



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
APRIL, 2017

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

BALLOT

worker health & safety employment standards carbon tax
 education RAW LOGS BC Hydro tuition fees child care MSP
 Site C energy temporary foreign workers heating costs transportation
 homelessness taxes user fees ferries
affordability
 housing bridge tolls poverty plan pipelines ENVIRONMENT
 minimum wage apprenticeship & skills training post-secondary
 ICBC seniors transit jobs, jobs, jobs labour relations my kid's future
 INSERT ISSUE HERE

Your vote CAN make a difference PROVINCIAL ELECTION 2017

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-  CALL FOR ANNUAL FORKIN SCHOLARSHIP SUBMISSIONS
-  GOLF TOURNEY RAISES \$13,750 FOR MS SOCIETY
-  BROTHER CURT MINARD REACHES GOLD ON HIS ROAD TO THE 2018 PARALYMPICS

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

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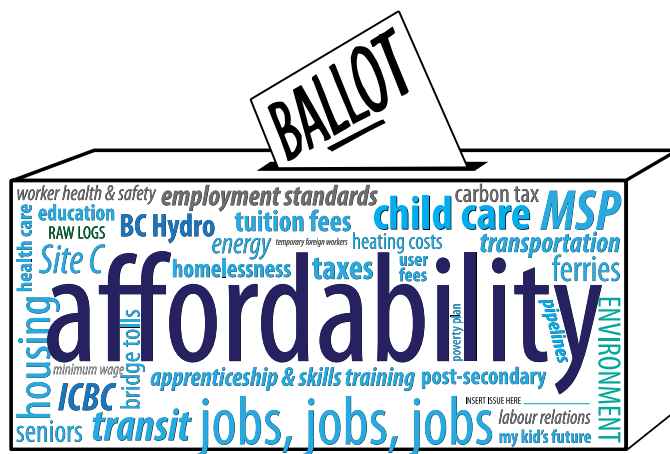
Local 258 Legal Counsel: Natalie Gidora

COVER GRAPHIC:



British Columbians head to the polls on May 9th. Your vote CAN make a difference.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay



Our IBEW Provincial Council meets on an ongoing basis throughout the year where the Business Managers from the five IBEW Locals in BC get together to discuss important matters that affect our membership. Earlier this year our focus turned to the provincial election taking place on May 9th and we engaged in a thorough review of the past 16 years of the BC Liberal government and where that has gotten us. We then turned to looking at the future and the direction we need to go to be able to more effectively improve the lives of our membership in their workplaces, and in your communities, and came to some conclusions.

Generally, we all agreed that under the BC Liberals life has become less affordable for most British Columbians. Housing, child care, user fees, utility rates, vehicle insurance and numerous other costs have all escalated, without a matching increase in wages. We also agreed that under this government, we have been effectively compromised in our ability to fairly negotiate collective agreements with our employers, to play an effective role as a participant with apprenticeship & skills training for the next generation, to more easily organize more workers to enjoy the benefits of union membership and to improve the health & safety standards, regulations and enforcement practices in your workplaces.

I recently undertook an opportunity to meet with BC NDP Leader John Horgan, and other BC NDP MLAs to talk about these issues, and more. I have also spoken with many of our members and I can now say with confidence, to you, as a member of Local 258 IBEW who is considering where to park your vote this year, that it may indeed be time for a change in government and that your vote CAN make a difference.

Under the BC Liberals, the voice of labour has not had a seat at the table. We have essentially been ignored – which, in turn, silences your voice and your concerns. Wages are not where they need to be, we have been shut out of having a fair bargaining process with BC Hydro, one of our major employers and, in my experience, we have been paid nothing but lip service by this gov-

ernment when we speak up and try to make improvements that will directly benefit our members.

On the other hand, Labour and the BC NDP have historically had a good relationship with a mutual understanding about what's important to working people and the issues that can help improve our lives in our communities. We need a government that will not only listen but will also show us respect and see us as a beneficial partner acting in the best interests of our membership across this province. We need a government that places us at the decision making tables on Boards and Committees so that we too can not only have influence but also effectively contribute to building a better province for all working British Columbians and their families.

Election day is May 9th, and I will vote and hope you do too.

Onto another topic, we've recently seen some controversial new safety rules being considered with our members working in electric utility and private power line that could impact those who work directly with handling electricity. Sometimes it seems we're getting to the point of RULES OVERLOAD with directives coming from above – without consultation with those of us working on the shop floor, or in many cases, in the outdoors of the real world – from people who have never worked hands-on directly in this industry. It makes me think that these “new rules” are more the result of a knee-jerk emotional reaction to an issue rather than a real and serious consideration for enhancing and improving safe work practices.

Furthermore, after discussions with many of our members, I don't believe these new rules are actually in the interests of safety and I think some of our employers need to be reminded that WE are the skilled trades professionals who work with electricity every day. That being said, and being the professionals we are, WE know how to do this dangerous work with electricity right, and, most importantly, with safety at the forefront.

(continued on next page)

Viewpoint from Business Manager Doug McKay continued...

But given that, we do need to take a more responsible role in the ownership of safety in our workplaces. We have to make sure that every person we are working with is putting safety at the forefront of everything they do and are following the rules that are already in place. If you're having a problem with someone you're working with who doesn't appear to understand or follow the rules, you can contact your union, in confidence, and we can help.

If we don't take ownership of safety, we are going to be saddled with rules that we don't really need. Remember, we are the professionals and we are committed to working safely.




Now, to move into a topic where some, including myself, could say I'm a dinosaur: social media. I would hope that you all understand social media is a critter you can't see, feel or taste but this SOB can come back and bite you good if you use it wrong.

As a result of some recent events involving our membership and what appears to a somewhat cavalier attitude with their postings on social media, I feel the need to speak up and not only offer some sage advice to point out there is wisdom in having the smarts to "think twice" before hitting the send, post, like, share button on your various devices.

Exercising a good degree of awareness and caution by taking time to imagine what the possible negative consequences you could encounter before you type or record into your devices and then hit send to release your thoughts and actions into the universe, of which there is no return, might be a very good idea and perhaps should become normal practice when engaging in social media. In today's world, what may seem like a joke to you and me can mean something very different to others.

Although you may have an expectation of privacy when posting, tweeting or sharing your comments and/or photo(s), the reality is there is no privacy. Even you have your "settings" on private, there really is no privacy as once something's out there on the internet, you have no control over where it goes from there.

