

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL 258 IBEW



HOTLINE

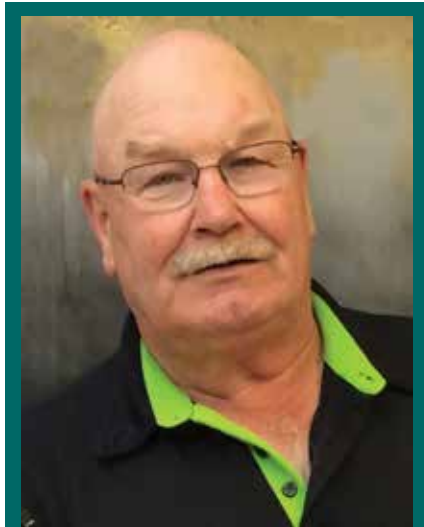
Your Union News Magazine

PUBLISHED & DELIVERED
DECEMBER, 2020



Viewpoint from Doug McKay

Your Local 258 IBEW Business Manager/Financial Secretary



It's been awhile since my last column in the Hotline and I recall wishing everyone "all the best for 2020". Given everything that's happening, I sincerely hope you and your family are successfully weathering this storm of a year that isn't quite over yet.

The good news is we've just come through a provincial election and we can now look forward to four years of a competent and stable government that has proven it's a deep care and concern for all British Columbians. Congratulations to Premier John Horgan and his majority government. With political breakthroughs in so many communities in BC, it's comforting to know we have an open-door government that listens to labour and takes action to improve the lives of working people across this province.



Doug McKay met with John Horgan before the pandemic hit, at the British Columbia Premier's office in Vancouver.

COVID-19 is playing a role in everything we do and your health and safety remains my #1 priority. When the pandemic was declared in mid-March, I closed the Union Hall, sent support staff home, and instructed ABMs to work remotely to provide member representation and services. I immediately reached out to employers to confirm lines of communication were open and focused on protecting your health and safety in your workplaces.

Over the following few weeks, as we all adapted to an evolving and unprecedented set of circumstances, I ensured that your Union continued to work collaboratively to make certain all collective agreements remained in full force. When modifications to workplace situations covered by a contract were deemed necessary to further protect your health and safety, discussions took place and time-limited letters of understanding were signed. These arrangements are ongoing as the pandemic continues to rage.

Unfortunately, for some, layoff procedures were instituted by a few of our employers and we fully represented and continue to assist our members who were directly affected, including those who have travelled to the USA for work (see page 30 about travel for work requirements). Other members saw their work hours reduced, but the majority of our members working at BC Hydro, in traffic control, manufacturing and in tree trimming have continued to work, with no loss of income.

I can assure you that everyone's focus at our Union has been, and remains, doing everything we can to help protect our members and stop the spread of this highly contagious virus. With physical distancing being one of



Merry Christmas!

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the most effective ways to manage COVID-19, together with wearing a mask and washing your hands, your Union's Executive Board made the decision in mid-March to halt member gatherings and suspend all Unit Meetings until further notice.

Our Union Hall in Langley remained closed during those first few weeks of the pandemic and, after we determined the specific WorkSafeBC protocols that were required, we then welcomed our support staff back to work in the office while our ABMs continued to work from their homes. Since then, in-person staff meetings have been modified or replaced with conference calls or virtual meetings. Your Union's monthly Executive Board meetings have continued as previously scheduled, and now take place virtually, with meeting minutes posted on your password-protected website.

In late August, following public health orders and determinations, I instructed our ABMs based in Langley to return to working from the Union Hall. All staff have received pandemic safety training and continue to follow all WorkSafeBC protocols.

As predicted, the COVID-19 pandemic now appears to be gaining another foothold as we head into the winter months. As a result, our ABMs are back working from home and we are also limiting visitors at the Union Hall. If you need to visit us, please phone ahead for an appointment.

I would like to thank my Executive Assistant, our Office Manager and ABM Lori MacLean, who has put our safety protocols in place and has guided us through all the changes we have undertaken in the building as we adjust to our new reality of working in a pandemic.

