



# HOTLINE





OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
PUBLICATION OF  
LOCAL 258 IBEW  
JULY, 2015

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Local 258 IBEW members showcase their laser focus on safe work practices at skills competition



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**HOTLINE** July 2015

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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 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the province of 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.

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

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

COVER PHOTO:



Local 258 IBEW members who competed at this year's BC Hydro Safety Rodeo in Prince George in early June. From left, Al Pineau, Judge; PLT team members Brother Dan McDonald, Brother Kelly Hambleton, Brother Ben Receveur; Chuck Moore, Judge.

## *VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay*

Since my last editorial in the Hotline, another BC Hydro contract vote has come and gone. After 14 months of difficult negotiations, our union's Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement with this employer in early June. A mail ballot was sent out and the returns were counted on July 7th, with the contract being ratified by a majority of 57% of the members who voted.

57% is not a strong majority but is enough to accept the new 5-year contract and move forward. I must admit I'm disappointed with that number, 57, and fully understand many of our members working at BC Hydro may view this as an inferior agreement. It's a sad reality that both our Bargaining Committee and this employer were restricted from free collective bargaining by the most recent mandate-of-the-day put forward by the provincial government.

Government - the group of people we elect to administer our municipalities, our province and our country. One would think being able to vote on who makes up your government is an important decision as these people can have such a direct impact on you, your family, your community, your work and your finances. We live in a country that affords us the luxury of being able to actively participate in choosing these people who govern us by our right to vote. Your right to vote is not something that should be cast aside, or become a victim of indifference. As they say, if you don't use your vote, bad things happen, including bad politicians getting elected.

When you vote for a candidate from a political party that ultimately forms government, and then that government sticks it to you with bad legislation and harmful policies and does it in a way that's cloaked in secrecy and shrouded in confusion, and they don't do anything to move you, your family and your community ahead, you have every right to vote them out the next time the chance comes around - like this fall with Canada's federal election.

The facts show us the Harper government has done nothing to help our members and hard-working Canadians across this country. In fact they have done just the opposite - they have instituted and fought hard to put forward harmful agendas that attack labour unions AND our individual members; they've forced unfair back-to-work legislation on thousands of workers; have beat up on public sector workers by firing them and trying to break their contracts; destroyed health & safety regulations at the federal level and repealed fair wages and hours of work laws. And they brought us both Bill C-377 and Bill C-525, supported by strong anti-union forces with the intent of destroying the rights of labour unions and their members in Canada.

The Harper government does not listen to what working Canadians want and need and has no plans to do so in the future.

What we have faced since the last federal election pales in comparison to what the Conservative agenda has planned to continue the attack on Canada's labour movement if they are re-elected as a majority government.

So what can you do about it?

Well, first, is knowing that election day is Monday, October 19th. Second, you have to make every effort you can to vote. The whole exercise of having an election is based on you marking your ballot one way or the other for a candidate from a political party (unless that candidate is independent) who wants to be your Member of Parliament.


Make sure you're on the voter's list as there have been changes made by the Conservative government as to who is eligible to vote in Canada. Elections Canada is the oversight body and you need to make certain your name is on their list, especially if you've moved since the last federal election in 2011.

Elections Canada has also changed the boundaries, and the names, of almost every federal riding in BC. If you're used to going to one place to vote, that may be changing as you find yourself in a new riding. Our website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) has all the information and links to this important information - sign up today and have a look at the maps and the new riding boundaries and names - you may be surprised.

For some of you, the biggest question with this election may be, 'how do I know who to vote for?' Ultimately, it's up to you to make that decision. Some of you may already know exactly who you're going to vote for, or vote against! You may want to make a list of your important issues and then simply pick up the phone or send an email, or even go to a campaign office and speak with the candidate themselves and see if their ideas line up with yours.

When it comes to determining your future, a strong future that supports you and your family - be it at work through voting for a new contract or as a Canadian who gets to vote to choose their government - you are the only person who can do it. As a union member, you know our strength lies in working together, and if you don't participate, everyone is affected.

Looking forward to past the election in October, I am pleased to announce we will be holding our popular Shop Stewards Conference on November 20th, 21st and 22nd in Burnaby. Registration forms are about to be sent in the mail. We will also be holding our Leadership Conference for our elected members and I look forward to seeing everybody in November.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of your summer, make sure you get a chance to celebrate Labour Day, and most importantly - stay safe on the job. 



# We've Got Mail!

Dear Tony and IBEW Local 258,  
On behalf of the BC Hydro Power Pioneers Golf Club (Vancouver) members and Executive, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your donation and generosity again this year. The \$500 will be gratefully used to offset costs at our AGM, golf wind-up tournament and banquet in September.

We are all retired and our club is self-supporting so we really appreciate receiving your donation and the support you have given us over the past many years. Again, thank you.

Sincerely

Irene Bedard

President, BC Hydro Power Pioneers Golf Club (Vancouver)

Dear Brother Brand,

On behalf of the Falcons Hockey Club I would like to thank you and the IBEW for your generous donation. The money will be used to help out with expenses for the upcoming spring season. We will be playing in two tournaments, one in Red Deer and the second in Edmonton. Once again, thank you.

Brother John Herrington, IBEW 258

Many thanks for being so nice!

Thank you union Local 258 for your donation to our Powell River Hockey Team! It was greatly appreciated.

PeeWeeCI Titans

Hi Tony,

I just wanted to thank you and the union for the very generous donation made to my boy's band, Medevil. The boys were so pleased when I told them. The boys wanted me to pass on their thanks, they really appreciate the help. They are working very hard preparing for the final and are going to be trying very hard to win this for BC.

Matt Collingwood

*Editors Note: Brother Collingwood's son Liam and his band Medevil competed in the provincial finals for the national Wacken Metal Band Canada contest and placed first. They made a very strong showing at the national competition that took place in June in Toronto.*

Dear Dan Klassen and Local 258 IBEW,  
On behalf of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation, we would like to thank you for your generous ongoing support of our Lights of Hope campaign as an In-kind donor.



I am pleased to announce that our 2014 campaign exceeded our \$2.5 million goal, raising an outstanding \$6.2 million for the hospital. Over the past 17 years, thanks to our donors, our Lights of Hope campaign has raised over \$25 million for St. Paul's Hospital.

This past year, donations to Lights of Hope provided funds for over 25 program areas throughout the hospital, such as:

- New ultrasounds for Medical Imaging and Anesthesia
- An automatic chest compressor to perform CPR in Emergency
- Research coordinators in Obstetrics & Gynecology and Surgery

Light of Hope will also help to support the purchase of a new MRI to benefit patients throughout the hospital

Thank you again for your generous support and for helping Lights of Hope at St. Paul's Hospital shine. We look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Sincerely,

Dick Vollet

President and CEO of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation.

Hello,

I would like to thank IBEW Local 258 for once again supporting Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports (VASS) in their annual fundraising event on March 5, 2015. Even with the non-existent ski season at the local mountains the event is critical to ensuring our organization stays healthy. With your support we were able to raise over \$25,000 to support the disabled skiers programs that we offer.

In Solidarity,

Mark Davison, Local 258 IBEW Member

Thank you for being so thoughtful!

Dear Tony and IBEW Local 258,

Both your donation to the epilepsy Quesnel Seizure Unit and comments on my bravery are so very much appreciated. Means a lot!

Natasha Chappell (wife of Brother Ahren Chappell),  
Member, Local 258 IBEW

Dear Tony,  
On behalf of Campbell River Family Services Society I extend my deepest appreciation for your generous donation toward our Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser Walk.

It is organizations like yours who make our communities stronger and healthier by ensuring that no matter what our circumstances we are included and valued members of our neighbourhoods and cities.

Thank you for reaching out.

Warmly,  
Patricia Orr  
Community Outreach Worker  
Campbell River Family Services

Dear Brother Tony Brand and the Executive,  
Thank you on behalf of Salt Spring Minor Baseball for your generous donation. This will help take the financial pressure off the club so we can focus our attention where it should be – on the kids!

Pete Mottishaw,  
Member, Local 258 IBEW

## ALS Walk in Parksville sees Brother Jim Betteridge and family make a huge impact

Brother Jim Betteridge retired from BC Hydro in 2007 after 34 years working as a lineman, including 13 years up on the Queen Charlotte Islands, now known as Haida Gwaii.

Transferred to Powell River in 1987, Brother Betteridge joined Midway Power after his retirement where he “happily replaced power poles on sunny days and restored power to customers on stormy ones”.

Jim was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease) just last year. Last month, he and his family and friends got together and travelled to Parksville on Vancouver Island where they participated in the 10th Annual Mid Island Walk for ALS in Parksville, an event that brings public awareness of this tragic disease and raises funds to support the ALS Society of British Columbia.

Jim’s daughter had special t-shirts made that read “I’d Rather Be Fishing - ALS Sucks” and thoughtfully sent forward photos of the event to Sister Cathy Tagseth, Chair Unit 5.

“It was great to get the photos, and we just saw him last month when we travelled to Powell River for our Unit 5 meeting. We heard about Jim doing the Walk and asked if he could send the photos for the Hotline. I know our union recently passed a motion to support the ALS Walk after Jim sent us the ask”, wrote Sister Tagseth in an email to the Hotline.

Local 258 IBEW was shocked and saddened to hear Brother Betteridge passed away suddenly on July 6th with his family by his side.

