEK Meetings take place at the George Dawson Inn starting at 7:00 pm
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
Thursday, February 12* 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 Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick, 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

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Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

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

www.ibew258.bc.ca

UNIT 4 Union Meetings 2015 - **UPDATED 03/15**

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.

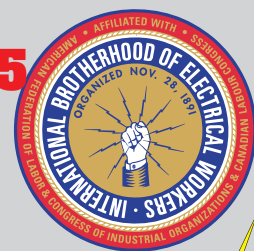
Your Unit 4 Executive Members:

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 19

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 20*

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:

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www.ibew258.bc.ca



IBEW's National Political Action Committee gears up for this year's federal election

With a federal election scheduled to take place on Monday, October 19th of this year, many of you have already seen or heard a number of announcements and promises by political parties and their leaders that traditionally signal an election campaign is underway.

From the increase in government advertising to hot button and wedge issues* being promoted by the parties competing for your vote, Canadians will be listening, watching and making their decisions later this year and, hopefully, voting for a candidate or party that best represents what is important to them and their families.

As workers belonging to a union, there are many issues affecting us that have captured headlines since Stephen Harper was first sworn in as Prime Minister in early 2006. And not all, in fact, none of them, have provided any benefit to Canadian workers, and especially workers who enjoy the benefits of union membership.

Many of the policies and legislation the Harper Conservative government has brought forward have the goal of driving down workers' wages, eliminating good family-supporting jobs, and weakening labour unions.

The Harper Conservatives are dir-


ectly responsible for the loss of thousands of public sector jobs in Canada - public sector jobs that you pay for with your taxes that are now gone or about to be gone. Services that you still pay for are no longer being provided as jobs have been slashed.

From the expansion of the Temporary Foreign Workers program and the resulting loss of jobs for Canadian workers, to the passing of Bill C-525 that changes the rules for workers in federally regulated industries to join a union, to the introduction of Bill C-377 (twice, as it failed the first time!) that proposes to open the union books to the public and to those companies that are strongly anti-union, it appears the Conservative government under Stephen Harper has not been a friend to the working people of Canada.

The IBEW First District, representing our membership in Canada, established a **National Political Action Committee (PAC)** at the All Canada Progress Meeting that took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 2012. The goal of the PAC is to provide leadership through educating, motivating and mobilizing all IBEW members to participate in the national political process in Canada to improve the life of our members, their families and all Canadians.

Brother Doug McKay, Business Manager of Local 258 IBEW, is a member of the committee representing Western Canada, with First District International Vice President Bill Daniels sitting as Chair and Brother Matt Wayland, IBEW First District Political Action/Media Strategist serving as Secretary-Treasurer. International First District Rep Laird Cronk also serves on the Western Canada Committee.

The Committee has been meeting on a regular basis since 2012 and have developed a strategic plan that includes a PAC Toolkit to be rolled out to all IBEW Locals in Canada in the near future. The tool kit can be used by IBEW members who take an added interest in this year's federal election and who would like to help reflect the determination, strength and commitment of our Brotherhood to support and elect candidates in the upcoming federal election who show they will work to improve the lives of workers and their families in Canada.

** wedge issue: a very divisive political issue, regarded as a basis for drawing voters away from an opposing party whose supporters have diverging opinions on it - from the Oxford Dictionary* 

Preparing to elect a new Government of Canada

Every country in the world has some sort of government in place. Canada has a parliamentary or cabinet government, and every five years a federal election takes place where Canadians elect a candidate who, for the most part, represents a political party in their community, who then becomes a Member of Parliament (MP). The party with the most elected MPs wins the election.


After the election, the Governor General, who represents the head of state in Canada (Queen Elizabeth), appoints the leader of the political party that won the

majority of seats in the election as Prime Minister.

Making your decision on who to vote for can be as complex or as simple as you choose, but the important thing is to get out and vote on election day. This year, election day is Monday, October 19th.

To be able to vote, you must be a Canadian citizen and be 18 years of age or older. You also need to be registered with Elections Canada.

Please sign up on your Local 258 IBEW website where we will feature additional information and resources that may

be helpful to you and your family and help you make your decision when it comes time to vote. 



RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen
Retired Local 258 member

It's been a while since I've done this and I'm having a little difficulty in figuring out how this Word thing works. So, if this column is a little disjointed and looks off kilter, that's the reason. The word "reason" sounds so much better than "excuse". I once had



a teacher who had a motto above the blackboard that said, "Don't make excuses, make good". I've tried to live up to that motto by always having a reason for something rather than an excuse. Sometimes it's difficult to differentiate between the two but by having a "reason" I always feel better and somewhat righteous. I didn't provide a column for the last issue of the Hotline for some reason I can't remember right now. I think that's the first time I've missed an issue in the almost seventeen years that I've been retired.

At any rate, here I am again. I was asked to submit this column "by Monday". As usual I am having trouble with the literal meaning of the term "by Monday". Does that mean it must be submitted before Monday happens or does it mean that sometime on Monday is acceptable? If sometime on Monday is acceptable what would be a reasonable time for submission? Would any time before Tuesday satisfy the requirement? I'll ruminate some on the issue and come up with a reason for my decision.

We are still in sunny southern California where the temperature is soaring into the nineties as measured in US American degrees. That equates to the thirties in degrees Canadian. Whatever measurement is used I have moved into my warm weather mode of operation which is, move slowly, rest often and quit early. Catherine Dear doesn't do heat well so the a/c unit has been pressed into essential service. The winter here has been climatically comfortable. We have had no remarkable cold spell or any significant rain. Oh, we have had three or four rain events but they were mostly measured in drops rather than inches and just enough to create spots in the dust on the camper. We did have one rain event where it rained for most of the day but the sun quickly returned and everything dried out. Drought conditions still prevail in sunny southern California. However, watching weather reports on TV have led me to conclude that, weather wise, the Coachella Valley is the best place in North America to be in the winter.

News from home reveals that our benevolent provincial government is going to increase the minimum wage by 20 cents to the munificent sum of \$10.45 per hour. I expect the right wing

crowd and business owners will be weeping, wailing and gnashing their teeth while portending the doom of civilization as we know it because of this increase. I wonder how many of the naysayers to any increase in the minimum wage subsist on an equivalent income. I also wonder how any worker can afford the basics of food, housing, clothing and transportation for him/herself, never mind hope to support a family, at such poverty level wages. The same sort of keep 'em down and in their place sentiment of the right wing is happening right now in sunny southern California. Here, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, the federal government's legislated minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Some states have enacted their own legislation to provide a higher minimum wage. Many states have not. California's minimum wage will rise from \$9.00 per hour to \$10.00 per hour on January 1, 2016. Already there is consternation among the business community on the effect such a generous increase will have on its profits. By contrast, there is no federal minimum wage requirement in Canada. The provinces have autonomy in setting minimum wage. The Canadian federal government had a set minimum wage for workers in federal jurisdictions, such as railroads, but now says that those workers will receive the minimum wage prevailing in the jurisdiction where the work is performed. Thus railroad workers, as an example, in British Columbia must receive no less than \$10.25 per hour. Imagine the lifestyle one can become accustomed to with such an income. I guess I'm kind of at odds with the business community because I feel that if an enterprise can only be viable by exploiting workers and paying poverty level wages then that business should not exist. There, how is that for a bold statement? I'm sure the Fraser Institute and other like minded clubs have a rebuttal argument.

Another issue that causes me to rant somewhat and for Catherine Dear to respond with "Mmmm" is the annual increase in the cost of automotive fuel, both gasoline and Diesel. Every year when the snowbird community starts to migrate north the oil companies coincidentally find a reason (excuse) to increase their profits by raising the cost of fuel at the pumps. The reasons (excuses) include, but are not limited to, trouble in the Middle East, refinery shut downs, labour disputes at ports, switching to summer crude, supply and demand and future unknown factors. I expect the increase to the



(cont'd on the next page)

Ruminations of a Retiree

(cont'd from the previous page)

minimum wage will make the list next season. The only reason the oil companies don't list is greed. In some twenty-six years of travelling to the Coachella Valley in the winter it just seems curious to me that the events causing price increase always occur towards the end of March and continue into May.

It may be that I am hypersensitive to gasoline price increases at this time of year because I am soon to join northward migration. Catherine Dear, who is very organized, and organizing, has already started to prepare her areas of responsibility in the camper for departure. Having reached accredited status as a procrastinator I will defer my assigned duties for a couple of weeks until going home time is more imminent. The mantra of a journeyman Retiree who has attained proficiency in related disciplines is, "There is always tomorrow". Speaking of Retirees, our oldest son has just become an apprentice Retiree. I'm not sure how I got to be old enough to

have a child who is retired. I am looking forward to mentoring him in all facets of retirement and helping him through the terms of his apprenticeship. As usual, I have digressed.