Thank you to all of our members who have been following all public health orders in your workplaces and while working with the public. This is an all-hands-on-deck effort and we're not out of the woods yet. I also appreciate and applaud our staff who have risen to the occasion and shown commendable focus on working to protect your health and safety.

I have two retirements to announce. Please join me in wishing all the best to Dan Klassen, who retired in March, and to Dan Giesbrecht, who retired at the end of November - read more on page 10.

I have hired four new Assistant Business Managers and would like you to join me in welcoming Rob Munro, Dayna Gill, Marina Luporini and Joey Sutherland. Please see page 11 for more information. And, I have now assigned Jim Greenwell to deliver Union representation services, in his role as Senior ABM, for members working at BC Hydro in the lower mainland.

In an effort to keep up with the fast pace of modern communications we now have a website that can accommodate to the screen size of whatever device you're using. We've added an App for download that features quick access to your website member account featuring your collective agreement and a Find My Shop Steward page. Please sign up for your Member Account today at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

I'm sorry to report the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to cancel a number of events we had planned for this year including our Shop Steward's Conference, our annual golf tournament and our participation at this year's BC Hydro Safety Rodeo. And, your Union's Executive Board has suspended applications for this year's Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship until further notice.

Looking forward, we continue to plan for training opportunities for our members who serve as Shop Stewards, and have extend an invitation to them to participate in a questionnaire survey. I'd like to thank everyone who has responded to date. If you're a Shop Steward who hasn't yet completed the questionnaire, please do so today by logging in to your website account. Your input is invaluable and will help shape our future.

In closing, I'd like to extend a special acknowledgement and thank you to all of our members who have stepped forward to serve on our new NextGen Committee for members 35 and under. They've jumped on board with some pretty exciting projects and you can read about them starting on page 14.

As our new look news magazine heads to the press, the Fall storms are compounding the rise of cases of COVID-19 in communities across our province. Please wear a mask, physically distance, follow all the public health orders, and remember the wise words of Dr. Bonnie Henry: be kind, be calm and be safe. 🍷

HOTLINE

Your Union News Magazine

HOTLINE is the official union news magazine published for the members of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in the province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, Canada.

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS.

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Dave McMinn, President

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

Local 258 IBEW Officers:

Doug McKay - Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Dave McMinn - President

Trevor Williams - Vice-President

Larry Byhre - Treasurer

Mike McMinn - Recording Secretary

Local 258 IBEW Executive Board Members:

Unit #1 Chair - Klaus Kraft

Unit #2 Chair - Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair - Dean Kotaras

Unit #4 Chair - Lloyd Clark

Unit #5 Chair - Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair - Rachel Allan

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Assistant Business Managers - Greg Fanning, Dayna Gill, Jim Greenwell (Sr. ABM), Marina Luporini, Don McNabb, Rob Munro, Joey Sutherland

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Executive Assistant to Doug McKay, Office Manager, ABM - Lori MacLean

Administrative & Office Staff (members of MoveUp) - Janice Krieger, Geri Watson, Tracey Tilsley, Janet Clyne, Sue Watts



www.ibew258.bc.ca

Introducing your redesigned Union website and your Local 258 IBEW App

Sign up for your Member Account and download your Local 258 App today!



Smart phones, tablets, laptops, desktop computers - the device options seem endless for 'surfing the net'. Launched this summer, your redesigned Union website now contains new, easily accessible information and more content, with the added feature to accommodate whatever screen size of the device you choose to use.

If you want to find out more about your Union, including who your Shop Steward or Assistant Business Manager is, have exclusive access to members-only news and information or want to quickly check for meetings and events, you should register for your Member Account today!

You can easily sign up on your device by selecting the Member

Login icon on the home page followed by the Register an Account option, where you will find instructions and a form to complete. Registering a Member Account indicates you are providing your Union with permission to send you email.

Once submitted, your application will be reviewed by staff -most member accounts are approved the same day but there may be a delay of up to 48 hours before your account is activated.