Brother Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair recalled, “Jim worked up on the Queen Charlottes in the 80s and early 90s - he was one of our best. I recall he suffered a terrible arm injury and there was a time when it was questionable if he would be able continue in the trade - but Jim made a fantastic recovery when doctors didn’t think he would, and carried on.”

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers, please consider making a donations in Jim’s team name - “I’d Rather Be Fishing” to the ALS Society of BC. 



## 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:** Oct. 8 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Prince Rupert:** Oct. 7 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Smithers:** Sept. 9 @ 5 pm, Hudson Bay Lodge  
**Terrace:** August 11 @ 7 pm, Best Western Inn

### Unit 2 - Central Interior

**Bella Coola:** Oct 1 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room  
**100 Mile House:** Sept. 10 (tentative) @4:30 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Fort Nelson:** Sept. 16 @ 7 pm, Woodlands Inn  
**Fort St. John:** Sept. 17 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Hudson's Hope:** Oct. 15 @ 4:30 pm, Pearkes Centre  
**Prince George:** Sept. 10, Oct. 14 @ 7 pm, Coast Inn of the North

### Unit 3 - Southern Interior

**Bridge River:** Sept. 8 @ 5:30 pm, Lunch Room B2  
**Cranbrook:** Oct. 7 @ 4:30 pm, Labour Temple  
**Invermere:** Oct. 8 @ 4 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Kamloops:** Sept. 8 @ 7 pm, IBEW Local 993 Hall  
**Mica Creek:** Sept. 15 @ 6 pm, Mica Curling Rink  
**Revelstoke:** Sept. 16 @ 4:30 pm, Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room  
**Trail:** Oct. 6 @ 7 pm, Best Western Terra Nova Hotel  
**Vernon:** Sept. 10 @ 7 pm, Army & Navy Club

### Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

**Ganges:** Oct. 6 @ 4 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Port Hardy:** Sept. 8 @ 4 pm, BCH Line Room  
**Victoria:** Aug. 11 @ 4 pm, BCH Line Room

### Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

**Burnaby:** Sept. 10, Oct. 8 @ 5 pm, Local 258 IBEW Hall, 7535 Sixth Street  
**Powell River:** Oct. 20 @ 4:30 pm, Powell River Towne Centre Hotel  
**Sechelt:** Oct. 21 @ 5:00 pm, Driftwood Inn

### Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

**Chilliwack:** Oct. 7 @ 7 pm;  
 Best Western, 43971 Industrial Way  
**Langley:** Sept. 8, Oct. 6 @ 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](http://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](mailto:dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca)

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

**Five-year contract****New collective agreement ratified by members working at BC Hydro**

After 14 months of another round of difficult negotiations since the previous contract expired at the end of March, 2014, a tentative agreement was reached between Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the BC Hydro and Power Authority, a crown corporation of the province of British Columbia that employs about 2,000 members of Local 258 IBEW as trades and skilled professional electric utility workers.

“This was a particularly difficult round of bargaining where we faced yet another series of directives put forward by the provincial government that effectively neutered both sides in being able to freely negotiate a new collective agreement,” says Doug McKay, the union’s Business Manager. “But, the Local 258 IBEW Bargaining Committee worked very skillfully in fighting back many concessions and unreasonable proposals put forward by BCH and their boss, the Public Sector Employers Council. We were also successful with achieving modest improvements to the extended health benefits package.”

**Fact:**

As a public sector employer, BC Hydro was subject to the Economic Stability Mandate 2014 of the BC government. The 2014 mandate was the third in a series of restrictive bargaining conditions placing severe limits on employers in the public sector. In 2010 it was called the “Net Zero Mandate”, and in 2012 it was called the “Cooperative Gains Mandate”.

During the course of the negotiations the union launched a lawsuit in the Supreme Court of British Columbia claiming a violation of Canada’s Charter of Rights in regards to the union’s ability to engage in free collective bargaining with this employer.

“We think, at the end of the day, our lawsuit did move these negotiations forward,” said McKay. “Given some of the precedent setting decisions that have taken place after our lawsuit was filed, we reviewed the circumstances and made a carefully considered decision to withdraw that legal action.”

After both sides met for negotiations on June 4th, a tentative agreement was reached. The union notified members who work at BCH and sent out the voting packages including the mail-in ballot shortly thereafter. Meetings took place around the province, including question and answer opportunities at all the Unit meetings held in the month of June.

The ballots were counted on July 7th in the union office in Burnaby and members voted to ratify the new contract by a margin of 57%. “I’d like to thank those members who took the time and voted,” said McKay.




*Local 258 IBEW’s BC Hydro Bargaining Committee, standing, from left: Brother Dave Herrington, Brother Dave Rathlef, Brother Rick Gerrard, Brother Frank Nassachuk, Brother Dan Payne, Brother Rupinder Dhillon, Brother Dave Mengerig. Seated, from left, Brother Tony Brand, President L258 IBEW; Garnet Zimmerman, GMZ Mediation; Brother Jim Greenwell, L258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager. Missing from this photo is Brother Doug McKay, L258 IBEW Business Manager/Financial Secretary and Rebecca Murdock, L258 IBEW Legal Counsel.*

Highlights of the agreement include:

- Wage increases as mandated by the “Economic Stability Mandate 2014” of 5 1/2% over the five year term of the contract that runs from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019 - no wage increase was provided for the first year of the contract.
- Improvements to extended health benefits including increases to hearing aid coverage and professional (paramedical) services for Level 1 and Level 2 benefit packages.
- Modest increases to tool allowance rates for vehicle mechanics.

“One of the features of this agreement we were able to secure is the creation of a joint Labour Market, Recruitment & Retention Committee,” said McKay. “This Committee will be tasked with reviewing market rates across the country for the job classifications where issues exist in regards to pay and other related working conditions.

“The Committee will be struck within the next few months and we look forward to developing proposals to effectively address some of the disparities in wages and working conditions that affect the company’s ability to attract and retain highly skilled workers. It’s only fair that if our skilled members are in high demand - which they are - then that needs to be recognized and rewarded with the “going rate” that others across the country in the same jobs that work in the same type of company are being paid.”

The new five-year term of the agreement, a requirement dictated by the Economic Stability Mandate 2014, replaces the traditional two-year agreements signed in the recent past. The new contract expires on March 31, 2019. 

## Local 258 IBEW News

### Welcome aboard to newest certification at Triumph Traffic Control



Local 258 IBEW welcomes our newest members at the recently certified Triumph Traffic Control based out of Aldergrove who have now voted to ratify their first collective agreement.

“Everyone is very happy this process went so smoothly - these workers wanted union representation and ownership recognized the added value a collective agreement brings to the workplace, so it’s a win-win situation,” said Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager.

Currently representing all 14 members working at Triumph, the 3-year contract features competitive wage rates as well as a benefit package. Many thanks to Sister Karen Nelson who helped with these first time negotiations.

### Busy time with negotiations and contract votes for members working in traffic control in BC

RS Line Construction, a signatory employer under the Local 258 IBEW Master Line Agreement, a member of the Line Contractors Association of BC and based in Langley, BC, has recently formed a traffic control division. The employer sought out a union agreement to provide secure wages and benefits to their newest workers and Sister Biernaczyk, Local 258 IBEW ABM, is pleased to report a first collective agreement has been negotiated and the 3-year contract was recently ratified.

At Traffic Pro, a long time Local 258 IBEW employer based out of Burnaby, the contract for members working in traffic control expired in 2012 and recent bargaining for a new agreement had members voting to ratify the new agreement in July.

The 3-year contract features competitive wage increases, improvements to bereavement leave, an increase to the boot allowance and improvements in the benefit package.

### Members working at Code Electric have a new agreement

After a series of contentious and difficult meetings in this round of bargaining, members voted to ratify a new collective agreement on July 9th, reports Local 258 IBEW ABM Nicole Biernaczyk.

The new 5-year agreement features significant wage increases and improvements to the contract language. Members working at this long time IBEW signatory employer located in Port Coquitlam build the electrical components for custom electrical enclosures following CSA standards.

The previous agreement expired in 2014.

### Local 258 IBEW supporting community project in Vancouver’s downtown east side



Local 258 IBEW members Brother Dave Hengeveld, Brother Marshall Vanleewen and Brother Roland Mathews from Davey Tree assisted in a tree removal at the Sacred Spirit Centre project.

Local 258 IBEW is one of many BC unions in BC helping to make a difference in Vancouver’s downtown east side by supporting the Sacred Spirit Centre Project being put forward by a consortium of downtown east side parishes led by the Sacred Heart Parish.

The project involves repurposing St. Francis Xavier middle school at Pender off Campbell with major renovations so the building can be used to provide a variety of community services. Construction efforts are being supported by a number of trade unions, including Local 258 IBEW and range from providing electrical services to laying floors, plumbing, cement work and much, much, more.

The renos are well underway but an opening date for the new facility has not yet been set. 🏗️



# IBEW welcomes new President Lonnie Stephenson as Ed Hill retires after serving 14 years

"I came to this decision after much thought and reflection, concluding it was the right time for the next generation of IBEW leadership to come to the fore," said former IBEW President Ed Hill at the end of May as he announced his retirement effective June 1st.

Joining the IBEW as a construction wireman in 1956, Brother Hill served as Business Manager of Local 712 in Beaver, Pennsylvania before becoming Vice President of the union's third district, covering New York, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Appointed International Secretary in 1997, he assumed the office of President in 2001.