And, if you are using your employer supplied smart phone, it is exactly that, an employer supplied phone - they own it, not you. They have access to, ownership of and a record of everything you post, transmit, email, phone numbers you call, how much time and when you call, your address book or contacts, all the photos you take - and your employer can use work time or off-duty social media postings in disciplinary actions with suspensions and/or losing your job being just some of the consequences.

Keep working safe and always remember to look up. 

Save the Date!

Local 258 IBEW Shop Stewards Conference 2017

50
YEARS
LOCAL 258
IBEW
1967 - 2017



Shop Stewards will be receiving notice to register for the union's Shop Stewards Conference 2017 that will be taking place from Friday, November 24th to Sunday, November 26th

at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby, BC.

If you are a Shop Steward, please make sure your current mailing address and personal email are on file with the union so we can get in touch with you.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date!

24th Annual Local 258 IBEW Golf Tournament

This year's tournament will be taking place at the Pitt Meadows Golf Club on Monday, September 18th.

Put the date in your calendar and get your team together for this annual fundraiser to support the MS Society, BC & Yukon Division.



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 (TBC): June 15 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Prince Rupert: June 14 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Queen Charlotte City (TBC): June 15 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Smithers: June 12 @ 5 pm, Curling Centre

Unit 2 - Central Interior

Bella Coola: May 4 @ 4:30 pm, Diesel Plant

Prince George: June 6 @ 7 pm, Coast Inn

Please note date changes:

Fort Nelson: May 18 @ 7 pm, Woodlands Inn

Fort St. John: May 17 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Hudson's Hope: May 16 @ 4:30 pm, Pearkes Centre

Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Bridge River: May 9 @ 5:30 pm, BCH Lunch Room

Castlegar: June 6 @ 7 pm, Super 8 Motel

Cranbrook: June 7 @ 4:30 pm, Labour Temple

Invermere: June 8 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Kamloops: May 10 @ 7 pm, IBEW 993 Hall

Mica Creek: May 16 @ 6 pm, Mica Creek Curling Rink

Revelstoke: May 17 @ 4:15 pm, BCH Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room

Vernon: May 11 @ 7 pm, Army & Navy Club

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Campbell River: June 6 @ 7 pm, Maritime Labour Heritage Centre

Courtenay: June 6 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Ganges: May 10 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Nanaimo: June 8 @ 4:30 pm, RC Legion #256

Port Alberni: May 9 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Victoria: June 7 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: May 11; June 8 @ 5 pm, Local 258 IBEW Union Hall

Powell River: June 21 @ 4:30 pm, Town Centre Hotel

Sechelt: June 22 @ 5 pm, Driftwood Inn

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Langley: May 9; June 6; July 11 @ 7 pm, Best Western PLUS Hotel

Chilliwack: June 7 @ 7 pm, Best Western Rainbow Country Inn

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 the union's signatory outside line contractors.

Local 258 IBEW members are NOT allowed to accept jobs directly from employers without first obtaining clearance from Dispatch. If you look for work with a Local 258 IBEW employer and are hired without obtaining 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 IBEW member to register with Dispatch 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 registered with Dispatch.

Procedure for placement on the Local 258 Dispatch List:

1. Your membership in Local 258 IBEW 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 \$65.50 - via regular mail to IBEW Local 258, ATTENTION: DISPATCH, 7535 6th 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 Brother Jim McKay 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. 📞



We've Got Mail!

CORRECTION:

Editor's Note - In the last issue of the Hotline published in December 2016, we incorrectly spelled the first name of one of members. Apologies to Brother Ray L. Anderson, who we misidentified as Roy Anderson in his thank you letter to the Local. Brother Anderson is a 60 year member of IBEW and worked as a Driver/Helper.

To Brothers & Sisters of Local 258,
Thank you so much for the 60th year pin and also the membership certificate. I really appreciated it.
Brother Ray L. Anderson
Gabriola, BC

Hello Tony and Local 258 IBEW;



On behalf of the Port Coquitlam Bantam C3 Hockey, I would like to thank Local 258 IBEW for your generous donation. Your contribution makes it possible to acquire more ice time which helps us stay competitive.

The boys have had a great year so far and have made some good friends. They attended two tournaments this year and did well in both with two second place medals.

Once again, thank you and Local 258 IBEW for your generous donation.

Brother Dave Herrington
Local 258 IBEW

Dear Cathy (Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair) and IBEW 258,
I'm so thankful for the "Cheer Up" during my difficult time. Appreciated the support from Brothers & Sisters.
All the best!
Ray Chen

To my Brothers & Sisters of Local 258 IBEW,



I would like to thank you for the beautiful fruit basket I just received. I am recovering well from my new hip implant.

Your thoughts are deeply appreciated.
Sincerely,
Dale Haines
Recording Secretary Local 258 IBEW

Dear Dan Giesbrecht and Local 258 IBEW,

Our Christmas event was a great success and we were able to raise more than \$3,000 from our Asplundh employees who participated. All proceeds went directly to assist families in need at Christmas.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation of three Marks Work Wearhouse certificates, t-shirts and ball hats to our silent auction. Your participation is what makes this all work.

Thank you again for your continued support.
Yours truly,
Remo Maddalozzo,
Vice President, Asplundh Canada ULC

Hello Hotline & Local 258 IBEW,

This is a shout out for Ken McEwen and the great job he's been doing on his Ruminations column. As I read his column in the previous HOTLINE newsletter I always imagined a life after retiring from Hydro and always read and enjoyed someone that had done just that.

I had the privilege of meeting Ken and remember him as a stand up type guy, someone that enjoyed life and realized how a strong union helped make that possible during working years and in retirement.

I want to thank Ken for the first 50 "Ruminations" and look forward to the next 50!
Fraternally,
Tom Thompson

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 share that we raised more than \$3 million for St. Paul's greatest needs. Over the past 19 years, thanks to donors like the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, Lights of Hope has raised over \$31.7 million.

These funds help attract world-leading physicians and researchers, purchase equipment and support innovative clinical or research projects at St. Paul's. This past year, donations to Lights of Hope provided funding to over 50 program areas throughout the hospital, such as:

- Take home telehealth equipment for Cystic Fibrosis patients
- Reclining sleeper chairs and enhancements to the Family Nursing Room for Maternity
- Blood pressure monitors for the Heart Function Clinic

Lights of Hope will also support the men's health group, the DUDES Club (Downtown Urban Knights Defending Equality and Solidarity), a group that connects men living in Vancouver's downtown eastside with health care providers and a caring community.