One of my responsibilities for travel is route selection. A large part of the decision will be weather. Options for travel include the coast, a little bit inland, a little bit farther inland, through the desert and gambling venues in Nevada, etc. One year our route home took us to east Texas. After weighing all factors the final decision will be made as we pull out of the driveway on departure day. Our departure date is also unresolved. It will be somewhere around the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th of April, depending. As I've said before, retirement is having no particular place to be and no particular time to be there.

I hope I have not exceeded my space allotment. I will leave discourse on transit plebiscites, oil tankers and pipelines and Site C for another time. Please continue to work and play safely because retirement is wonderful. Oh, by the way, I took the sometime on Monday option for the deadline. 📧

Expanding the Canada Pension Plan means Canadians would have safer pensions



The best way to help today's workers save enough money for tomorrow is by having Canadians get more of their retirement income from the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). The CPP covers over 90% of Canadians with jobs - almost the entire work force. The CPP follows you from job to job across all the provinces and territories, and it keeps up with the cost of living. Your benefits are paid out right up until your death. Even self-employed people can get CPP. It's a defined benefit so you know what you will get when you retire, no guesswork or worrying about the performance of the stock market.

The CPP is financed exclusively by workers and their employers, not by taxes, and it is run independently from the government. This means seniors in the future won't have to depend on government tax revenues or their company's stability to pay for their pension. Best of all, the CPP's management costs are vastly lower than those charged by the banking and mutual fund industries.

Expanding the CPP would mean Canadians would have safer pensions. They would not have to worry about losing their pension savings to higher inflation, stock market scams, or because they lose their jobs. Expanding the CPP is about preparing for our future, and leaving behind a better system for our kids. Canada's financial sector charges some of the highest fees in the world. Why give your savings to them?

From the Canadian Labour Congress

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S UNION ADVANTAGE FOR WORKERS

\$117.2 MILLION more every week!

There were **595,700** union members working everywhere in British Columbia in 2013 - about **31%** of the total workforce.

Those workers earned, on average, **\$5.60/hour** more because their unions negotiated fair wages and work hours.

\$28.02/HOUR

\$22.42/HOUR

➔ This advantage added up to **\$117,251,631** every week!

FAIRNESS WORKS

Women with unions earned **\$6.49/hour** more than women without a union at work. The wage gap* was **\$21/week** smaller for women with a union.

*This gap in average weekly pay between women and men working the same kinds of jobs in BC.

Young workers (aged 15-24) earned **\$4.35/hour** more with a union at work. That added nearly **\$8 MILLION** more each week to help start their lives and support their families.

The **UNION ADVANTAGE** really adds up.

The fair wages and work hours that unions negotiated delivered over **\$117.2 MILLION** more every week into the provincial economy through better paycheques for workers.

Those extra dollars get spent at local businesses, where they sustain jobs, and support community services that add to everyone's quality of life.

That's the union advantage.

Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du Travail du Canada

www.fairnessworks.ca

To improve customized information delivery, your union website now features option to identify your membership jurisdiction

Local 258 IBEW members will now be able to select the jurisdiction that they work in when registering on our union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.



In an effort to customize information delivery via regular e-mail or text news blasts, and with an eye on bringing information specific to you, Local 258 IBEW has redesigned the registration portion of the website to include an option for you to identify the jurisdiction which you work in so we can better customize specific news and event information for you.

Registration on the website continues to steadily grow and we have been getting good feedback. Registration allows access to the "Member Resources" section of the website that features current confidential union news, including bargaining updates (when available), collective agreements, as well as the union meetings calendar and detailed union contact information. By signing up to the website we can also connect with you directly so you're up to date with what's going on in your union.

To register on the website, you have to be a current, active member in good standing of Local 258 IBEW and complete the sign-up process by clicking on "Click here to sign up" in the member Login box on the upper right area of the front page. To complete the registration, 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 to you directly, notifying you of important news and events via your smart phone and/or email. Receiving text messages is optional, but recommended.

Please note, the registration process can take up to 48 hours to approve as staff confirms your membership. If your membership is not current you will be notified by email your website registration has been rejected.