During Brother Hill's time in office, he introduced several programs that helped boost the union's organizing program while expanding outreach to new customers and employers, including the creation of the IBEW's Code of Excellence.

"Anti-union propaganda had created a perception that hiring union workers was bad for business, but we knew better," Hill said. "We just had to remind our customers, and truth be told, some of our members, that high standards of craftsmanship and productivity are hallmarks of the IBEW and the foundation of a profitable business."

Brother Hill made many regular trips to Canada during his tenure, visiting with members and attending annual All Canada Progress Meetings across the country. He led delegates at the 2011 International Convention that was held for the first time in Vancouver and the 4th time the Convention took place in Canada.



*IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson*

challenges of building the union in these changing economic times.

"We must continue moving forward and keep our eyes on our main goal: to organize all electrical workers in North America into the IBEW and continue to raise working standards and quality throughout the industry," he said.


Upon Hill's recommendation, the leader of the 725,000-member union will be replaced by Lonnie Stephenson, Vice President of IBEW's sixth district, covering Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota.

Incoming President Stephenson says he is greatly humbled by his selection, and looks forward to working with the officers, staff and membership of the IBEW in meeting the



*From top clockwise: IBEW President Ed Hill at the 2011 International Convention in Vancouver; with L258 Business Manager Doug McKay at the 2013 All Canada meeting in Banff, Alberta; with Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft and Sr. ABM Jim Greenwell at 2006 IBEW Convention in Cleveland; with Unit 2 Chair Gerry Pope at All Canada meeting in 2011 in Quebec City; getting ready for the IBEW Ride to Whistler, 2011.*



Doug McKay, Local 258 IBEW Business Manager, said, "We had a pretty good working relationship with President Hill and he certainly paid attention to the issues our members face here in Canada. We wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement after working so hard for so many years. And we look forward to working together with Brother Lonnie Stephenson as he steps into this new role." 

## BC Labour News

### Traditional picnic celebrations planned for Labour Day around BC

At the end of the summer, labour activists and supporters, along with their families and friends, will gather around the province at various locations to celebrate Labour Day.

A stat holiday since 1894, Labour Day is meant to recognize the valuable contribution working men and women make to their communities, society in general and to Canada's economy. Traditional Labour Day celebrations feature picnics, parades and/or musical celebrations in communities across the country.

In BC, labour councils have taken the initiative and events are planned for the following communities. Please take some time to join us and enjoy what your labour community has to offer:

#### Interior

Where: Cranbrook - Rotary Park

Hosted by: East Kootenay District Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Kamloops - McDonald Park, 501 McDonald Ave

Hosted by: Kamloops District Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Kelowna - Mission Creek Park, 2363 Springfield Rd.

Hosted by: North Okanagan Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

#### Vancouver Island

Where: Black Creek - Halbe Hall, 8369 North Island Hwy.

Hosted by: Campbell River Courtenay District Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm

Where: Ladysmith - Transfer Beach Park

Hosted by: Nanaimo, Duncan District Labour Council, "25th Labour Day Anniversary"

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Port Alberni - Port Alberni Fair Grounds at Vimy & Hollywood Streets

Hosted by: Port Alberni District Labour Council

When: September 10th to 13th, visit the Council's Booth

Where: Victoria - Lawn of BC Legislative Buildings

Hosted by: Victoria Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley/Sunshine Coast

Where: Gibsons - Dougall Park/Kinsmen Hall

Hosted by: Sunshine Coast Labour Council

When: Monday, September 7th from 12:00 noon- 4:00 pm

Where: Burnaby - Swangard Stadium


Hosted by: Vancouver District Labour Council; New Westminster & District Labour Council; BC Federation of Labour

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Abbotsford - Mill Lake Park, (Bevan Street Entrance)\*\*

Hosted by: Fraser Valley Labour Council and United Way of the Fraser Valley

When: Monday, September 7th from 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

\*\*Local 258 IBEW will have a booth at this event\*\* 

### Current Disputes

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

#### STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS:

##### **Canadian Office & Professional Employees, Local 378 vs. BC Automobile Association (BCAA)**

Major Issues: Pay Equity

Commenced: June 5, 2015 (Locked Out)

##### **Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 873-03 vs. SN Transport (Province-Wide)**

Major Issues: First Collective Agreement

Commenced: June 1, 2015

##### **UNITE HERE! Local 40 vs. Nanaimo Golf Club**

Major Issues: Wages and benefits

Commenced: April 24, 2015 (Locked Out)

##### **Unifor Local 2300 vs. District of Kitimat**

Major Issues: Job Security, Benefits, Hours of Work

Commenced: February 28, 2015

##### **Marine Workers and Boilermakers Industrial Union vs. SSAB Swedish Steel (Delta)**

Major Issues: Job Classifications

Commenced: October 3, 2014

#### SETTLED:

Unifor Local 114 vs. Magnacharge Battery (Delta)

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 7000 vs. Southern Railway of British Columbia Ltd. (Province-Wide)

Unifor 2000 vs. Cowichan News Leader (Duncan)

Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 608 vs. Naramata Centre (Okanagan) 

*“Fight for the living, mourn for the dead”*

## Observing April 28th – Canada’s National Day of Mourning



According to statistics published by BC’s Workers Compensation Board, workplace fatality claims were accepted for 173 workers in 2014 (February, 2013 to February, 2014), an increase from 128 workplace fatality claims that were accepted by the Board in 2013.

Occupational disease remains the leading killer of workers in BC, with exposure to asbestos resulting in mesothelioma, lung cancer or other asbestos-related illness being the primary fatal condition leading to death.

Every five days in 2014, one British Columbian died from work-related exposure to asbestos.

This year, on April 28th, workers gathered at locations across the province at Day of Mourning ceremonies to honour and remember those who were killed or injured at work, or who are suffering from work-related occupational disease. Members of Local 258 IBEW’s Executive, joined by ABMs working in the Burnaby office, attended the formal ceremony that took place in downtown Vancouver at the Jack Poole Plaza, organized by the Workers Compensation Board together with the BC Federation of Labour (see photo page 29).

Ceremonies were also held, as they are every year, by local labour councils throughout the province, carrying on the tradition that began in 1984 when the Canadian Labour Congress delegates passed a resolution declaring April 28th as a “National Day of Mourning” to honour those workers in Canada who have been killed, injured or disabled on the job, or who suffer from occupational diseases.


### Background of Day of Mourning

In 1991, as a result of intense lobbying by the Canadian labour movement, federal legislation was passed to identify April 28th as the “National Day of Mourning” with the “Workers Mourning Day Act” (Bill C-223), recognizing April 28th as a day of national observance.

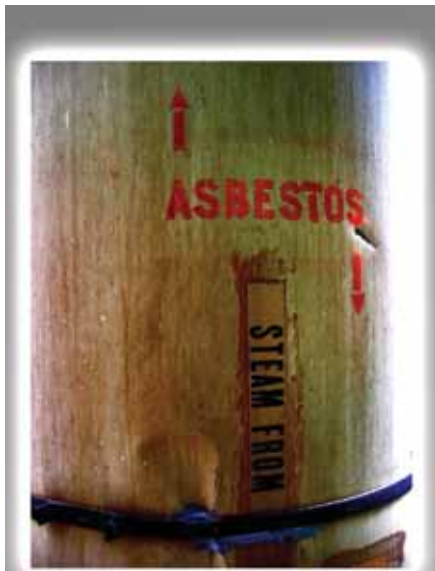
April 28th was chosen because on that day in 1914 Ontario proclaimed the first comprehensive Workers Compensation Act in Canada.

On this national day of observance, the Canadian flag flies at half mast on Parliament Hill, workers light candles, don ribbons and black armbands and gather for solemn ceremonies across the country. A moment of silence is observed.

Businesses and politicians are asked to participate and do their utmost to prevent workplace deaths and injuries.

Over 100 countries around the world now recognize the Day of Mourning, sometimes referred to as “Workers Memorial Day”, and April 28th is also acknowledged by the International Labour Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the American Federation of Labour. 

# Occupational diseases caused by exposure to asbestos the leading killer of workers in BC



## What is mesothelioma?

Mesothelioma is a cancerous tumour that starts in the cells of the mesothelium, a membrane that covers and protects major organs such as the lungs and heart, and the peritoneal cavity, where the liver, stomach and intestines are located.

Exposure to asbestos is the primary cause and risk factor for developing mesothelioma.

If you worked at a jobsite where asbestos or asbestos containing products were used, you may be at risk to develop mesothelioma.

In British Columbia, the Workers Compensation Board recognizes mesothelioma as a compensable occupational disease if the worker has been exposed to airborne asbestos dust in the workplace.

Other asbestos-related occupational diseases include lung cancer; diffuse pleural thickening or fibrosis; asbestosis; benign pleural effusion; larynx or pharynx cancer; gastrointestinal cancer.

As the single leading cause of work-related deaths in British Columbia, mesothelioma and other serious illnesses resulting from exposure to asbestos continue to be diagnosed in workers.

For more than 100 years, various forms of asbestos have been mined in Canada and then used to manufacture building materials, friction products and heat resistant fabrics. The mineral was also used extensively for its heat, electrical and sound insulation capabilities, including by workers in BC's electric utility and ship-building industries.