Every gift to Lights of Hope makes a difference. It is thanks to dedicated members of our community that St. Paul's Foundation is able to support urgent priorities that otherwise would not be funded.

Thank you again for your generous support and for helping Lights of Hope at St. Paul's shine!

Sincerely,
Dick Vollet

President & CEO, St. Paul's Foundation

Minard capturing wins for Paralympic competition

Brother Curt Minard has been keeping his union updated on a regular basis as he continues on his Road to Success to qualify for and compete in the 2018 Winter Paralympics in South Korea. Thank for the updates Curt and you can find out more about what he's up to on your union's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca. 



To Local 258 IBEW,

Thanks to my union, I attended the Canadian Labour Congress Harrison Winter School this year and took the Labour Community Advocate Level 1 course. The training course focused on how to guide and assist co-workers to accessing community supports when facing a crisis.

What I learned is that we all face tough challenges in life and sometimes we may need some help to navigate through them. I didn't become a psychiatrist in a week but I did learn more about how to initiate and navigate a conversation with someone in crisis. I also learned how to help people find and access the support they need no matter what the crisis might be. We had a very busy week with a lot of material to cover but that didn't detract from learning beyond the course material; learning from other students.

There are a lot of caring people in our labour community and I got the chance to meet some more of them at Winter School this year both in my class and some taking other courses the same week. In my experience the time spent learning from fellow union activists is enlightening and encouraging.

More than 200 fellow students attended the first week of classes with many new activists as well as senior elected union members. I engaged with as many of them as I could because they are all amazing people with their own unique talents, experiences and perspectives.

I think one word represents the labour community best—diversity. Diversity abounds within the movement and is celebrated. Diversity makes us strong, through our collective learned experience. One of the topics we discussed in class was racism and privilege. The current political and social climate provided lots of fuel in an environment that promoted an honest, forthright discussion. Testing current thinking and opinion is a critical part of how we learn from each other and we can't do that very well without diversity. We do that, very well!

Next fall when the winter school course catalogue becomes available for the 2018 classes I encourage you to have a look at it and apply to attend a course that interests you.

Thank you IBEW 258,

Sincerely,
Rob Munro



Local 258 IBEW News

Members working at Asplundh ratify new collective agreement



With the collective agreement expiring on April 8th, Local 258 IBEW entered into collective bargaining for a new contract for members working at Asplundh Canada ULC.

Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Assistant Business Manager,

Brother Greg Lastota and Brother Tim Mitchell (photo), who also sits on the Unit 6 Executive and serves as a Shop Steward, engaged in negotiations with this employer which reportedly went very well and a tentative agreement was quickly reached. Members voted by mail ballot and ratified the new contract in early April.

The new four-year agreement features significant wage increases, benefit improvements and other important gains. Thanks to everyone who participated.

First collective agreement signed at ArborCare

After a number of hearings at BC's Labour Relations Board and following mediated negotiations with the employer, Local 258 IBEW members working at ArborCare Tree Services based in Kamloops BC now have their first collective agreement.

Local 258 IBEW recognized at United Way Awards Dinners



Business Manager Doug McKay was on hand to accept the Labour Appreciation Award, on behalf of Local 258 IBEW members, from the United Way of the Fraser Valley (UWV) at a fundraising dinner banquet that took place in March 2017 in Abbotsford. He is shown above, on the left, with representatives from the UWV and Sister DJ Pohl (second from right), recently elected as president of the Fraser Valley Labour Council.

"This has been a tremendously difficult series of events but the outcome is what our Local 258 IBEW members working at this company wanted – a collective agreement," said union organizer Brother Rick Gerrard.

Now, with their union contract, workers at this company will enjoy improved wages and many other negotiated benefits.

Union enters into sponsorship agreement to support Wheelchair Rugby's Team Canada



Local 258 IBEW has been a proud sponsor of Canada's Wheelchair Rugby team for a number of years and has extended that sponsorship again this year as the team enters into competition around the globe. This year, the team will fashion the IBEW Local 258 logo on game jerseys, jackets, polo shirts and equipment bags, and

our name and logo will also be featured on the team's website and through signage at events.

Team captain Trevor Hirschfield visited in the union office recently and is shown in the photo above speaking with Brother Doug McKay, the Local's Business Manager. 🇨🇦



Local 258 IBEW was nominated for the "Teamwork Award", together with MoveUp, by the United Way of the Lower Mainland for our work on the successful fall fundraising campaign. The union supported the Community Spirit Award dinner event with purchasing a table. From left, back row, Michelle Boudreau, Yvonne & Dan Klassen, Cathy & Al Tagseth, Simone Beadle; front row: Shelly & Rob Munro, Anne Marie and Mark Davison.

Local 258 IBEW members participate in Women's Leadership Training event in Victoria

Recently, many members of Local 258's Women's Committee attended a Women's Leadership Training event, an informative, educational session hosted by IBEW Local 213 that featured facilitators Sister Amanda Pacheco, Director of Education at the IBEW International Office and Sister Tracy Prezeau, International Representative of the IBEW's Education Department.

Sisters Michelle Galasso, Dayna Gill, Regan Yeadon and Rachel Allan joined with Nicole Biernaczyk, Assistant Business Manager with Local 258 who also serves as Chair of the Local's Women's Committee, and travelled to Victoria to attend the weekend event that took place in February.

"I am very proud of our union sisters who have stepped forward in leadership roles in our workplaces – as Shop Stewards and with serving on various committees and attending our union meetings. This type of workshop and opportunity to get together with leaders in our union really helps to bring into focus some of the unique issues that women face in today's labour movement," says Sister Biernaczyk. "I am very proud of the support and the leadership role the IBEW consistently plays in bringing everyone together on these important matters. And, I would like to acknowledge that these women gave up their day to come to the class, and I am very proud of their dedication."

Sister Biernaczyk also serves as the appointed International Rep for the IBEW First District (Canada) Women's Committee.

"We are proud to support all the women in our union, including the many who are taking an active role to promote important issues that affect working women," says Doug McKay, Local 258 IBEW Business Manager. "And we remain actively working with and supporting our members who step forward and participate with our Local's Women's Committee." 🇺🇸



From left: Sister Michelle Galasso, Sister Dayna Gill, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Sister Regan Yeadon and Sister Rachel Allan.