Quick access, efficiency and convenience are what everyone is looking for these days, and our new Local 258 IBEW App delivers all that and more!


Available exclusively to members with a website account, the App can be downloaded onto your Apple or Android smart phone and is not publicly available through any App Store or other public source on the internet.

Our Local 258 IBEW App features quick access to your Union website and once you login, the App remains open until you choose to logout. Having the App open gives you quick access to information about your Union, including important contacts, your collective agreement and tons of resources. It's like having your Union website at your fingertips!

When you need to get hold of your Shop Steward in your workplace, you can find out who they are on your App. Can't remember when or where your next Union meeting is – check your App.

Having our App installed also allows you to receive important message alerts from Local 258 IBEW. And while we can't claim our App does "everything", we hope to build on its features to meet your needs as we move forward.

Please remember, if your membership status changes and you are no longer a current, dues paying member, or your email address is no longer valid, your website account, including the App, may be deleted.

For members working at BC Hydro we recommend you use your personally-owned smart phone or tablet device to download the Local 258 IBEW App. 

Letters to Local 258

Received August, 2020

To Dave and everyone in Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,

Thank you all for your generosity in support of Canuck Place children and families. It means so much to all of us, especially now when everyone is dealing with so much uncertainty. I truly hope you, your loved ones and all the members of the Brotherhood have been safe and well these past few months. I look forward to the day when we can connect in person.

Sending much gratitude from all of our big and small hearts.

Thank you,
Chantelle Bowles

Development Coordinator,
Corporate & Community Partnerships,
Team Canuck Place

Received January, 2020

Dave McMinn,

We are writing to express our most sincere appreciation for your contribution to the 2019 Labour Community Christmas Dinner. This annual event was another outstanding success, with dinners served to the homeless and low-income families in Vancouver and Surrey. We were able to provide more than 800 food hampers and vegetables, feed more than 1,500 people, hand out hundreds of toys and supply clothing and blankets to our guests. They all left with their arms full and wonderful smiles on their faces.

This Christmas event would not be possible without the contribution of many Unions, their members, their employers, friends of the labour movement and several

hundred volunteers. While we hope that someday all British Columbians can look forward to a Christmas without hunger or homelessness, we know currently without your continued support this effort to help would not be possible.

If you would like to be involved next year on the committee or as a volunteer please contact Labourx-masdinner@hotmail.ca. Again, on behalf of the labour community Christmas dinner committee, thank you.

In solidarity,

Laird Cronk

President, BC Federation of Labour

Editor's Note: A donation for \$1500 was approved at the November 2019 Executive Board meeting in response to a request by the BC Federation of Labour.

Received July, 2020

Dear Mr. McMinn,

When children and families open the door to Canuck Place, they are stepping into a place of overwhelming love, generosity, and kindness.

Without you, our cherished community partner, Canuck Place simply wouldn't exist. Without you, we would not be able to provide this beautiful sanctuary to critically ill children and their families. It's truly a home within a house, and the care provided extends far beyond just medical care.

Today I am sending this letter to say thank you, from our community at Canuck Place to yours. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258's generous gift of \$1,500.00 helps make all the difference for the children and families we care for. You help us give families priceless, meaningful moments together, while we care for them.

The International Brotherhood

of Electrical Workers, Local 258's compassion for the kids in our care is so important. That's why I wanted to send you this letter: because, on behalf of all of us at Canuck Place, we are so grateful for your generosity. Again, thank you for your support of children in our hospice, and those we serve throughout the province. You are an important part of their lives, too.

With gratitude,

Margaret McNeil,
CEO, Canuck Place

Editor's note: we also received a thank you letter from Canuck Place for a \$500 donation made in November, 2019, in response to a donation request from Bruce Byrnell.

Received January, 2020

To the IBEW,

The Cariboo Cougars and myself would like to thank you for your sponsorship. On a personal note I appreciate your support year after year.