As a friable material made up of small fibres, asbestos can be released into the air as dust when being mined or disturbed and easily inhaled if protective measures are not taken. The lethal human health effects from inhaling asbestos fibres have been well documented, including a lengthy latency period from 10 to 50 years after exposure for diseases to show symptoms.

At one time, Canada was a leading exporter of asbestos, and while other countries were banning asbestos altogether - with more than 52 countries including

Australia and most of the European Union - it wasn't until 2011 that the last two asbestos mines in Canada shut down.

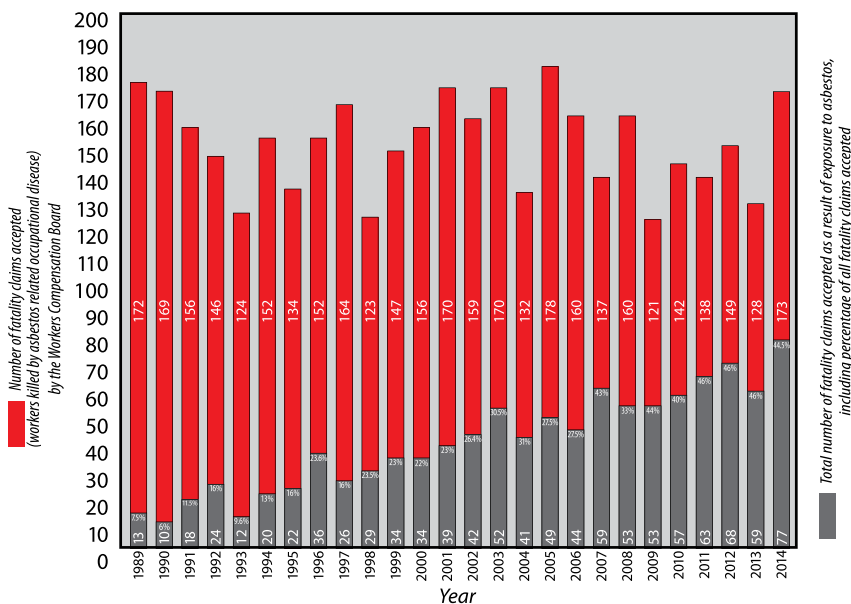
But asbestos continues to be used in manufacturing in Canada and products containing asbestos continue to be imported.

Recently, Health Canada has revised its position on the harmfulness of asbestos, and in a recent change to its website, without fanfare or a news release, now acknowledges that "asbestos, if inhaled, can cause cancer and other diseases", a stand welcome by many organizations including the Canadian Conference of Asbestos Workers and the Canadian Cancer Society. Calls to ban asbestos completely in this country and remove this toxic product from commercial, industrial and residential environments remain.

Although the use of asbestos has significantly declined since the early 1980s, regulations to protect workers from the harmful effects of exposure to asbestos continue to evolve. Today, anyone handling asbestos is at high risk of exposure if protective safety precautions are not

*(cont'd on next page)*

Workplace Fatality Claims as a Result of Exposure to Asbestos 1989 to 2014



Information Source: Table 30, WorkSafeBC website

## Occupational diseases...

*(cont'd from previous page)*

taken. Unfortunately, some employers continue to show reckless disregard for their workers as protective measures and strict regulations, particularly in the building renovations and demolition industries, continue to be violated.

Workers aren't the only ones who develop asbestos-related diseases. Family members of workers who have brought asbestos fibres home on their clothing and individuals who may have been exposed through their Do-It-Yourself residential repairs or renovations have also been diagnosed with or are at risk of developing these diseases.

The Workers Compensation Board in BC recognizes mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases as compensable medical conditions, and are acutely aware of the significant increases in fatality claims (see Table previous page) that correspond with similar increasing rates of occupational fatality statistics from asbestos exposure across Canada.


"There was a time when we just didn't know there were any long term effects from exposure to asbestos," said Doug McKay, Business Manager of Local 258 IBEW. "We didn't take any precautions and it was used in just about everything - it was the miracle material. From the workers who mined it to the workers who had to use the products that were full of it - hell, even the buildings we worked in were made out of products containing asbestos, and some them still are. Who knew? Well, I think some people may have known, but it certainly wasn't the workers. Thankfully these things are known these days and it has been on our radar for quite a few years now as more and more of our members are getting the diagnoses as a result of asbestos exposure in their workplaces many, many years ago."

At BC Hydro, one of Local 258 IBEW's major employers, protection from the harmful effects of asbestos exposure remains a high priority when it comes to safety in the workplace.

"BC Hydro's Asbestos Management Program provides our workers with the training, procedures and protective equipment they need to be safe on the job. The program also looks at controlling identified asbestos-containing materials," said Lisa Seppala, Director, Safety Strategy & Compliance, BC Hydro.

"We take asbestos exposure seriously. When an exposure incident occurs, we investigate the cause to prevent reoccurrence, and report it to WorkSafeBC. Should current or former workers develop an asbestos-related disease, we have an internal team who can provide support with the WSBC claims process."

In an effort to document worker exposure to asbestos or other harmful agents, BC's Workers Compensation Board has developed a registry where exposures can be documented. If you, or someone you know, has been exposed to asbestos in the workplace, you may want to register with the Workers Compensation Board.

The forms are available on-line at: [www.worksafebc/forms/assets/PDF/41M1/pdf](http://www.worksafebc/forms/assets/PDF/41M1/pdf), or visit your union's website at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca) for the link. 

## Are safer and healthier workplaces a political issue?

Every year, thousands of Canadians are killed or injured on the job or die from work-related diseases. Yet, this is something few of us think about when we mark our ballots at election time.

This year, Canadians have an opportunity to elect a new federal government. Let's make sure that the people we vote for will go to Parliament and ensure the next government will properly enforce health and safety laws, including the criminal code when necessary.

In 2013, more than 900 workers died because of something that happened to them at work. Hundreds more die from under-reported illnesses and occupational diseases that go unrecognized by unfair government compensation rules or simply aren't reported because workers can't afford to take the time off.

Workers in Canada today are four times more likely to die because of something that happens to them at work than to be murdered. Yet, many of the men and women we elected to represent us in 2011, who claim to be "tough on crime," aren't so tough with employers and companies responsible for workers' injuries and deaths. In fact, many of them have supported new laws that take away long-standing health and safety rights from working people.

This year, we can change things by electing a new government and by making sure the people we vote for are committed to improving workplace health and safety.

We need a government that's finally willing to prosecute employers under the Westray laws and provide leadership and guidance to the provinces and territories.

We need a government that will seriously address the health and safety risks posed by asbestos to construction, renovation and building trade workers, as well as do-it-yourselfers and finally provide a registry of asbestos-containing buildings.

We need a government that is committed to creating new jobs that are full-time and safe, instead of the unstable precarious work that accounted for 75% of the new jobs created in recent years — work that is more likely to have higher rates of injury, exposure to hazards and risk of disease as well as a lower knowledge of safety laws, employer responsibilities and worker rights.

Later this year, let's remember those who have lost their lives because of their work, or who have been injured on the job. Let's vote for the candidate who will commit to safer, healthier workplaces. Let's vote in a federal government that will enforce the laws that will protect our health and safety at work.

*Reprinted from the Canadian Labour Congress*

# 22nd Annual IBEW – BC Hydro GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Shotgun Start  
at 1:00 pm**

**When:**

Monday, September 21,  
2015

**Where:**

Pitt Meadows Golf Club  
13615 Harris Rd.  
Pitt Meadows, BC

- Team Play Competition
- Long Drive
- Hole-n-One
- KP

**ENTRY FEE: \$110**

includes Golf Cart,  
Gourmet Grilled Steak  
Dinner with all the  
trimmings  
AND Prizes for ALL!

**For tickets:**

Call Dan Klassen at  
604-312-5929 (cell) or  
604-520-3305 (office);  
Call Mark Davison at  
604-469-6251.

Make cheques payable to  
IBEW Golf Tournament  
and mail to:

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

*This event is a Fundraiser  
for the Multiple Sclerosis  
Society of Canada.*



*All Players & Teams  
must register  
and be fully paid  
by September 4, 2015*

LOCAL 258  
**IBEW**



AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup> 2015

# ROLLIN FOR RECOVERY

TRUeline POWER PRESENTS

FIRST ANNUAL  
**POWER  
RIDE**



RIDE STARTS AT 11AM | \$50 ENTRY | FREE DINNER | PRIZES

Join us in supporting our comrades and help them in their road to recovery. We will be riding from Langley to Whistler in support for those injured in the powerline trade. Proceeds from this event will be going to the BC Burn Fund.



[WWW.THEPOWERRIDE.COM](http://WWW.THEPOWERRIDE.COM)



## IBEW Canada Political Action

### Private Members Bill C-377

# Contentious anti-union legislation passes through the Senate

Private Members Bill C-377, An Act to amend the Income Tax Act (requirements for labour organizations) was passed in the Senate on Tuesday, June 30th, 2015, by a final vote of 35-22, with one abstention.

IBEW First District International Vice President Bill Daniels has corresponded in a letter to share with members across Canada, writing, "This legislation has been flawed from the day it was drafted; however, with the unwavering support it had from the Prime Minister's Office, we knew we had an uphill battle from the outset. Bill C-377 was first introduced almost four years ago, October 2011."

South Surrey-White Rock - Cloverdale MP Russ Hiebert (not seeking re-election in 2015) originally brought this Bill forward in 2011. The Conservatives used their majority in the House of Commons to shut down debate and ram the bill through the House and send it to the Senate before the Christmas break of 2012.