From left: Sister Regan Yeadon and Sister Nicole Biernaczyk.

Local 258 IBEW members celebrate International Women's Day

Members of Local 258 IBEW recognized this year's International Women's Day – celebrated annually around the world on March 8th – as an important time to reflect on the accomplishments of women in our union and to recognize the need to continue to move forward to make further gains for women both in our workplaces and in our communities.

Celebratory events took place around the world in recognition of International Women's Day, including a dinner sponsored by the Vancouver District Labour Council where Local 258 IBEW members were in attendance.



From left: Sister Dayna Gill and Sister Michelle Galasso.

Election Day is May 9th

Your vote CAN make a difference

For the past 16 years many British Columbians have been on the “short end of the stick” when it comes to having a provincial government that truly represents, listens to, meets their needs and acts in their best interests. For working people, and especially union members, we have seen a never ending and deepening erosion of support on our important issues from this government. As life becomes more unaffordable and the playing field becomes more unfair, it may be time for a change to a governing party that will rebalance the equation to build a better British Columbia for all.

If you haven't already decided which candidate or party you're going to support with your vote in the 2017 provincial election, you may want to consider some of the following perspectives before your vote goes in the ballot box. Remember that the government has the ability to change your life with the stroke of a pen – good or bad – and your vote CAN make a difference.

Workers' Compensation Board

Since taking power in 2001, the BC Liberals have removed hundreds of important safety regulations from the books, decreased workplace inspections and relaxed enforcement procedures with employers. The Workers' Compensation Board (using the marketing name of WorkSafeBC) has recently announced that millions of dollars in “surplus contributions” will be returned to employers. At the same time, claims from injured workers continue to be frustratingly denied, disability pensions reduced, and rehabilitation services cut back. Without our voices at the table, the WCB will continue to provide advantages to employers, while injured workers are left on the sidelines.

Your vote CAN make a difference and help make a change to a government that will listen and respect the voices of workers and provide, at the least, a seat at the table to hear and act on our serious concerns about the Workers' Compensation Board.

Wages, collective bargaining and union contracts

For the past 16 years workers in this province have not seen fair increases in wages – including a below-poverty line minimum wage. Unions have been under attack as contracts have been ripped up (Hospital Employees Union), court cases have been fought (Teachers Federation), and free collective bargaining in the public sector has been stifled (via the PSEC).

There is not enough room in this entire magazine to go into all the criticisms of this government when it comes to a respectful relationship with unions and workers in BC.

Your vote CAN make a difference and help make a change to a government that will listen and respect the voices of workers and provide, at the least, a seat at the table to hear and act on all the concerns of working British Columbians.

Affordable Housing

Not everyone can afford to own a home, and many workers are renters. For the past 16 years, purpose-built rental housing for British Columbians has not been a priority for the government. Working families are suffering with a lack of affordable housing, and it's happening all over the province.

For homeowners, escalating property values may be welcome for retirement security, but with the accompanying increase in property taxes and, if you choose to sell, affordability with a lateral move in the same community, housing budgets are being strained more every day and working people are finding it more and more difficult to keep up, especially without a corresponding rise in wages.

Homelessness is real and is a significant and rising problem as affordable housing options become more and more limited and working people are finding it impossible to afford to live in communities where their skills are needed as housing costs are too high.

Effective strategies to deal with affordable housing need to be focused on the end users – people – not just political donors with deep pockets.

Workforce development, apprenticeship & skills training and Red Seal certification

People in BC have come to expect that major public projects will deliver not only economic and social benefits to communities, but will include apprenticeship & skills training for British Columbians that can result in a “Made in BC” qualified workforce, safer working conditions, and Red Seal certification for skilled trades professional that improves future career opportunities. What we have witnessed over the past 16 years is an intentional exclusion of the significant expertise from unions and our knowledgeable contributions to workforce development. Unions need to be able to play a more significant role through participation as a welcome and constructive contributor to industry.

The government has made a significant effort to advertise the trades as a viable career. However, the apprentice training system at the core of the skilled trades is broken and is in desperate need of a total makeover. British Columbians who enter into apprenticeships need to be fully supported through this important training so they can successfully graduate with a journeyman ticket and have better prospects for good paying jobs.

Your vote CAN make a difference and help make a change to a government that will listen and respect the voices of workers as we share our concerns and effective solutions regarding apprenticeships and skills training in British Columbia.

BC Hydro and Site C

IBEW members working at BC Hydro continue to play a major part in keeping BC’s world-famous hydroelectric installations and electrical grid functioning so that electricity can be transmitted to the majority of British Columbians, including businesses.

Its also well recognized that government has always played a role in “managing” this Crown Corporation. The past 16 years has seen government interference with the independent oversight role of the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) resulting in major decisions that haven’t always had the best impact on ratepayers, employees and the utility itself.


Site C is one of Canada’s biggest infrastructure projects and there is consensus in the electrical industry, including from the BC Sustainable Energy Association, that BC’s future domestic power needs and export opportunities will only increase after 2020. Site C is proceeding and at the end of the day, most of the jobs at the new dam will be IBEW jobs. Given that, there is a case to be made for a review of Site C by the BCUC, but it should operate on a deadline driven basis, and not as a tool for indefinite delay.

Employment Standards Branch & the Labour Relations Board

Non-union workers depend on the Employment Standards Branch that sets minimum standards for wages and working conditions and is supposed to help protect workers without a collective agreement from penalization by their employers.

Under the BC Liberals, it has become much more difficult for workers to get any help with unfair treatment by their employers as staffing levels at Branch offices have been severely reduced and replaced with “self-help kits”. Access to the minimal help that is available has been cut off as Branch locations have been closed. As a result, employers have essentially been allowed to break the law with little corrective action and no incentive to change while workers lose.

When a unionized workplace needs to dispute broader employment or labour relations matters, we head to the Labour Relations Board. But for the past 16 years, an effective working relationship with the LRB has been undermined by employer-friendly government appointments at the Board, effectively removing any trust, respect and sense of fair treatment of unions by those of us who represent our members or deal with labour matters at the LRB.

Your vote CAN make a difference and help make a change to a government who will listen and respect the voices of workers and provide, at the least, a seat at the table to hear and act on our serious concerns and our informed opinions on how to improve the Employment Standards Branch and the Labour Relations Board to benefit all workers. 