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

UNION NOTICE BOARD

Attention: Local 258 IBEW *A* members

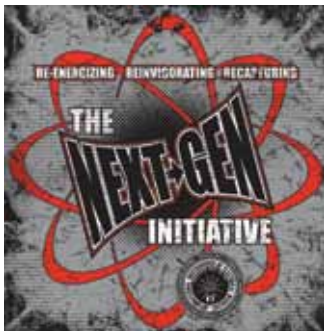
This is a reminder to all *A* members to update your beneficiary information for your International Pension when there is a change in your personal status. Please contact the office in Burnaby for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 604-520-3305 Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

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, e-mail us at info@ibew258.bc.ca, or complete the Address Change Form on-line in the Member Resources section of the website (registration required).

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. Please 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?

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.

Phone Direct:

604-515-3530

Phone Toll Free:

1-877-520-3305

LOCAL 258
IBEW



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.

In Memoriam

*In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258,
who passed away in 2014 (unless otherwise indicated).*

DOUGLAS ARDIEL

*Retired BC Hydro - Mechanic;
Died June 21, 2014*

JAMES ARMSTRONG

*Retired BC Hydro - Area Dispatcher;
Died January 23, 2014*

ROBERT BAXTER

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Helper;
Died November 1, 2013*

JEFFREY K. BEEBE

*BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died Feb. 14, 2014*

LOUIS M. BERARD

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died February 25, 2014*

JENNIFER L. BIBERDORF

*BC Hydro - Meter Technician;
Died September, 2014*

JAMES BIRD

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Helper;
Died March 1, 2014*

WILLIAM (BILL) C. BROOKES

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman, S/F;
Died March 20, 2014*

LEONARD BROWN

*Retired BC Hydro - Senior Auto HV Partsman;
Died February 18, 2014*

FRED BROWNE

*Retired BC Hydro - General Tradesman;
Died March 26, 2014*

WILFRED B. BROWNING

*Retired BC Hydro - Surrey Welder/Mechanic;
Died July 20, 2014*

ANDREW J. CAMPBELL

*Retired BC Hydro - Mechanic S/F;
Died June 21, 2014*

JAMES CHAPMAN

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician (Wireman);
Died November 21, 2013*

CAMILLE CHEVRETTE

*Retired BC Hydro - GT;
Died November 15, 2013*

DONALD COLLIAR

*Retired BC Hydro Lineman, Cable Splicer and
Supervisor; Died October 17, 2014*

KERT A. COLLINS

Electrician; Died June 16, 2014

STEPHANE COSSETTE

*Rokstad - Driver/Helper;
Died November 12, 2014*

GLEN M. CROMARTY

*Retired BC Hydro - on Honorary Withdrawal
Card - Cable Splicer; Died May 28, 2014*

WILLIAM F. DAVIES

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died July 25, 2014*

HECTOR DEGUSSEME

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died April 13, 2014*

PATRICK L. DESMET

*BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died February 21, 2014*

JOHN A. DROLET

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman, S/F;
Died December 31, 2014*

PHILIP M. DUNHAM

*BC Hydro - Lineman (57 years);
Died March 4, 2014*

MIKE A. EAGLE

BC Hydro - Storekeeper; Died May 15, 2014

BRICK/RED (EARL) EATON

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Helper;
Died December 20, 2014*

DAVID W. ELLIS

*BC Hydro Employee (temporary) - Mechanic;
Died December 15, 2013*

VICTOR EPP

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died January 8, 2015*

JOHN (JACK) D. EVANS

*Retired; BC Hydro Lineman and with various
Line Contractors; Died October 16, 2014*

DONALD JOHN FOSTER

*Retired BC Hydro, Temp. (HFC) & Martech
Lineman; Died March 8, 2014*

DENIS FRY

Retired BC Hydro; Died May 30, 2014

DOUGLAS A. GALLANT

*Retired BC Hydro - Field Storekeeper;
Died December 05, 2014*

JOHN B. GIBB

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died September 4, 2014*

HERBERT HACK

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Helper;
Died November 21, 2013*

ROBERT R. HANDBY

BC Hydro - Lineman; Died October 11, 2014

LON E. HARKER

*Retired BC Hydro - CPC Technician;
Died January 17, 2014*

ROCK H. HAWRYLUK

Electrician; Died June 3, 2014

JACOB HEISTLER

*Retired BC Hydro - Diesel Station Mechanic;
Died August 27, 2014*

ROBERT HERMANSON

*Retired BC Hydro - Technical Technician;
Died August 25, 2014*

CHARLES HURLEY

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died September 28, 2014*

LOUIS JACCARD

*Retired BC Hydro - Telecontrol;
Died October 31, 2014*

ERNEST JACKSON

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman S/F;
Died February 25, 2014*