In June of 2013, there was a moment of victory when significant amendments were made to the Bill, put forward by Conservative Senator Hugh Segal; however, the amendments were quickly nullified by the Prime Minister's decision to prorogue parliament, a move that reset the bill back to its original form, and back to first reading in the Senate.


"This was a long hard-fought piece of legislation, and the final result was not what we desired," writes Brother Daniels. He commends the lobbying efforts of IBEW members from across the country who were heard by politicians of all party stripes and in both chambers of Parliament, and writes, "Our efforts should be commended."

Brother Daniels would like to thank each and every member that participated in our lobby efforts; whether they contacted their MP while the Bill was in the House of Commons, or by contacting Senators from their province to express their discontent with this union-busting Bill. He is encouraging members to contact the Senators one final time who voted against this Bill and thank them for their efforts to protect not only the many men and women in the labour movement but the many more who will be captured by this broad sweeping bad legislation.

"The anti-union forces behind this Bill may have won this time, but we are far from finished," concludes Brother Daniels. "The IBEW in Canada will be working with various affiliates to look at different avenues to continue our fight against this legislation up to and including a Constitutional challenge. Stay tuned."

In British Columbia there are five sitting Senators. Two Senators rightfully voted AGAINST Bill C-377, and we thank them for their support:

Senator Larry Campbell: [larry.campbell@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:larry.campbell@sen.parl.gc.ca)

Senator Mobina Jaffer: [mobina.jaffer@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:mobina.jaffer@sen.parl.gc.ca) 



IBEW First District  
International VP  
Bill Daniels

### Quotes from the final days of Senate debate on C-377

*"This is a bill that is poorly drafted, would violate the privacy of potentially millions of Canadians, would set back labour relations across the country and is very probably unconstitutional, both in violation of the division of powers and the Charter. Moreover, the governments of six provinces, representing 70 per cent of the population of this country, have asked us in the strongest possible words to not pass this bill."*

*Senator James Cowan, June 16, 2015*

*"Honourable senators, I wish to add my voice to all those opposed to Bill C-377. As it did in 2012, Bill C-377 unjustly targets unions, violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and encroaches on provincial jurisdictions. This bill is not only unjust, it is unconstitutional."*

*Senator Claudette Tardif, June 18, 2015*

*"The question at the basis of this bill, at the fundamental basis of this bill, is fairness. It simply isn't fair. Why is it that this government somehow feels it can single out unions for unfair treatment, for intrusion into their privacy, for intrusion not into the union's structural privacy but into the very private lives of the individual members of those unions? How is it that a government that says that it's Conservative – that believes fiercely, it says, against the intrusion of big government into people's lives and won't even have a census that will ask people how many rooms they have in their house because that was too much of an intrusion – would contemplate the kind of intrusion that will be required by this bill?"*

*"It isn't fair. In bringing in this bill – or forcing the bill the way he clearly must be – this Prime Minister is not in any way, shape or form representing and governing for all Canadians. He's governing quite differently for some Canadians than for other Canadians."*

*Senator David Mitchell, June 23, 2015*



*With a federal election on October 19th, are you asking:*

## Is it time for change?

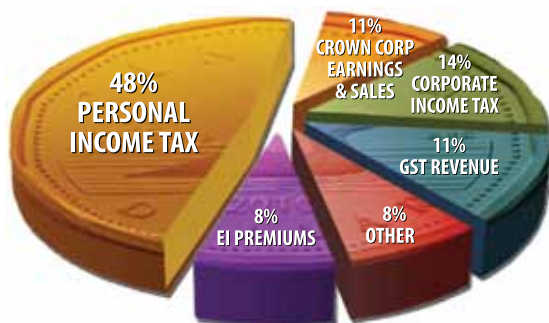
Have you taken a look at your pay slip lately? With direct deposit in place for so many Canadians, you might not be paying close attention to how much of your hard earned paycheque is being sent to Ottawa to pay taxes so you can get, in return, good public services, retirement security with your contributions to the Canada Pension Plan and employment insurance benefits if you need them.

Are you satisfied that government policies and legislation are being put forward that are really in your family's, your community's and your best interests?

You get to make your choice that reflects what you want by voting to stay the course or to make change in what's being called one of the most important elections in Canada's recent history, taking place on October 19th.

The election campaigns for Canada's three major parties are now underway and it's looking like there will be some hard fought battles and all kinds of promises being made. If you're like about 90% of Canadians, you might pay some attention to some of the issues on the campaign trail, as you can bet there will be many clever schemes that all the political parties are going to be directing at you to gain your attention and your vote.

**But the bigger question may be, why should I vote?**



Federal Government Revenue Sources, from 'Your Tax Dollar 2014', Dept. of Finance, Government of Canada

Taxes are a big deal and with 48 to 50% of the federal government's revenue coming from your personal taxes, your responsibility should include making your best effort to determine the important issues that matter to you and then exercise your right to vote in this federal election. Your vote will help determine who the people will be who get to spend your hard-earned tax dollars and make the decisions, policies and legislation that directly or indirectly affects your future.

You pay for public services with your taxes - are you getting what you need? With job cuts there's fewer workers providing less of these important essential services - but your taxes haven't decreased. Is this what you've been asking for? Is it time for change?

You pay for health care with your taxes - are you satisfied the health care system is being properly funded? Even though the provincial government pays the health care bills, a lot of that funding comes, by law, in the form of transfers from the federal government.


Provinces like BC have been and will continue to receive fewer dollars from the federal government as it abdicates its responsibilities to contribute their fair share to our valued public health care system. Is this what you've asked for? Is it time for change?

You pay for your Canada Pension, and other seniors benefits, with your taxes. Is the government doing their best to ensure your pension and these benefits will be there when you need to access them? Has the federal government created policies and legislation that secures your retirement, or are you left feeling very nervous about what the future will be like when you finish your work life? Will you be living in poverty as many are now? Is this what you asked for? Is it time for change?

You pay employment insurance premiums so you can access those benefits and assistance if you're laid off - are the EI benefits and services going to be available when you need them? Has this government ensured those funds have been kept exclusively for your use when you need them? Or has this government taken that money and spent it on something else? Is this what you asked for? Is it time for change?

And what about your kids - has the government been spending money, creating policies and legislation to help you with the costs of raising your kids? Do you think your kids are going to have the same or better opportunities when they grow up? Has this government created policies and legislation that puts your family and your kids' future first? Or are you being hoodwinked with cheques in the mail that say, "here's some money to help you afford to raise your kids" and then takes it all away come tax time. Is this what you asked for? Is it time for change?

As an IBEW member who is reading this article in your union's member magazine, we encourage you to consider what's important for you when making your decision to vote in Canada's 42nd federal election taking place on October 19th, 2015.

For a complete list of valuable resources to help you make your decision when you head to the polls to mark your ballot and vote, please register on your union's website, or sign-in at [www.ibew258.bc.ca](http://www.ibew258.bc.ca), to find out more. 



# Local 258 IBEW members focus on safety and participate in the 2015 BC Hydro Safety Rodeo held in Prince George

With a focus on safety in the workplace and on-the-job, Local 258 IBEW supported this year's BC Hydro Safety Rodeo as members from across the province travelled to Prince George to showcase their skills in Pole Climbing, First Aid, Class 5 Driving, Fork Lift and Rope Toss competitions.

The event got underway on Friday night in early June at the Coast Inn of the North with Local 258 IBEW inviting all the participants, volunteers and organizers to a union-sponsored Welcome Reception where guests enjoyed some light appetizers and a beverage or two. Complimentary custom t-shirts - union designed and union made in Canada - were handed out to the competitors at the well-attended Reception.

Events got underway early Saturday morning when the Journeyman Power Line Technician (Lineman) teams and Apprentice PLT's began their competitions. With a trip to the International Rodeo in Kansas on the line, competition at the pole events was fierce. The experienced judging crew, all Journeyman PLTs, spent the day carefully assessing the performances at the always popular "Egg Climb", the Hurt Man Rescue and at the two Mystery Events. PLT Apprentices were also judged with a Written Exam.

With over 650 attendees at this year's Safety Rodeo, Local 258 IBEW set up our display booth promoting our union and engaged with hundreds of members, their families and friends who stopped by to have a conversation and pick up some high quality "shwag" being given away as promotional items.

"This is a worthwhile event to support when the focus is on safety," said Doug McKay, Business Manager of Local 258 IBEW. "We are very proud of the safe practices our members get to demonstrate in these competitions - and it's a reinforcement of what we do every day in the dangerous jobs we do."