Sincerely,

John Herrington

Editor's Note: The Cariboo Cougars U18AAA team in Prince George play hockey in the BC Minor Midget League. A donation for \$500 was approved at the October 2019 E-Board meeting in response to John Herrington's request.

Received August, 2020

Dear Dave,

With everything going on in the world around us, we just wanted to take the time to say thank you to all the IBEW 258 members for everything you do.

In solidarity,

Carlos

One Movement Threads

More letters to Local 258

Local 258 IBEW received additional thank you letters, as follows:

March, 2020 - Thank you letter received from the Castlegar Junior Rebels Hockey team for our support. Donation requested by Dean Kotaras and a \$500 donation was approved at the November 2019 E-Board meeting.

May, 2020 - Thank you card from Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports for our support. Donation requested by Mark Davison and a \$500 donation was approved at the March 2020 E-Board meeting.

May, 2020 - Thank you card from Epilepsy Quesnel for our support of epilepsy research. A donation request was received from Ahren Chappell seeking support for epilepsy seizure research and a \$500 donation was approved at the April 2020 E-Board meeting.

May, 2020 - Thank you card from Derek Bailey PLT from LMS for our support.

October, 2020 - Thank you card from Ian Kozicky about the 13th Annual East Kootenay Memorial Charity Golf Tournament held in memory of fallen brothers Dirk Rozenboom and Rob Lehman. Donation requested by Doug McKay and \$500 was approved at the September 2020 E-Board meeting.

Received February, 2020

Dear Dave McMinn,
Please accept this player signed letter as a small token of our appreciation for your Brotherhood's generous donation to our team. The generosity of your group made it possible for the families and young athletes Cloverdale Atom A2 to experience and play more of the sport they love.



We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and wish you all continued success and health.

Robert Johns, Dean Shiels, Gurjit Sangha, Dan Woods, Jud McKay, Craig Erb, James Waugh, Adriano Celentano
Coaching/Management Staff, Atom A2 Colts

Editor's Note: A donation for \$500 was approved at the November 2019 E-Board meeting in response to a request from Victor Liberatore.

Received October, 2020

To Local 258 IBEW

I am slow in writing this because I just got back from an extended holiday, camping, golfing and cycling with some other IBEW 258 retirees.

Due to COVID-19 with the office closed and meetings cancelled one would think that small insignificant items might get overlooked. Such was not the case with my retirement from BC Hydro. Local 258 IBEW recognized my retirement with an awesome personalized, engraved watch. Dan Giesbrecht called and personally thanked me for working with him over the years, mainly on shift schedule issues, and congratulated me on my retirement.

I would like to thank everyone at Local 258 for everything over the years and a special thank you for such an awesome watch, that I am proud to wear.

Sincerely,
Ken Bishop

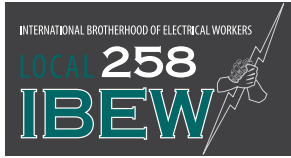
At the last Unit 6 meeting in Chilliwack



Back in February, members were sworn in to the IBEW by Dayna Gill who was serving as Unit 6 Chair at the time. Congratulations to Clayton van Steenis, David Bentley, Jess van Steenis, Helmer Mussell, Adam Fredette and Taylor Stewart.

Bargaining News

Welcome to our newest Local 258 IBEW members



On behalf of all Local 258 members and staff, Doug McKay, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary, would like to welcome our newest


members working in traffic control at **Vancouver Traffic Systems Ltd.** and at private power line contractor **All Power Construction Ltd.**

Members working at Vancouver Traffic Systems Ltd. provide traffic control, high-speed lane closures, signage installation and traffic management planning services in Vancouver's lower mainland. A three-year first collective agreement has been signed and is available on your password-protected Union website.

ABMs Dayna Gill and Marina Luporini have been assigned to provide Union representation and services to members working at this new certification.

McKay said, "These new members join hundreds of other workers in our growing traffic control division as we continue to strengthen our Union."