Annual Golf Tournament raises a final tally of \$13,750 for the MS Society

It was with great pleasure that members of the Local 258 IBEW golf tournament organizing committee presented a long awaited cheque to the MS Society of Canada, BC & Yukon Division, as a result of last September's fundraising tournament that took place at the Pitt Meadows Golf Club.

"The delay in presenting these funds was somewhat unexpected, but we were glad to finally host the MS Society at our union hall in Burnaby so we could present them with a cheque for \$13,750 to support the good work this organization does," said Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager and co-organizer of the tournament along with Brother Mark Davison.

Local 258 took the initiative to help the MS Society by raising funds through the golf tournament many years ago in an effort to honour the long standing relationship the IBEW has with the MS Society – a relationship that goes back many decades when Brother Jim Wolfgang initiated the union's involvement.

Brother Wolfgang began his career as a construction electrician with Local 230 and in 1958, became an Assistant Business Manager with the Local before taking on the role of International Representative working out of the Toronto office.

Jim was diagnosed with MS in the mid-60's and continued to work until his doctor advised him to retire in 1985. It was then he became involved as a volunteer fundraiser with the MS Society, eventually becoming Chair of the MS Society's Central Island Chapter, a position which he stepped down from a few years ago due to his health.

He has also served in many additional capacities with the MS Society and has been made an Honourary Member by the group. Brother Wolfgang has made an immense contribution to the suc-



From left: Brother Walter Goodwin, member of the Local 258 IBEW Golf Tournament Committee; Brother Dan Klassen, Assistant Business Manager and co-organizer of the annual Golf Tournament; Brother Doug McKay, Business Manager, Local 258 IBEW; Taryn Lencoe, Development Coordinator with the MS Society of Canada, BC & Yukon Division; and, Brother Rick Gerrard, Local 258 IBEW Membership Development and Golf Committee member. Missing from the photo is Brother Mark Davison, co-organizer of the annual Golf Tournament.

cessful relationship between IBEW and this non-profit charity organization that provides support and a wide range of services for people living with MS and their families. The MS Society also provide significant funds to important medical research for this condition that affects an estimated 100,000 people in Canada.

For more information about the MS Society, including volunteer opportunities, please visit their website at mssociety.ca.

Local 258 IBEW looks forward to this year's 24th annual tournament scheduled to take place at the Pitt Meadows Golf Club on Monday, September 18th. ⚡

50
YEARS
LOCAL 258
IBEW
1967 – 2017

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 of no more than 500 words on this year's topic: **"What could you say to high school students about the benefits of having a "union job" (with a collective agreement) when considering their future career paths?"**


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 2017/2018 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 26, 2017. The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by **June 29, 2017**. 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 2017

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:

“What could you say to high school students about the benefits of having a ‘union job’ (with a collective agreement) when considering their future career paths?”

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 2017 Tom Forkin Scholarship must be received by 4:00 pm on Friday, **May 26, 2017**. The Local 258 IBEW Executive Board will make a final and unalterable decision by June 29, 2017. Successful applicants will be notified. Scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment of the Institution you plan to attend is provided.

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 IBEW member



Have you ever wondered when evening starts? See, the other day I was ruminating along and got to a point where I was considering the consequences to the world of a powerful nation's leader evincing all the symptoms of megalomania. The thought process then indicated to me that there was more than one such leader and all had access to weapons of horrific destruction. At that point something went tilt in my rumination centre. I'm not sure whether it was a simple short circuit or some kind of a break in the space/time continuum. Anyway, my next thought was, "When does evening start?" We seem to have four commonly accepted time periods. They are morning, afternoon, evening and night. Afternoon is the easy one. It is determined to be the time after 12:01 pm, colloquially known as noon. What about evening? Is there a specific time that evening starts? For that matter, when does evening morph into night? Again, using a colloquialism, the time around 12:01 am is referred to as midnight. That implies to me that there are equal periods of night on either side of "midnight". There seems to be no defined time for the change from night to morning. I have heard people say, "I woke up at 4:30 this morning." At my house 4:30 am is not morning. It is night! I have also heard, at around 7:30 pm, "Well, that's it for me so I'll say goodnight." I have been walking the dog at 8:00 pm when passersby have said, "Good evening to you." So, are the demarcations of evening, night and morning merely determined by individual proclivities and circumstances? I think it would be more efficient to assign specific times to the four subject time periods and eliminate all confusion. Perhaps somebody has already done that and I'm just not aware of it. One more quick thought before leaving the subject of time. Long before we heard the phrase twenty-four seven (24/7) when talking about continuous action we had the phrase "morning, noon and night". You will note there is no reference to evening in either case. Anyway, ruminating on the deficiencies associated with time periods is somewhat less disconcerting than ruminating on self-aggrandized world leaders.

We have recently returned from our winter sojourn in sunny southern California. On the way home we again visited Catherine Dear's accredited casino stops of Pahrump, Nevada, Reno Nevada and Canyonville, Oregon. After driving about 1300 miles (we were in the U.S. and so use their units) we crossed the state border into Washington and 20 miles later encountered rain. It has mostly rained on us ever since.

Having persevered through the USAmerican presidential campaign, election and aftermath we were anticipating, on our return home, a certain relief from never-ending political news stories. However, that was not to be the case. Turning on the TV now subjects us to a parade of smiling people in shiny clean hard hats promising us all kinds of good things. While I assiduously try to avoid political opinions in these ramblings, rumination on the current provincial campaign is inescapable. Being a retiree and being old I have opinions and in the spirit of full disclosure I am sometimes considered opinionated. Given my age, background and life experiences I can accept and be comfortable with that assessment. Having served a long and arduous apprenticeships and looked forward to achieving journeyman status in both retirement and procrastination I feel entitled to be somewhat assertive in my proclamations. With that as an introduction here are some opinions. The current government that is requesting to be re-elected has never been a friend to labour. Nor has it ever been a friend to those of us who have left the ranks of labour to become retirees. With its make-up, I don't see that government ever changing its policies and so working people and ex-working people should be very wary in considering returning it to power. The Party that has enjoyed labour's support over the years and is seeking to replace the current government has some positions that are worrisome to me. The chief of these being its stated position on the completion of Site C. In my opinion the Site C power project should have been built at least 30 years ago and should now be completed without further delay. My ruminations have revealed many reasons for this but there is not enough room to list them here. You will have to accept that this is one of those opinions I am entitled to. The third Party seeking approval and election has not put forward any positions that have caught the attention of my selfish interest. Some of its promises are, in my opinion, unrealistic. I see that Party as being a distraction to those hoping for a change in government. There. Those are some of my opinions. Your opinions are as valid. Regardless of which direction your opinions take you please take the time to vote. It is important to have your voice heard. Voting also gives us the right to moan and complain afterwards if results are not to our liking and other opinions have prevailed.