At the BC Hydro sponsored banquet on Saturday night following the competitions, the winners were announced. The 1st and 2nd place Overall Pole Event teams and the 1st and 2nd place Overall Apprentice winners will be travelling to the International Lineman's Rodeo taking place in Kansas in October (see the complete list of winners on page 21). Congratulations to all the Local 258 IBEW participants. 🚧





**And the winners of the 2015 Safety Rodeo are...**



*The Journeymen Overall award was won by PLTs Colin Cadger, Will Nichols and Reese Van Vilet who also came in 1st Place for the Mystery Event #1 competition. Their award was presented by BC Hydro VP Greg Reimer and L258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay.*



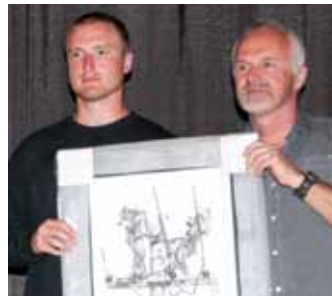
*Placing second in the Journeymen PLT competition was Dan McDonald, Ben Receveur and Kelly Hambleton who were presented with their awards by BC Hydro VP Greg Reimer and L258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay.*



*Placing third in the Journeymen PLT competition was Mark Blaxland, Wes Nustad and Doug Swoboda who were presented with their awards by BC Hydro VP Greg Reimer and L258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay.*



*Apprentice PLT Mark Bosma was awarded Apprentice Overall and achieved 1st Place in Mystery Events #1 and #2. He is shown here on the left with L258 IBEW President Tony Brand.*



*Apprentice PLT Mike Menu was awarded 1st Place Written Exam and 2nd Place in Hurt Man Rescue and Mystery Event #2. He is shown here on the left with L258 IBEW President Tony Brand.*



*Apprentice PLT Simon Greg won 1st Place in the Egg Climb and is shown here on the left with L258 IBEW President Tony Brand.*



*Apprentice PLT Iain Roby was awarded 1st Place in the Hurt Man Rescue and is shown here on the left with L258 IBEW President Tony Brand.*

**Congratulations also go to...**

First Aid ..... Corey Baxter, Allan Graham, Aaron Stead  
Class 5 Driving - 1st..... Peter Cozza  
Class 5 Driving - 2nd .....James Cryderman  
Fork Life - 1st..... Michelle Knackstead  
Fork Lift 2nd.....Jesse Mayes

Rope Toss - 1st ..... Iain Roby  
Rope Toss - 2nd..... Justin Kallusky

**Please see the next page for a complete list of the PLT Pole Event awards.**

**And this year's Scholarships are awarded to:**

# Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Scholarship



Local 258 IBEW is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship.

Created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President - Brother Tom Forkin - the three scholarship award of \$1,000 each is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258 IBEW.

This year, the participants were asked to write an essay on the following topic: **“Are unions still relevant and what would life be like without them?”**

Applicants must also have completed the Scholarship Application Form, and must be registered, or plan to register in a full-time post-secondary program in 2015/2016.

The Local 258 IBEW Executive Board is pleased to announce this year's Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarships are awarded to:

- 1. Julianne Payne, Chemainus, BC**
- 2. \*TIED\*: Brielle Dorais Fleming, Terrace, BC; Joey Poirier, Hudson's Hope, BC**
- 3. Thomas Alger, Surrey**

Congratulations to all the successful applicants!

*Please note: The successful applicants have been notified that scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment (registration) at a BC educational institution is provided.*

## 2015 Safety Rodeo PLT Pole Event Awards

### Apprentice Competition

Egg Climb	
1st Place .....	Simon Greg
2nd Place .....	Shane Martin
Hurt Man Rescue	
1st Place .....	Iain Roby
2nd Place .....	Mike Menu*
Mystery Event #1	
1st Place .....	Mark Bosma*
2nd Place .....	Garrett White
Mystery Event #2	
1st Place .....	Mark Bosma*
2nd Place .....	Mike Menu*
Written Exam	
1st Place .....	Mike Menu*
2nd Place .....	Carl Menu
Apprentice Overall .....	
	Mark Bosma*

### Journeymen Competition

Egg Climb	
1st Place .....	Mark Blaxland*, Wes Nustad*, Doug Swoboda*
2nd Place .....	Brent Barnes, Tyson Norrish, Mike Perry
Hurt Man Rescue	
1st Place ....	Ben Receveur*, Kelly Hambleton*, Dan McDonald*
2nd Place .....	Brent Barnes, Tyson Norrish, Mike Perry
Mystery Event #1	
1st Place .....	Colin Cadger*, Will Nichols*, Reese Van Vilet*
2nd Place ....	Ephriam Nelson, Chad Hampton, Jordan Flanagan
Mystery Event #2	
1st Place .....	Mark Blaxland*, Wes Nustad*, Doug Swoboda*
2nd Place ..	Ben Receveur*, Kelly Hambleton*, Dan McDonald*
Journeymen Overall:	
	Colin Cadger*, Will Nichols*, Reese Van Vilet*
* Will be travelling to compete in the 2015 International Linemen's Rodeo taking place in Bonner Springs, Kansas in October.	

## *United Way of the Lower Mainland*

# Getting a glimpse of the incredible impact United Way funding has in the community



Money raised through donations and fundraising campaigns to support the United Way of the Lower Mainland helps strengthen over 150 local organizations that provide invaluable services to their communities. And it's the same with United Way organizations throughout

BC. Funds raised are used locally - to strengthen and support non-profit agencies that need financial assistance so they can continue their operations that help so many in our communities.

In early June, labour activists and members of the United Way's Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee, including Brother Dan Klassen from Local 258 IBEW, joined with Carlos Calvalho, United Way Labour staff representative, to tour three agencies in Burnaby that are recipients of the much needed dollars that come from the United Way of the Lower Mainland. Everyone on the tour was completely impressed with how all of these agencies can take a small amount of money and stretch it and best apply it in their operations budget so it goes the farthest it can go with the greatest impact.

"It was certainly impressive to see first hand the effect these important community agencies have on so many people," said Brother Klassen. "This year's tour again reminded us and reinforced the fact that funding from United Way is so vitally important, and even more so when you see how carefully the money is used so it has the greatest impact in the local community."

Brother Klassen has a long history of involvement with the United Way, having served on its Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee (including as Committee Co-Chair) having attended the Union Counselling Program at the CLC Harrison Winter School. He is also the recipient of the United Way's Joe Morris Community Service Award presented in 2013.

This fall's United Way Labour Campaigns are set to get underway in September and Local 258 IBEW Unit 6 Vice-Chair Rob Munro, who works at BC Hydro, has agreed to step forward and serve as the union's labour-loaned representative this year. Local 258 IBEW is proud of our long tradition of support and activism with the United Way and its ability to strengthen communities across British Columbia through this important and long standing relationship.



### **Parents Support Services Society**

The incredible work of the Parent Support Services Society of BC, or the PSS, quietly takes place in a small office on the 2nd floor of a walk up building in central Burnaby. The dedicated staff and volunteers provide a vast array of invaluable services that directly help parents, and grandparents, who are experiencing challenges in their roles as primary caregivers. Support, education and advocacy services are provided in a respectful, considerate and safe environment with the goal of promoting healthy families. This non-profit has been serving the community since 1974, and greatly appreciates the valuable funding it receives from the United Way.




### **Burnaby Neighbourhood House**

The incredible work of bringing families and individuals from all walks of life together in a welcoming, nurturing and supportive environment has been benefitting the community for more than 15 years at the Burnaby Neighbourhood House. A wide variety of important programs, services and activities are offered by this non-profit that serves new immigrants, children, seniors and youth from their new facility on Beresford Street. Everything the neighbourhood house does is in the theme of community building, and the BNH succeeds in "making our neighbourhood a better place to live" with the supportive funds it receives from the United Way.



### **Canadian Red Cross**

Who knew the Canadian Red Cross provides so many important local services on a daily basis that benefit so many in our local community was the response to the tour of this United Way funded agency. From the youth-led RespectED bullying prevention program that tours BC schools, to CMERLS - the Children's Medical Equipment Recycling and Loan Service - to the high-tech emergency and disaster services support centre, United Way funding contributes to the lasting and meaningful impact the Canadian Red Cross has for so many in need in the local community. 

# RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen  
Retired Local 258 member

We are again home for the summer. Our return this year was delayed somewhat by a traffic accident. A week before our scheduled departure from sunny southern California one of the resident drivers blew through a stop sign and shmucked the camper while Catherine Dear was returning from a shopping opportunity. Fortunately there were no injuries, except to the vehicles. It would have been less stressful had the event occurred a month or so earlier as we were approaching the maximum on our time allotment to be in the U.S.A. See, Class B aliens, such as we, are allowed to be in the U.S. for 182 days in any 12 month period. Violation of that restriction will result in prohibition from entering the U.S.A. for three years. I monitor our time very carefully so as to always leave a comfortable cushion. On any given date one has to figure the number of days in the U.S. during the last 12 months. It's sort of like, when I was a worker (and substituting hours for days), figuring out the "16 hour clause" requirement in the collective agreement with BC Hydro. The camper was in the shop for 19 days and once roadworthy we hightailed it for the border with a few days to spare. Fortunately the other driver had insurance, a rarity in sunny southern California, and his insurance company accepted full responsibility for the repairs. Apparently the way it works is that ICBC pays for everything and then gets reimbursed by the other insurance company. That seems like a convoluted way of handling the claim but that's the way it is. As a final note, after extensive repairs to the steering components (the first impact on the camper was on the passenger side front wheel) the camper pulled somewhat to the left on the trip home. As a result when we got home I took the camper into the shop for a wheel alignment and ICBC paid for that service as well. So, kudos to the ICBC agents we dealt with for all their assistance.