All Power Construction Ltd. joined us in June and we welcome these members who are working to provide professional line construction services. Based in British Columbia's East Kootenays, McKay said, "We are pleased this company is now signatory to our Master Line Agreement that provides members with fair wages, benefits, and quality Union representation."

This agreement is available on your password-protected Union website and expires on January 31, 2022. 

Bargaining resumes at Code Electric Products Ltd. in Port Coquitlam



Rob Munro, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager, reports that negotiations for a new collective agreement for members working at **Code Electric** in Port Coquitlam commenced last year on September 16, 2019.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed negotiations from February until June of 2020 when meetings resumed with all health & safety protocols in place. Together with bargaining committee members Craig Safruk and Craig

Anselmo, the Union has now met with this employer multiple times.

"Members have become rightly frustrated with these lengthy and challenging negotiations," says Munro, "This employer has been set on eroding existing benefits to offset costs of nominal, fair wage increases. We are committed to forging ahead to achieve a bargained agreement for our members at Code Electric to vote on as expeditiously as possible."

The Union is seeking a new, four-year agreement. The previous agreement expired on September 30, 2019. 

Agreement at Asplundh ratified after pandemic delay




Members working at **Asplundh Canada ULC** in our tree trimming/utility arborist division ratified a one-year contract extension this summer after both sides suspended negotiations in the Spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When the borders closed and travel limitations were put in place, we quickly realized we needed to evaluate the situation with bargaining," said Dan Giesbrecht, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager. "This employer's negotiator is based in the USA and could not travel, so we suspended negotiations."

The following months saw little movement as the Union continued to keep members informed. "In June, we resumed negotiating by conference call and reached a tentative agreement," said Giesbrecht.

The one-year rollover agreement was ratified by a margin of 95% in a mail ballot, counted on July 24 and includes a two percent retroactive wage increase. The new agreement is now available on your password-protected website.

Thanks to Tim Mitchell and Greg Lasota who serve as Shop Stewards at Asplundh and stepped forward to serve on the bargaining committee. 

Davey Tree negotiations prove challenging



With the contract for members working at **Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada** having expired at the end of March, the COVID-19 delay in commencing negotiations ended with a conference call on July 30th and an in-person meeting on August

11th, as well as various e-mail correspondence, reports Rob Munro, ABM.

Contract talks have been challenging as this employer claims lack of financial profitability. The Union is seeking a one-year contract extension with a 2% wage increase and the employer has countered with concessions. No further meeting dates have been scheduled at this time.

Davey Tree currently employs 78 members who work in tree trimming and as Utility Arborists on Vancouver Island, in the lower mainland, the southern interior and in the Kootenays. Munro would like to thank Shop Steward Steve Ferreira for his participation. 📧

Bargaining Updates

Dayna Gill, Local 258 IBEW ABM, reports the following additional bargaining updates:



N.C.S. International, Coquitlam - negotiations are underway for the 15 members who work in the warehouse at this electrical wire and cable distribution company. The previous contract expired May 31st. May. Shop Steward Andrew

Robertson is serving on the bargaining committee.



24/7 Traffic Control, Kelowna - Negotiations commenced October 21 with Shop Stewards Sherri Grabowsky and Kelly Harborne joining Gill at the bargaining table. 15 members work in traffic control at this company. The previous contract

expired in September 2019.

The collective agreement at **Ace Flagging** in Port Alberni expired at the end of May and both sides remain waiting for a first meeting. Thanks to Brenda Lloyd, Shop Steward, for stepping forward to serve on the bargaining committee, helping to represent the 10 members who work at this traffic control company.

GoTraffic, Vancouver Island - negotiations have resulted in a tentative agreement that is now heading to a mail ballot vote for the 120 members who work in traffic control at this company. Thanks to Peter Burnett, Shop Steward for serving on the bargaining committee. 📧

Local 258 News

Members now required to phone ahead before visiting Union Hall in Langley



With careful consideration and following all public health and safety protocols, the Local 258 IBEW Union Hall in Langley re-opened to members and visitors in mid-October after being closed since mid-March due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Shortly thereafter we had to advise members that, until further notice, if you plan on visiting the Union Hall you have to phone and schedule an appointment in advance.