The deadline for this submission is fast approaching and I have used up (and perhaps then some) the allotted space so please continue to work and play safely because, morning, noon or night retirement is great. 📧

Brother Ken McEwen is a retired IBEW member who worked at BC Hydro's Burrard Thermal as a steam plant operator. In the early 80s he became a staff member in the Local 258 office and over the years he worked as an Assistant Business Manager, as Dispatcher and as Senior Assistant Business Manager. He is also a former editor of the Hotline and has been writing a regular column for the magazine since he retired in 1998. Brother McEwen lives in New Westminster with his wife "Catherine Dear" and together they spend their winters enjoying their retirement in the Coachella Valley in California .



In Memoriam



*In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258,
who passed away in 2016 (unless otherwise indicated).*

RONALD AITKEN

*Retired - BC Hydro - Meterman
Died November 23, 2015*

DONALD ALLEN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper;
Private Power Line
Died August 22, 2016*

THOMAS BARTON

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman, CBU Surrey
Died January 3, 2016*

ROBERT BELL

*Allteck Line Contractors, Lineman
(former L258 IBEW ABM)
Died October 19, 2016*

CARROLL BILLINGS

*Retired - BC Hydro, GT/Carpenter
Died October 23, 2016*

JOHN BISSETT

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman
Died April 23, 2016*

DOUGLAS BLACK

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died September 19, 2016*

ROBERT BOYD

*Retired - BC Hydro, Distribution Mechanic 2
Died May 14, 2016*

RAY BRUNNER

*Retired - BC Hydro, Telecontrol Technologist
Died September 13, 2016*

FRANCIS BULL

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died August 11, 2016*

GORDON BURR

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died October 31, 2016*

WAYNE BYRNELL

*Retired - BC Hydro, Power Dispatcher
Died February 2, 2016*

HARRY CADWALLADER

*Retired - BC Hydro, Power Dispatcher
Died March 2, 2016*

STUART WAYNE CHAMBERS

*Retired - BC Hydro, Operator Area Dispatcher
Died December 15, 2015*

WILLIAM CHILDRESS

*Lineman, worked for Private Power Line
Died September 21, 2016*

ROY CLELAND

*Retired - BC Hydro, Industrial Technician
Died December 31, 2015*

HARRY COSSEY

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician;
former Unit 4 Chair
Died December 6, 2016*

RAY DEFAVERI

*Retired - BC Hydro, Utilization Technician
Died November 20, 2015*

RAYMOND DOHERTY

*Retired - BC Hydro, Mechanic
Died January 4, 2016*

GRAEME DURANT

*Retired - BC Hydro, Auto and HV Partsman
Died April 21, 2016*

WILLIAM ERSKINE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died October 24, 2016*

JAMES FLETCHER

*Retired - BC Hydro, Storeman
Died September 16, 2016*

DAVID FORREST

*Retired - BC Hydro, Vehicle Tradesman
Died December 30, 2015*

ERNEST FOSTER

*Retired - BC Hydro, General Trades Subforeman
Died December 11, 2016*

GERALD FREIBERGER

*IO Pensioner, GT Carpenter (previously worked
BC Hydro Construction)
Date of death unknown, union notified in
November 2016 by IO*

HERMAN GIESBRECHT

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died November 7, 2016*

HUGH GILMOUR

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman
Died December 29, 2016*

HERMAN HABERSTOCK

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died June 22, 2016*

ROBERT HEBERT

*Retired - BC Hydro, Truck Driver
Died April 11, 2016*

GLENN HILL

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician Subforeman
Died October 10, 2016*

CONSTANT HUIGE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died November 7, 2016*

DONALD JAKES

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died April 5, 2016*

MERFYN JONES

*Retired - BC Hydro & Private Power Line,
Lineman
Died May 4, 2016*

RON KRUGER

*Retired - BC Hydro, General Tradesman
Died March 25, 2016*

DOUGLAS MACSWEEN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died September 15, 2016*

TOM MARKHAM

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died January 16, 2016*

WILLIAM MARTIN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Machine Operator
Died September 19, 2016*

ROBERT MCKELVIE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died March 10, 2016*





In Memoriam



*In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258,
who passed away in 2016 (unless otherwise indicated).*

WILLIAM MCLEAN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died September 2, 2016*

WILLIAM MCLENNAN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman
Died November 25, 2016*

DOUGLAS MEAD

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died April 9, 2016*

PAUL MEALIN

*Allteck Line Contractors, Cableman
Died December 26, 2016*

JULIUS MEZEI

*Retired - BC Hydro, Winder
Died November 1, 2015*

REGINALD MOONEY

*Retired - BC Hydro, Mechanic
Died December 5, 2015*

ROBERT H. NELLESS

*Retired - BC Hydro, Serviceman
Died March 14, 2016*

CARL NEUMANN

*Retired - BC Hydro, GT/Carpenter
Died June 27, 2016*

LARRY PARADON

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died August 28, 2016*

MORRIS PAYNE

*IO Pensioner, Lineman
Died December 16, 2017*

RONALD PEARSON

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician Subforeman
Died October 7, 2016*

CHARLES PLACE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Mechanic Diesel Station
Attendant
Died December 15, 2016*

HAROLD PLUMSTEEL

*Retired - BC Hydro, Patrolman
Died December 27, 2015*

DONALD G. PROCKNOW

*Retired - BC Hydro & Private Power Line,
Lineman
Died March 19, 2016*

KENNETH RATZLAFF

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper/Storeman
Died February 3, 2016*

GRANT REVKE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman
Died June 1, 2016*

PAUL ROACH

*Electrician
Died February 4, 2016*

ERNEST F. "BIG ERNIE"**ROSENBLOOM**

*IO Pensioner, Lineman
Died December 16, 2015*

WILLIAM SATTERTHWAITE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died August 20, 2016*