RONALD JASKO

*Retired BC Hydro - Air Conditioning Mechanic;
Died February 10, 2014*

KEITH S. JEWELL

GT/Welder; Died December 18, 2013

JAMES ROBERT (BOB) JOHNSON

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died February 26, 2014*

HERBERT JONES

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died November 19, 2014*

THOMAS KAST

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died March 22, 2014*

WILLIAM KERR

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died November 5, 2014*



In Memoriam


KENNETH M. KIRKPATRICK

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Operator;
Died June 10, 2014*

PETER KLASSEN

*Retired BC Hydro - Utilization Technician;
Died May 30, 2014*

WILLIAM D. LAIRD

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman, S/F;
Died August 19, 2014*

CRAIG M. LILLY

Driver/Helper; Died April 19, 2014

DARRYL LIVENSPIRE

*Retired Lineman - worked HFC (BC Hydro
Construction) & Transpower Construction;
Died May 9, 2014*

GERALD (JOE) H. LOACH

*Retired BC Hydro (CBU) - Machine Operator;
Died October 24, 2014*

JAMES MARNER

*Retired BC Hydro - Industrial Technologist, S/F;
Died December 10, 2013*

ROBERT S. MARSHALL

*Retired BC Hydro - CPC Technologist;
Died October 4, 2014*

THEOPHILE MARTYNIUK

*Retired BC Hydro - Area Dispatcher;
Died January 7, 2014*

MIKE MASZTALAR

*Retired - worked for various line contractors as
Driver/Helper; Died September 4, 2014*

WALLACE C. MCINTYRE

Retired BC Hydro; Died September 27, 2014

GASTON MIRON

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died October 24, 2014*

NORMAN H. MURPHY

*Retired Lineman; worked for various line
contractors and HFC Vernon;
Died September 3, 2014*

ELMER NEWFIELD

*Retired BC Hydro - Driver/Helper;
Died April 15, 2014*

WILLIAM PARRISH

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician, S/F;
Died December 22, 2014*

WILLIAM PEHRSSON

Retired BC Hydro; Died December 29, 2013

W. STUART PIDMAN

*Retired BC Hydro - Storekeeper;
Died September 21, 2014*

FRANK POHL

Retired BC Hydro; Died December 29, 2013

GEORGE PROSICK

*Retired BC Hydro (CBU) - Electrician;
Died October 10, 2014*

HANS RICHTER

*Retired BC Hydro - Serviceman;
Died February 17, 2014*

KARL W. SCHAUBERGER

*On Honourary Withdrawal Card;
former BC Hydro employee, Welder;
Died July 04, 2013*

RYAN S. SIGFUSSON

*Valard Construction - Driver/Helper;
Died January 8, 2014*

BERT G. SIMPSON

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died July 14, 2014*

GERRY SNOW

*Retired BC Hydro - Electrician;
Died December 29, 2014*

BRIAN J. STEFFENSEN

*Retired BC Hydro - Vehicle Tradesman;
Died July 06, 2014*

MICHAEL ST GERMAIN

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died November 4, 2014*

JOSEPH WILLARD SWANSON

*Worked at BC Hydro in the 1970's - 1980's;
Died December 17, 2013*

WILLIAM THOMPSON

*Retired BC Hydro - General Tradesman;
Died January 10, 2014*

TODD M. THORNEWELL

*Killed on the Northwest Transmission Line job;
Employer: McGregor Construction 2000 Ltd.;
Died March 15, 2014*