“I would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding,” says Business Manager Doug McKay. “We remain vigilant in monitoring all public health announcements and guidelines.”

McKay notes that staff have received COVID-19 pandemic protocol training and plexiglass barriers have been installed where necessary, and adds, “If you choose to visit us, please phone ahead to schedule an appointment. We also need you to follow all our protocols and instructions, including wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer and maintaining physical distance. If you do not feel well, please stay home and contact your doctor – do not visit us and do not go to work.”

The Union has complimentary cloth masks and hand sanitizer branded with our Local 258 IBEW logo available at the front desk.

The Local 258 IBEW Union Hall is located at Suite #140 – 8029 199 Street in Langley. Visitor hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and closed for statutory holidays. Phone 604-520-3305, toll free 1-877-520-3305, email info@ibew258.bc.ca. 📧

www.ibew258.bc.ca

More Local 258 News

Debit machine and e-transfers debut at Union Hall

Your Union is pleased to announce that we are quickly moving into the third decade of the 21st century and members who need to make a financial transaction with Local 258 IBEW can now make payments by debit card, Visa, Mastercard or e-transfer. You can phone directly at 604-520-3305, toll free at 1-877-520-3305; email to info@ibew258.bc.ca, or, you can visit us in-person (COVID-19 safety protocols in place) at the Union Hall in Langley - please phone in advance to schedule an appointment. 📞

Retirements announced



Dan Giesbrecht was recently awarded his 40 year member service pin.

After 40 years as a member of the IBEW, Dan Giesbrecht has announced his official retirement, effective at the end of November.

A lineman by trade, Giesbrecht started his career at BC Hydro. Caught up in the mass layoffs in the early 1980s, Dan sought work in Southern Ontario and with his young family and moved to Windsor where he grew his activism with his Union, Local 636 IBEW.

Returning to BC in 2006, he was hired as an ABM at Local 258 IBEW by Doug McKay, and has been representing members as an ABM for the past 14 years. Local 258 IBEW thanks Dan for his service to the Union and wishes him a long and happy retirement.



In early March, ABM Dan Klassen, decided it was time to retire. A celebratory luncheon was held by staff at the Union Hall and Local 258 IBEW wishes Dan all the best in his retirement. 📞

Rachel Allan appointed as Unit 6 Chair

In July of this year, Rachel Allan accepted the Union Executive Board's appointment and is now serving as Chair of Unit 6. The appointment fills the vacancy left when Dayna Gill was hired to work in the Local 258 IBEW Union Hall, and is effective until the end of the term in 2022.



Rachel Allan, Unit 6 Chair.

An up and coming Union activist, Rachel felt it was time to step forward and take on a larger role with her Union.

A member of Local 258 IBEW since June 2015, she says, "I have a sense of gratitude to my Union for supporting me with various educational and Committee opportunities over the years.

I was juggling 3 part-time jobs before I became a Union Member. I could barely make ends meet. My life has completely changed for the better; I am able to travel, I have savings and RRSPs, and I have extended medical and dental coverage. My financial stability and peace of mind is possible thanks to our Union-negotiated collective agreements."

Rachel Allan has been a long-time member of our Women's Committee, currently serving as Vice Chair, and has attended IBEW Women's Leadership Training; labour education classes at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs; and, has recently become involved with our new NextGen Committee. Rachel also serves as a Shop Steward in her workplace, Prime Traffic Solutions, based in Langley, where she works as a Traffic Control Person. In her spare time, Rachel enjoys being in nature with her dog, Odin, and volunteers with a mentoring program, KidStart.