Anyway, here we are at home again and not proscribed from entering the U.S.A. for 3 years. One of the first chores we had was to vote on the transit tax referendum. Imagine my surprise that the government was actually asking if I wanted to pay more tax. Not being a working person commuter I am probably not qualified to have an opinion on the benefits of our transit system. I only know that in my case transit never goes from where I am to where I want to be in a convenient manner. And it's expensive. As a case on point, one day I was downtown New Westminster with my car in the shop and decided to go home rather than wait for the car. Now anywhere from downtown New Westminster is up hill, and a pretty steep hill at that. After a couple of blocks I thought it might be better for my old legs and asbestos restricted lungs to take a bus the rest of the way. I was at the Royal Avenue bus stop and so had about 5 blocks of hill remaining. I soon discovered

that the bus fare for those 5 blocks was \$1.75 if I could prove that I was old, \$2.75 if I couldn't. Further, exact fare was required and no change would be given by the operator. The smallest money I had was a \$5.00 bill. That would have worked out to \$1.00 per block. I know that ethnic stereotyping is not politically correct but given that the name McEwen is of Scottish origin and Scots are regarded as being canny with a penny I completed the journey on foot with appropriate rest stops. In the not so distant and therefore still remembered past Catherine Dear thought that taking the bus to Coquitlam Centre from our home in New Westminster would be a good idea. After close to an hour and a half with a scenic tour of Burnaby and Coquitlam including a bus change at Lougheed Mall Catherine Dear was deposited in proximity to the Coquitlam Centre. The trip home was no less daunting. Three plus hours of travel time for a shopping opportunity does not encourage one to use transit on a regular basis. And then there's that fare zone nonsense. If you travel from Surrey to downtown Vancouver you have to pay for 3 zones. If it takes longer than 90 minutes from the time you start until you complete your business and head for home you get to pay another 3 zone fare. Being a Retiree I don't really need to be anywhere at any given time so I think I'll stick with my 21 year old car that goes from where I am to where I want to be when I want to be there. The rest of the time it sits and waits.

Keeping with transit and travel how about our government leader deciding it would be a good idea to shut down a bridge on a major artery into and out of Vancouver on International Yoga Day (or whatever it's called) to show the world what British Columbians are all about. Fortunately sanity prevailed and the event was cancelled so the world's view of British Columbians will not be a bunch of people rolling around on a dirty old bridge deck. Speaking of bridges, I see that people are all exercised about tolls on bridges. To kind of try and keep things in perspective I remember when (you know when an old guy says "I remember when ..." there's going to be a dissertation on days of yore) bridges were tolled as a matter of course. I paid tolls to cross the Patullo, Lion's Gate, Oak Street, Queensborough and Second Narrows (now the Ironworkers Memorial) bridges. I worked at a sawmill in Queensborough when the new bridge opened. The toll, if memory serves, was 25 cents each way. I had a pretty good job and was paid \$2.13½ per hour. Yeah, they paid ½ cents in those days. So, the toll each way was a little better than 10% of my hourly rate. The toll on the new Port Mann bridge is \$3.00 each way. The same job today pays around \$30.00 per hour. So the toll would be 10% of the hourly rate. The more things change the more they stay the same.

*(cont'd on next page)*

## Ruminations of a Retiree

(cont'd from previous page)

Well, some things stay the same. Other things change. Years ago (another old guy lead in) I lived in New Westminster with rural Burnaby between us and Vancouver. Then still in New Westminster I became a resident of something called the Greater Vancouver Regional District. All that meant was another entity that could levy taxes. Again, without leaving New Westminster I find myself residing in someplace called Metro Vancouver and being serviced transportation wise by an outfit called Translink. I'm a little fuzzy on the details but it appears that this Translink thing operates on tax revenue and can impose tolls on bridges. The buses are run by Coast Mountain Bus Company which seems to be a wholly owned subsidiary of Translink. When I was a younger person transit was operated by the B.C. Electric Company. In those days we had buses, streetcars and an interurban electric railway. W.A.C. Bennett, a right wing politician, nationalized B.C. Electric and formed the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority. B.C. Hydro operated the transit system quite efficiently, I thought. Successive governments have meddled with B.C. Hydro to the extent that it is just a shadow of its former self subject to the vagaries of politicians pretending they know something about utility operations.

Oh my! It seems instead of ruminating I have created something close to an op-ed. Well, every now and again seniority allows one to rant a little. Given space limitations I will defer ruminations on housing costs and federal elections until next time.

Please continue to work and play safely because, no matter where you are or where you want to be, retirement is worth getting to. 📧

## Your union website to feature valuable resources and information about Canada's federal election on October 19th



Local 258 IBEW members registered for access to the Member Resources section of your union's website will find a new sub-section called CANADA VOTES that will feature valuable information about participating in Canada's federal election taking place on October 19th.

We've sourced out facts, figures, opinions and lots of basics and background information, including resources such as the Elections Canada website that provides information about how to make sure you're registered to vote, and about the new Riding boundaries that have changed in BC since the last federal election.

We'll also include links to information about the candidates in your area, pundit comments, videos and news sources.

And don't forget to check out the Unit meetings calendar where we'll also be featuring important dates like "Advance Voting" days and All Candidate meetings in your community.

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](mailto:info@ibew258.bc.ca).

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas about the website, or for the time-limited Canada Votes subsection, please contact your union website at: [communications@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.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](mailto: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](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.ca), or mail to: Local 258 IBEW, Attention, The Hotline  
7535 Sixth Street  
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

<p><b>PROBLEMS AT HOME OR AT WORK? NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE?</b></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p>
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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**





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# PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



*Two generations of the Van den Born family received their union membership service pins at the March Unit 2 meeting in Prince George. Brother Josh Van Den Born, left, received his five year pin and his dad, Brother Will Van Den Born received his 25 year pin, both awarded by Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, center.*



*Congratulations to Brother Richard Jack on your retirement! Brother Rick Gerrard, right, presented Brother Jack with a union made watch on behalf of Local 258 IBEW and delivered best wishes from the union for a long and enjoyable retirement.*



*At the Unit 5 meeting in Powell River that took place in March, Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, welcomed new members sworn into the union. Congratulations to Brother Adam Zroback and Brother Clayton Turner.*



*Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter awards Brother Floyd Combs his 45 year membership service pin at the April 2015 meeting in Chilliwack. Thank you and congratulations Brother Combs!*



*Congratulations to topped out Line Apprentice Brother Karl Anderson, left, receiving his certificate from Glenn Power owner Brother Bill Fish, right.*



*Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope swears in a couple of newer members Brother Casey Tazelaar and Brother Tyler Cross at the 100 Mile House meeting in March. Congratulations to both Local 258 IBEW members!*



*Brother Lee Ursu finally had his retirement party at Store 1 in May. Brother Ursu is a 60 year member of IBEW and retired at the age of 86! Congratulations Brother Ursu on what your union recognizes as a long and successful career! He is shown above with Brother Dan Klassen, ABM and Brother Rick Gerrard, Organizer.*



*At the March Unit 5 meeting in Sechelt the following new members were sworn into the union by Unit 5 Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth: Brother Brent Kroetsb, Brother Jordon Gesic, Sister Karen Terrillon Gris, Brother Alan Hudson and Brother Darrell Formaniuk. Welcome aboard to all!*



*Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Local 258 IBEW ABM (right) with recently topped out PLT Apprentices at BC Hydro, from left, Brother Dustin Quast, Brother Jason Thompson and Brother Josh Rosborough. Congratulations and your union wishes you all the success in your future careers. Remember to work safe!*



*Welcome aboard Brother Geoff Small who was sworn into the union at the April Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby by Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair.*



*Congratulations to 10 Local 258 IBEW members working at Streetwise Traffic Controllers who took a Level 1 First Aid Course on Saturday June 13th in Maple Ridge provided by the Union and facilitated by 2Morrow's First Aid.*



# PHOTO OPPORTUNITY LU 258



*Congratulations to topped out Meter Tech Brother Bill Chursinoff, shown above with Local 258 IBEW Sr. Assistant Business Manager Jim Greenwell.*



*Sister Tabby Gaudet was sworn into the IBEW at the May Unit 2 meeting in Prince George by Chair Gerald Pope.*



*Congratulations to Brother Rob Williams on 40 years of service as a member of IBEW. Dan Klassen, Local 258 ABM, attended a surprise retirement celebration by Rob's workmates at BC Hydro in Duncan where Rob works as a lineman. He presented Rob with a custom logo IBEW denim shirt, and recalled the last time Rob received a t-shirt at a union meeting he promptly gave it to a new member who was just sworn in. Over the years, Brother Williams has won the 50/50 draw at the union meeting and, at least 3 times, donated the money back to the benefit fund. Congrats on your retirement Rob!*



*Congratulations to Brother Terry Ford on being awarded his 40 year IBEW service pin by Local 258 Business Manager Doug McKay at the union office in Burnaby.*



*45 years of union membership was recognized at the April Unit 5 meeting with Unit Chair Cathy Tagseth presented Brother Jim Romas with his service pin award. Thanks for your ongoing contributions to strengthening our union Brother Romas!*



*Congratulations to Brother Ellis Boon on your retirement! Local 258 IBEW members gathered for a photo op with Brother Boon at the Unit 2 meeting in Quesnel in June where he received the traditional "gold watch" from the union. From left are Brother Justin Smith, Brother Ben Receveur (Acting Unit # 2 Chair), Brother Ellis Boon, Brother Gerald Fricker, Brother Mike Zieske, Brother Bowen Leier, Brother Clint Welsh and Brother Bob Garner. Thanks to Local 258 IBEW ABM Don McNabb for being the photographer!*



*Attending the Day of Mourning ceremony at the Jack Poole Plaza in downtown Vancouver were, from left Brother Trevor Williams, Unit 3 Chair; Brother Dan Klassen, ABM; Brother Rick Gerrard, Organizer; Brother Tony Brand, President; Brother Gerald Pope, Unit 2 Chair; Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, ABM; Brother Chris Carter, unit 6 Chair and Brother Klaus Kraft, Unit 1 Chair. (See article about the Day of Mourning on page 11.)*



*Local 258 IBEW members attending the Unit 2 meeting in Prince George were pleased to have BC NDP Leader John Horgan drop in to their meeting in April.*



*Congratulations to Brother Alex Magbojos who was awarded his five year service pin by Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft at the Prince Rupert meeting in June.*



*ABM Nicole Biernaczyk congratulates Brother Terry Hughes with a retirement gold watch and IBEW service pin. Brother Hughes worked at Hobart Food Equipment for 47 years, starting as a member of Local 213, then 264, and has been a member of Local 258 IBEW for 38 years!*



*Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft swears in Brother Aaron Seaton, center, and Brother Mitch Peters at the June Prince Rupert meeting.*



Welcome aboard new member Brother James Brown who was sworn into the IBEW at the March Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby by Unit Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth.