FREDERICK THORPE

*Retired BC Hydro - Line Truck Driver;
Died October 6, 2014*

ROBERT L. TILLIE

*Retired Electrician - worked HFC (BC Hydro
Construction); Died May 20, 2014*

ROBERT A. TURNBULL

*Retired BC Hydro & Formerly with Power Serve
- Winder; Died March 19, 2014*

BRIAN TYRE

*Retired BC Hydro - Trades Trainee Project
Coordinator; Died July 6, 2014*

LARRY VOGSTAD

*Retired BC Hydro - Operator;
Died March 24, 2014*

JULIUS VOROS

*Retired BC Hydro - Janitor;
Died September 12, 2014*

MELBOURNE VYE

*Retired BC Hydro - General Tradesman;
Died April 23, 2014*

ADOLPH WAHL

*Retired BC Hydro - Mechanical Foreman;
Died April 21, 2014*

RUPERT WHITE

*Retired BC Hydro - Dam Caretaker;
Died December 31, 2013*

WILFRED WILLIAMS

*Retired BC Hydro - Lineman;
Died August 14, 2014*

GARY WINKLER

*Retired BC Hydro - Utilization Technician;
Died November 9, 2014*

JOHN WOODRUFFE

*Retired BC Hydro (CBU) - Electrician;
Died January 12, 2015*





PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



Congratulations to Brother Brent Hollybow (center) on being awarded his 10 year IBEW member service pin and to Brother Rick Gerrard (right) who received his 40 year IBEW member service pin awarded by Brother Chris Carter, Unit 6 Chair (left), at the December meeting in Langley.



Brother Jeff Campbell, left, was awarded his 20 year IBEW member service pin by Brother Gerald Pope, Unit 2 Chair, at the December meeting in Dawson Creek.



Brother Tony Brand, president of Local 258 IBEW, congratulates Brother Leon Berard (center) on his recent graduation from the PLT program. They are shown above with BC Hydro North Shore PLT sub-foreman Joel Vicente in the North Shore Lineroom.



Unit 4 Chair Tom Greenwell, left, swears in new member Brother Ross Van Vliet at the Unit 4 meeting in Ganges that took place in February.



Thank you to the members working in traffic control who attended the February Unit 6 union meeting in Langley and were sworn into the union. Welcome aboard!



Brother Jaryd Roblin, Apprentice (left) was sworn in at the Prince George Unit 2 meeting in January and Brother Ed McEwen, Shop Steward at the Williston Substation, "re-enacted" the event for a photo op!



Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay congratulates Brother Armin Decaron on 50 years of membership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



An IBEW pin recognizing 35 years of member service was awarded to Brother Tom Hockin by Unit 4 Chair Tom Greenwell at the March meeting in Nanaimo.



Welcome aboard new members Joel Wiebe, Kevin Lachapelle and Cody McDonald, shown above with Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope at the December Dawson Creek meeting. Hope you all have long, safe and productive careers as members of the IBEW.



Welcome aboard Sister Kim McLean who was sworn in to the IBEW at the Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack in December.



5 years of IBEW membership was recognized with a service pin award to Brother Matt Repopollin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Brother Richard Hickersen is awarded a 40 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at the February union meeting in Mica.



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



80 years of service!! Congratulations to Brother Al Bogetti and Brother Pete Trarup who were each awarded a 40 year IBEW member service pin at the union meeting in Kamloops by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams awarded Brother Brian Keller his 20 year IBEW member service pin at the recent union meeting in Vernon.



Congratulations go to Brother Bruce Orr who was awarded his 35 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Vice Chair Dean Kotaras at the union meeting in Cranbrook.



Brother Dean Kotaras, right, Vice Chair Unit 3, awarded Brother Matt Willox his 10 year IBEW member service pin at the union meeting in Invermere.



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope awarded Brother Dave Fossa with his 30 year IBEW member service pin at the union meeting in 100 Mile House in March.



A 45 year IBEW member service pin was awarded to Brother Con Mohnsenn by Unit 3 Vice Chair Dean Kotaras at the Cranbrook union meeting. Congratulations on such a lengthy membership with your union Brother Mohnsenn - the Brotherhood thanks you!



Welcome to new members initiated into the IBEW at the union meeting in Mica Creek: Brother Steve Harrison, Brother Jeff Demers and Brother Derek Cassidy, shown here with Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Congratulations to Brother Kaleb Hutchison on being awarded your 10 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at the union meeting in Kamloops.



Brother Bob Goodman is awarded his 30 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Williams at the union meeting in Kamloops.



Brother Ernie Cottingham is awarded his 25 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at the union meeting in Revelstoke.



Brother Sean Donaghy is awarded his 25 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at the union meeting in Kamloops.



Thanks to Brother Tim Mitchell for sending in this photo of “Charlie and a trim lift” from the Asplundh yard in Aldergrove.



Obviously, the federal election campaign is underway in Revelstoke, BC! Sent in to the Hotline courtesy of members of Unit 3.



Brother Jody Yochim, Local 258 IBEW member who works at Nanaimo Construction, and his family were out enjoying community activities at a BMX bike competition in Nanaimo. Photo courtesy of Brother Tom Hockin.