Doug McKay, Business Manager / Financial Secretary of Local 258 IBEW has appointed Rachel to serve on the United Way's Fall 2020 fundraising campaign as an associate representing our Union. Rachel says she looks forward to meeting Unit 6 members when in-person meetings resume. 📞

Welcome new hires working at Local 258's Langley Union Hall

Doug McKay, Local 258 IBEW Business Manager/Financial Secretary has hired the following Assistant Business Managers (ABM) to work with him out of the Union Hall in Langley:

Rob Munro has been assigned to represent members working at BC Hydro and at private powerline companies on Vancouver Island, at Code Electric and Code Manufacturing in Port Coquitlam, and at Davey Tree and Asplundh. He continues working in Organizing & Membership Development and is now teamed up with Dayna Gill for that assignment. Rob previously worked at BC Hydro's Fleet Services and lives in Surrey with his wife and two daughters.

ROB MUNRO, ABM
direct: 778-800-2559
cell: 778-878-6830
email: rmunro@ibew258.bc.ca

Dayna Gill has been assigned to represent members working in Traffic Control across BC. She is also working together with Rob Munro in Organizing & Membership Development. Dayna has previously worked as a Traffic Control Person with a number of traffic control companies in the lower mainland and lives in Surrey with her family.

DAYNA GILL, ABM
direct: 604-515-3243
cell: 604-771-8557
email: dgill@ibew258.bc.ca

Marina Luporini hails from BC's lower mainland and has a degree in Business Administration with a focus on labour relations and human resources from SFU. She will be managing employer relations for members working in Traffic Control and representing members working in Manufacturing. Marina enjoys her free time with her husband and daughter, and two horses.

MARINA LUPORINI, ABM
direct: 604-515-3242
cell: 604-314-4414
email: mluporini@ibew258.bc.ca

Joey Sutherland comes to our Union as a Journeyman Lineman and previously worked at BC Hydro and in the line contractor world. He has been assigned to represent members working at private line contractor companies, and at BC Hydro in the Fraser Valley. When not busy at work, you can find Joey mountain biking, on the golf course, or with his wife watching their boys at the hockey rink. 🏒

JOEY SUTHERLAND, ABM
cell: 604-366-3246
email: jsutherland@ibew258.bc.ca

Brother Jim Wolfgang leaves a legacy of IBEW generosity to the MS Society of Canada



Brother Jim Wolfgang, center, in 2014 with Brother Laird Cronk, right, and MS Society Rep Todd Abercrombie.

Brother Jim Wolfgang, a construction electrician by trade and member of Local 230 on Vancouver Island for more than 65 years, passed away in Nanaimo on May 14th. He was 88 years old.

Jim served as an Assistant Business Manager with his Local and in 1962 began working as an International Rep with the IBEW First District. A few short years later Jim was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He continued to work until his retirement in 1985 and during that time became very active with the MS Society of Canada, including as volunteer president of the BC division.

Brother Wolfgang will be remembered as the driving force behind the IBEW becoming the first Union in Canada to sponsor a charity on a national level, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada. To this day, IBEW Locals across the country hold fundraiser events to support the work of the MS Society, including our own Local 258 annual golf tournament.

We join IBEW Locals across the country in saluting Brother Jim Wolfgang who helped make our Union and the labour movement in Canada stronger and more resilient. 🏒

Women’s Committee News & Events

Formed in 2015, the Local 258 IBEW Women’s Committee aims to educate, assist, support and empower women in our Union.

Mission Statement

The IBEW Women’s Committee is committed to increasing the participation of women in every aspect of the Union, including apprenticeship training, mentoring, leadership, community and political activism.

Committee Goals

- To encourage, educate and uplift our sisters to take on activist and leadership roles within their communities and the IBEW;
- To educate and inform our industries on issues related to gender equality, gender opportunity and gender discrimination;
- To assist in the development of mentoring programs, formal and informal, that support women’s leadership and promote opportunity;
- To assist in the establishment of programs and educational materials to further educate our members and employers on diversity and inclusion the workplace;
- To aid in the elimination of sexual harassment, violence against women, sexual discrimination and exploitation in IBEW Union halls and workplaces;
- To advocate for employment equity and civil, human, and women’s rights.