Local 258 IBEW Shop Steward Rob Munro, left, shakes hands with Brother Colin Campbell, right, recently topped out Apprentice receiving his IBEW certificate for Automotive Painter at the Surrey Vehicle Garage on Friday, May 15. Congratulations Brother Campbell!



Congratulations to Brother Ron Norgaard on 10 years of membership service to Local 258 IBEW. Sister Cathy Tagseth presented his service pin award at the March 2015 Unit 5 meeting in Sechtelt.



Brother Jeff Volpati receives his 10 year member service pin from Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Brother Ed McEwen reports it was a brutal winter that extended into spring in Prince George. He's shown here with his grandson Declan, sporting an IBEW winter beanie and helping him shovel the path. Perhaps Ed's grandson is a member-in-training for our union? Thanks Brother McEwen for sending in the photos.

# LOCAL 258 IBEW



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As I ease into the apprenticeship phase of my retirement, I was surprised by the fact I felt “left out” of the recent BC Hydro contract vote. After many decades working at BCH and participating in every vote, I found myself subconsciously anticipating the arrival of my ballot in the mail! But I retired from the company in April and the ballots were sent in June.

I’ve always placed a high priority on my union membership as it’s allowed me to have my say and play an active role in determining so many aspects of my work life. Over the years, I’ve also realized the strength, benefits and advantages of having a collective agreement in place and when I thought about what would happen if I had to negotiate on my own with my boss, or with one of the managers at BC Hydro – I shuddered to think. Can you imagine?

To me, being able to vote on a collective agreement is a privilege and we are a very “lucky bunch” to be able to show our support by voting yes, or show our disagreement by voting no. I have never understood those who think having a right to vote also includes a choice to not vote.

As a member of your union’s Negotiating Committee who has been at the table trying to hammer out an agreement that reflected the input we received from our members who work at BC Hydro, when we reached a tentative agreement in early June, I felt the Committee and our union’s leadership truly did the best we could do. Yes, we were hampered by government mandates, and experienced interference with free collective bargaining. But we fought back concessions and achieved everything we possibly could from this employer and the influential Public Sector Employers Council who stood over them during the 14 months of negotiations.

Although it’s an anticipated process, we don’t know exactly when a tentative agreement will be reached, so when it happened, we quickly moved into action. We informed our network of Shop Stewards and our staff of Assistant Business Managers were made aware with information. We placed a notice on our website and sent an email to members indicating a tentative agreement had been reached. Our staff at the office mobilized into gathering our mailing lists, documents were printed and voting packages were prepared and mailed.

Over the next few weeks, our Business Manager Doug McKay travelled to several worksites around the province holding meetings to answer any questions. Membership meetings took place in every Unit. Every opportunity was afforded for any member to ask and have their questions answered. And every reminder was given to ensure your contact information, including your mailing address, was current with the union.

After the vote was counted on July 7th and the contract was ratified by a majority of 57% of members who voted, I felt a bit disappointed, but not surprised by the results. It didn’t reflect an overwhelming show of support for the new agreement, but to tell the truth, I understood, as many of our members aren’t too happy with the fact that this employer really wasn’t allowed to put anything on the table that truly meets our needs.



## From the Back Corner

Report from Tony Brand,  
President, Local 258 IBEW

But what is going on with our members who didn’t vote? To me, voting seems like an easy process - open the envelope, pull out the ballot, get a pen and mark your ballot, put your choice in the return envelope and then into the mailbox. Done.

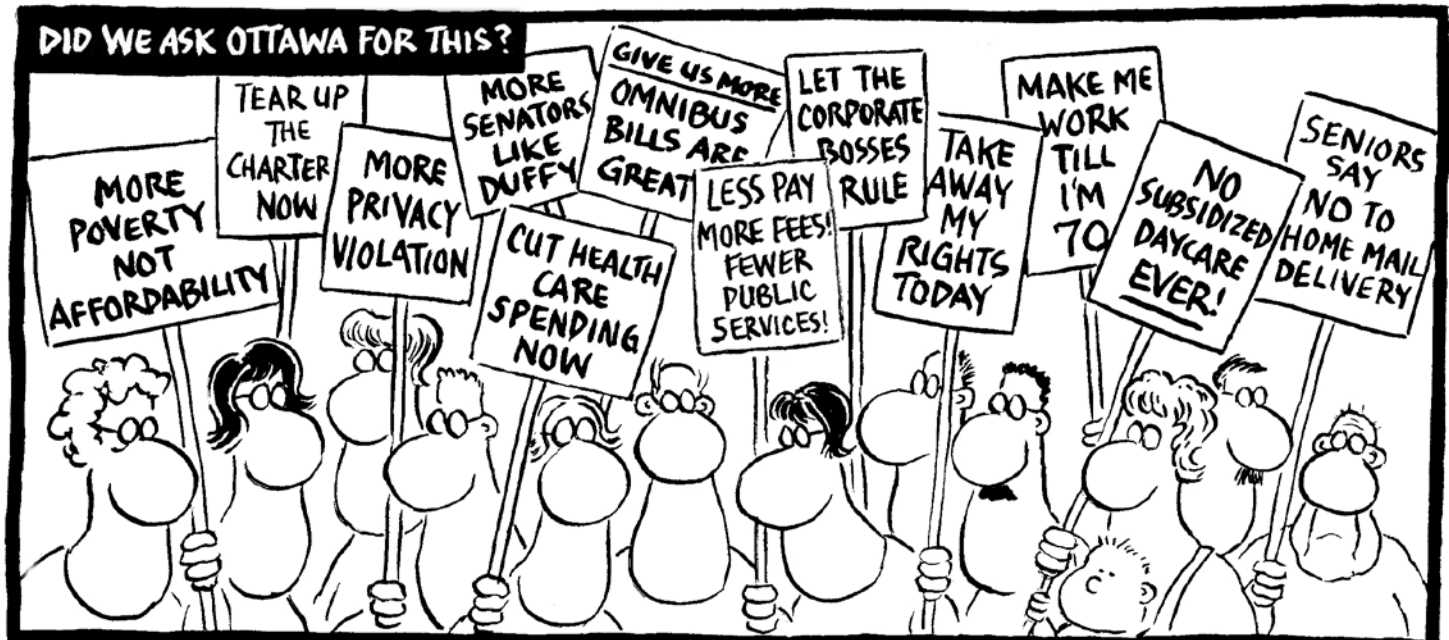
I’m still trying to figure it the low voter response and what it means. Is it as simple as you didn’t get a ballot? Or you just forgot? Or was it intentional? Does non-participation mean agreement? Or, because it doesn’t indicate disagreement does it mean agreement? Or, is this some kind of silent “protest vote” against the contract? I get it if you’re unhappy with the company and the way they’re being stifled by government mandates and the PSEC demands, but if that’s the reason you chose NOT to vote, then, in my opinion, you were seriously misguided. The only way to show this employer your unhappiness was with a clear NO vote.

Or maybe cynicism played a role, as in “my vote won’t change a thing”. Well, that might not be so cynical, as no kidding your vote won’t change a thing as it sits on your dining room table. At least I hope by now you’ve recycled the wasted paper work.

I guess you can tell I’m somewhat pissed! I applaud those members who voted, no matter what your choice. And for those members who chose not to vote, I hope, after reading this column, you are left with as many introspective questions as I continue to ponder.

If you won’t take the time to vote on your contract at work, will you take the time to vote on October 19th in our federal election? I hope so - I don’t want to think we’re going to be facing four or five more years of attacks on our union, our union’s members and Canada’s labour movement. What we’ve built through blood, sweat and tears with over a century of hard work is at serious threat of being completely dismantled by the anti-union movement that seems to have the ear of the current federal government, so I hope you’ll take the time to visit our website where we’re offering a ton of resources to help you make your choice, and that you do take the time to vote in this important federal election.

This November, we’ll be inviting members who are sitting on our Unit Executives to a Leadership Conference followed by our 2015 Shop Stewards Conference. I look forward to the work that lies ahead to prepare for these important gatherings and hope we have a chance to celebrate a better future with the results from the federal election on October 19th. 🇺🇸



**NOT WHAT YOU ASKED FOR? VOTE! FEDERAL ELECTION 2015 B.C. ELECTION 2017**

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