Brother Tony Brand, president of Local 258, joined with Business Manager Doug McKay, Senior ABM Jim Greenwell, ABM Dan Klassen and Organizer Rick Gerrard at the IBEW First District Western Canada Utility Meeting that took place in Victoria at the end of February.



THE HOTLINE IS PUBLISHED BY:
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How quickly 2015 is moving - last time I looked it was New Year's Day! That time of year often brings speculation of what lies ahead. And this year, I have made the decision that, after 40 years, it's time to retire.

When I started with BC Hydro, it was the early eighties, and many of us were being laid off, resulting in great uncertainty and anxiety for those who didn't get the axe. Those times have stuck with me – and with many of our members from the same era. Job security is something that is very comforting, and it can be lost so quickly. With making my decision to retire, some of those anxieties are re-emerging – it's hard to imagine life without the work I've been doing for four decades!

But, it's time, and since I've announced my intentions to my co-workers, all I'm hearing is, "Wipe that grin off your face a-hole!"

There's never a dull moment at Local 258 IBEW; we have launched a civil lawsuit in BC Supreme Court against BC Hydro and the Government of BC. Under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, we believe our right to freely negotiate a collective agreement with BC Hydro is being interfered with by the Public Sector Employers Council (PSEC). In other words, this round of bargaining isn't going well.

Imagine signing a binding agreement with, let's say, a bank, to negotiate a mortgage. That bank happens to be a member of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Years later, you need to renegotiate your agreement with the bank. So you go in to talk with your banker, and they sit there and listen to you, and they hem and haw, and they will not give you a straight answer. For every question or proposal you have, they have to call the Chamber of Commerce – who has nothing to do with your agreement with the bank – but you have to sit and wait until your banker gets a reply from the Chamber, who then tells them what they can and cannot do.

You didn't sign an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce, and you don't have any legal standing with the Chamber of Commerce, but they are dictating what your banker can and cannot do for you.

This is an analogy for what's going on with our negotiations with BC Hydro. We have been unable to get anywhere with their negotiating team as they appear to have to confirm with PSEC how they can and cannot proceed with our negotiations. And PSEC appears to be placing serious restrictions on Hydro's bargaining team with the government's "Economic Mandate 2014".

So, we need to change something. The right to freely engage in collective bargaining is a right protected under our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We strongly feel we are not being allowed to engage in free collective bargaining in this round of negotiations and our challenge in the courts is our attempt to change the way these negotiations are proceeding – or ineffectively proceeding, in this case.

Looking forward to the rest of the year, there's a federal elec-



From the Back Corner

Report from Tony Brand,
President, Local 258 IBEW

tion on the horizon, one that should highlight many serious issues for all Canadians to consider. Over the past nine years under the Harper Conservative government, workers have become a target. And so have unions. With the expansion of the Temporary Foreign Workers program, to the attack on union certification in federally-regulated industries (Bill C-525), to the unnecessary and costly legislation currently making its way through the Senate (for the second time) that seeks to force unions to be "publicly accountable" with our finances (Bill C-377), it's time to consider if this is the type of government you want to continue to have in charge.

I can't and won't tell you who to vote for, but we will do our best as your union to inform you about issues affecting you as a worker, as a member of this union, as a member of your community and this country, to the best of our ability. With new rules for Elections Canada (brought in by the Conservative government) that will severely restrict what we can put in print or put on our website, you can be assured that we are committed to bringing you as much information as possible to help you make an informed decision at the ballot box.

April 28th is the Day of Mourning, nationally recognized as a time that gives us a chance to remember those who have been injured or lost their lives on the job. It's also a time to renew our commitment to creating safer workplaces. Various ceremonies are taking place around the province, but if you can't attend, then please consider taking a moment to recognize somebody or an event that helped you be safer at work. For a complete list of Day of Mourning events, visit our website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

To wrap up my report, most of you are probably saying, Tony, how could you be retiring? We thought you were in your (early) 40's because of your youthful looks! The reality is, I'm now one of the old timers. Strangely, I have had two employers during my life: BC Hydro, and at the other I served Big Macs! What will I do? Walmart needs organizing, or perhaps night school so I can learn to write! Seriously though, there's a lot to do. I am going to race my car more, ride my bike more, garden more and apparently have dinner ready more. I will also be able to spend more time fulfilling my duties at the Local. More importantly I will be able to confirm what Brother Ken McEwen has been writing for many years: Retirement is the best job I have had. Until next time. ☑

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INSTITUTE**
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