CHARLES SCHEMBRI

*Retired - BC Hydro
Died June 30, 2016*

JACK SCHOFIELD

*Retired - BC Hydro, Senior Steam
Cont. Operator
Died June 19, 2016*

EDWARD SENINI

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died January 21, 2016*

ROBERT SHILLITO

*Retired - BC Hydro, Telecontrol Technician
Died July 22, 2016*

RONALD SIMPSON

*IO Pensioner, Lineman
Died May 13, 2016*

WILLIAM SMITH

*Retired - BC Hydro, Meter Technician
Died December 8, 2016*

KENNETH R. "LITTLE STASH"**STANLEY**

*Private Power Line, Lineman
Died March 25, 2016*

RALPH STEFFENSON

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died September 3, 2016*

JOSEPH TORKOLY

*Retired - BC Hydro, Driver/Helper
Died October 20, 2016*

CHRISTOPHER TYLOR

*BC Hydro, CPC Technician
Died December 12, 2015*

PETER VANDENOBELEN

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman Subforeman
Died December 21, 2016*

CLAUDE VANIER

*Retired - BC Hydro, Lineman
Died January 30, 2016*

ROBERT WALKER

*Retired - BC Hydro, Mechanic
Died July 16, 2016*

THOMAS WESTON

*Retired - BC Hydro, Dispatcher
Died September 13, 2016*

JAMES WHITWICK

*Retired - BC Hydro, General Tradesman
Died June 7, 2016*

RAYMOND WILLIAMS

*Retired - BC Hydro, Electrician
Died July 28, 2016*

JERRY WINTLE

*Retired - BC Hydro, Area Dispatcher
Died January 22, 2016*

ROBERT WOOD

*IO Pensioner, Driver/Helper
Date of death unknown, union notified in
December 2016 by IO*



National DAY of MOURNING

Friday, April 28th

Honouring and paying tribute to workers killed or injured on the job and to those who are suffering or who have died as a result of occupational disease.



Every year thousands of people gather around the world on April 28th to remember and honour those lives lost or injured because of their work and to renew the commitment to prevent further deaths, injuries and diseases by improving health and safety in the workplace.

April 28th is observed in Canada as the National Day of Mourning. Labour organizations, unions, families, communities and government agencies coordinate public events that include speeches, a moment of silence, laying wreaths and flowers, lighting candles, planting trees, unveiling monuments, balloon releases, laying out empty shoes or hard hats to symbolize those who have died at work. Some events involve active campaigning on relevant issues, public demonstrations or workplace or public awareness sessions that provide information regarding occupational health and safety.

Individuals don ribbons, black armbands, bracelets, or stickers to show their support. Workers on the water, in trains or in transport trucks will often blow their whistle or horn at 11:00 am in honour of the day.

The Canadian flag on Parliament Hill is typically flown at half-mast, as it is in many other communities.

In BC, three deaths a week

In British Columbia, 2016 showed 144 work-related death claims accepted by the Workers Compensation Board with a majority (85) resulting from occupational disease. Young worker deaths were at their highest since 2013 with five young workers.

These statistics are provided for information purposes only and are too simple to convey the full personal and human impact on families, friends and co-workers from losing somebody just because they went to work.

The National Day of Mourning started in Canada


The National Day of Mourning has a very proud Canadian labour history. At the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) convention in 1984, a resolution was submitted by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) National Health and Safety Committee recommending the creation of a remembrance day for workers killed or injured on the job – this resolution was readily adopted by the convention delegates. The date April 28th was chosen as on April 28 in 1914 the first comprehensive workers compensation act was passed in the legislature.

The CLC officially declared and recognized the National Day of Mourning on April 28, 1985. In Canada, over 25,000 workers have died due to work-related injury or disease since 1985.

In December 1990, following years of lobbying efforts by Canadian unions and the NDP, the federal government passed Bill C-223, the Workers Mourning Day Act, make April 28, 1991 the first government recognized National Day of Mourning. The Act is a brief piece of legislation, which reads, in part:

“Throughout Canada, in each and every year, the 28th day of April shall be known under the name of Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace.”

This movement quickly spread outside of Canada. In the United States in 1989, the American Federation of Labour began to recognize April 28th as Workers’ Memorial Day. The United Kingdom (UK) began their campaign to recognize this day in 1992. Workers’ Memorial Day was adopted by the Scottish Trade Union Congress (TUC) in 1993, the UK TUC in 1999 and the UK Health and Safety Commission in 2000. And the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International TUC (ITUC) declared the International Day of Mourning in 1996. Let us carry on the international cry to:

“MOURN for the Dead and FIGHT for the Living!” 

UNION NOTICE BOARD

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

WE NEED YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS

If you have recently moved (within the past six months), please make sure your union, Local 258 IBEW, has your new mailing address. **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) at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

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

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

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.

Unemployed? Looking elsewhere for work?

As a current dues paying member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, you have many options if you find yourself unemployed or out of work. Your first step is to register **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** with the Local 258 Dispatch office.

**CALL THE DISPATCHER DIRECTLY AT
604-524-3547, or toll-free at 1-877-520-3305
or send an email to dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca.**

If you choose to seek work outside of the Local 258 IBEW jurisdiction, you will need to obtain a Travel Card that can be issued through the Dispatch office. Travel Cards are valid for a period of three months and are required to be deposited with the IBEW Local in the jurisdiction of your new employment.

For a complete list of IBEW Locals, visit <http://www.ibew.org/Tools/Local-Union-Directory>

Has your employer transferred you to work outside of British Columbia?

If your employer has transferred you to work for an extended period of time outside of British Columbia, you may need a Travel Card.

Please contact the Local 258 IBEW Dispatch office to ensure you have the right paperwork in place to work in a jurisdiction outside of Local 258 IBEW. This is your responsibility as a member of Local 258 and will not be taken care of by your employer.





**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



Congratulations to Brother Felix Pietila who recently graduated from his apprenticeship at GMS as a Generation Mechanic. On the left is Justin Roberge, management representative on the Apprentice and Trades Training sub-committee, and on the right is Brother Dave Mengerling, Unit 2 Recorder and IBEW representative on the Apprentice and Trades Training sub-committee.



Brother Ed Mullins received his retirement watch from Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, at the union meeting in Powell River in February 2017.



Brother Christian Bridges, left, was awarded his ten year membership pin by Brother Chris Carter, Unit 6 Chair at the meeting in Chilliwack in December, 2016.



Brother Dave Mengerling, Unit 2 Recorder, congratulates Brother Grant Paradela on his initiation into the union at the February 2017 Unit 2 meeting in Fort St. John. Welcome aboard Grant!



Congratulations to Sister Rachel Allan who was initiated into the union at the December 2016 Unit 6 meeting in Langley!



Brother Jairus Madill is formally initiated into the union by Sister Cathy Tagseth at the Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby in January 2017.



Congratulations to Brother Adam Tell on his initiation into the union at the Unit 6 meeting in Langley in February, shown here with Brother Chris Carter, Chair.



Congratulations to Brother Chris Combes, shown here with his grandfather Floyd Combes on the left. Chris was initiated into the union at the April 2017 meeting in Chilliwack by Unit 6 Chair Chris Carter.



Unit 1 Chair Klaus Kraft, center, visited Burns Lake in November 2016 and awarded Brother Craig Haizimsque and Brother Sean Stady their membership pins.



Longtime member Brother Tom Moran, left, gets congratulations from Shop Steward Brother Will Vandeborn for his 43 plus years of service upon his retirement from BC Hydro in Vanderhoof in April of this year. Congratulations Tom!



Brother Steve Atkinson, right, was recently congratulated on being awarded his Journeyman Power Line Technician certificate by Dave Delmonico. Both Steve and Dave work at Pacific Electrical Installations.



Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Doug McKay awarded Brother Eduardo Ouano with his 40 year service pin and his retirement pin in January of this year. Eduardo worked at Eaton for the last 21 years and prior to that, was at Westinghouse before Local 264 merged with 258.



At the Unit 6 meeting in Langley in December 2016, the members shown above were formally initiated into the union. From left are Brother Alex Mullaly, Brother Chad Allen, Brother Kyle Gervin, Brother Richard Pare and Brother Dan Lewis. Congratulations and welcome aboard!



BC Hydro Construction Services Southern Interior, Civil Department. From left: Bill Hanson (SI Area Manager), Atley Tonnellier, Murray Anderson, Adam Macdonnell, Rusty Kammerer, Mike Hebbs, Justin Reimarcher, Kevin Stansk, Brook Mahon, George Starling, Vern Wong, Asa Lishman, Scott Lenton, Guy Morand (soon to be retired SI/NI Regional Manager), Ery Grouwstra (Administrator), Charlie Kopola and Dirk Camapagnolo. Thanks to Charlie Kopola for sending this photo to the Hotline last December, who also wrote, "The guys are a group of highly skilled tradesmen who take pride in their work and make me proud to be the department's manager."



Good to see very active Shop Stewards Sister Kimberley Sortwell (Valley Traffic) and Sister Dayna Gill (GOtraffic) at the Unit 6 meeting in Langley in February.



Congratulations to Sister Kimberley Sortwell, Brother Dennis Paterson, who was awarded a 40 year membership pin, and Brother Rob Munro who were awarded their membership service pins at the Unit 6 meeting in Langley in February.



Brother Ed McEwen sent in this photo of some visitors who took up temporary residence in his back yard in Prince George last year.



THE HOTLINE IS PUBLISHED BY:
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 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
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As I write this column the writ has dropped and we are now “officially” into our provincial election process. It will be four weeks of smiling faces, outrageous headlines, and promise after promise. We the public - with some interested and some not - have the right to decide who will be in charge for the next four years. Myself, as a member of that public must admit I am on the side that has lost attention. As an old timer I have seen it time and time again, after an election it goes like this: first year there is a lot of pain, second year, a little less pain, the third year some optimism. That brings us to the sunny final year of their term where the storm clouds part and hints of exuberance delivers us back to the starting line.

As I approach my sixtieth year I am worn down by the entire amount of BS. Recently, for example, one party promised to limit some bridge tolls and the other immediately raised the ante to no tolls. Hydro bills will be frozen. ICBC will (fill in the blank). Disregarding the fact that the many of these election promises cost money that must eventually be repaid, the general public reacts by spouting “Oh good, the government is finally listening”. Fooled you again!!

Where do our labour unions and its members fit in to this quagmire? First, I believe that most but certainly not all unions see through this crap delivered in an election year in an attempt to influence the public to vote for them. Additionally most unions won't come out and say “Hey, vote for this or that guy”. So what do they do? Some don't do anything - they may not be big enough or their members have said stay out of it. A union like ours uses Political Action Committees (PAC), whose goal is to be proactive on issues and education, ensuring that members have up-to-date information on legislation, and political activities. Part of being proactive means contact with these politicians and in some cases promising support if the unions and the parties' beliefs can be aligned to the advantage of both sides. Some would describe this process as “lobbying”.

But while it is a full time job for unions to keep an eye on the sitting government, the real work is in months running up to Election Day. In the past, it wasn't uncommon that a few threats from unions could sway a party seeking election to come on board with the union family, and become “the union party”.

Union density was high in the province during this period, and it was possible to not only influence the parties, but to affect the outcome of the vote by simply out voting the general pub-



From the Back Corner

Report from Tony Brand,
President, Local 258 IBEW

lic. Sadly, the number of union members has been on a decline for many years in British Columbia. This resultant loss of power means unions have had to change. The threat of “we will defeat you” has changed to “this is how we can help you”. Significant resources are expended to support Political Action Committees and they have shown results, for example the last Federal Election. Getting the anti-union Conservatives out of power was imperative, and with a determined effort to support the Liberals by unions across Canada, that was the result.

As I indicated at the start, during the first year or two of its mandate, the newly elected government will usually bring on the “bad stuff” such as tearing up contracts with government workers, raising taxes or even bringing in a new tax that we were told was not on the table. We expect it and are not usually disappointed.

The general public will roll their eyes and say “we are not surprised but what can we do about it”, and some special interest groups will protest. Nevertheless the new policies are implemented by the government and the pain goes on for a few years.

During these uncompromising periods it's imperative that unions keep pressure on the politicians through whatever means are deemed necessary. This is why Political Action Committees lobby throughout the governments' term has become essential.

The next few weeks will become increasingly ugly as the promises run out, and the bad mouthing grows. While holding my nose I plan to pay attention to the issues as I see them, as both parties see them, and how they will touch our province. I will vote and as I have called for in the past ask all members to take the time to vote. It's your right and it's about time we get good voter turnout. 🗳️



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