Women’s Committee Members

Dayna Gill – serving as Chair; Local 258 ABM

Rachel Allen – serving as Vice Chair; Unit 6 Chair; working at Prime Traffic

Vicki Flett – serving as Treasurer; Unit 6 Vice Chair; working at Valley Traffic Systems

Karen Porter – Committee member; working at BC Hydro

Cathy Tagseth – Committee member; Unit 5 Chair; working at BC Hydro

Carolyn Furler – Committee member; Unit 2 Recorder; working at BC Hydro

If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Dayna Gill at womcomm@ibew258.bc.ca. 📧

Local 258 Women’s Committee establishes long-term fundraising initiative



You can now bring your empty beverage bottles, cans and containers to any Return-It Express Depot in BC and donate your refund directly to our Local 258 Women’s Committee’s “Project Bottle Drive to Survive” campaign.

“It’s an easy and convenient way to get rid of your empties and support our Women’s Committee in our various fundraising initiatives,” says Gill, Chair of the Women’s Committee, “Return-It has been great in helping us get this going and I’d like to thank the members of our Committee for their ideas and support for this initiative.”

What you can do:

Collect your empty beverage bottles, cans and containers and place them in a large, clear plastic bag or transparent recycling bag (recommended size 36 inches tall x 30 inches wide) – read details about bags here.

Find your local Return-It Express Depot by visiting their website at www.return-it.ca/locations.

Drop your bags at the Express kiosk - please note, there is a limit of six bags per visit – and enter the Local 258 IBEW Women’s Committee account number:

6 0 4 5 2 0 3 3 0 5

You’ll be prompted to enter the number of bags you’re dropping off and the kiosk will print sticker tags – one to be applied to each bag – and then drop the bags at the designated drop-off area.

That’s it! Easy, eh?

Staff at Return-It will count the items in your bag and calculate the refund that will be deposited into the Local 258 IBEW Women’s Committee account. 📧

Funds raised to support Food Banks BC



Activist members of the Local 258 IBEW Women's Committee took their day off to volunteer at the "Project Bottle Drive to Survive" drive-thru fundraiser. From left are Grace Zhong, Shop Steward at BC Hydro; April Wolsynuk, Shop Steward at GoTraffic; Vicki Flett, Unit 6 Vice Chair, Shop Steward at Valley Traffic; Rachel Allan, recently appointed Chair of Unit 6, Vice Chair of the Women's Committee and Shop Steward at Prime Traffic Solutions; ; Dayna Gill, Local 258 IBEW ABM, Chair of the Committee; and, Nicole Biernaczyk.

"Thank you to everyone who came out to our Women's Committee Bottle Drive on Saturday August 29th," said Doug McKay, Local 258's Business Manager / Financial Secretary. "A lot of volunteer work was put into this successful event and congratulations to everyone involved. We can all take pride in this achievement by the active members of our Women's Committee to support Food Banks BC, especially during these pandemic times when more and more families are in need in communities across the province."

Dayna Gill, Committee Chair, reported the COVID-19 aware event was a fairly busy day with everyone enjoying the good weather and collected the empty bottles, cans and container donations at the drive-thru fundraiser.

"It was a great opportunity to work together with our IBEW Sisters who all volunteered on their day off," said Dayna, who works as an ABM at Local 258 IBEW. "We had our COVID-19 health & safety plan in place and successfully maintained physical distancing when we could and wore our Local 258 IBEW branded face masks when we couldn't. And there was lots of hand sanitizer!"

Many thanks to GoTraffic Management who helped arrange the drive-thru space at the Universal Group's yard in Surrey.

"We've also heard from members who want to make a cash donation, and yes, we do accept cash and cheques," said Gill, "And we can do e-transfers too – just get in touch with us at womcomm@ibew258.bc.ca or call me directly at 604-771-8557."

Donation delivered to Food Banks BC



Dayna Gill, ABM and Chair of the Women's Committee, together with Rachel Allan, who serves as Vice Chair and Unit 6 Chair, presented the cheque for \$2200.00 fundraised from the Project Bottle Drive to Survive campaign to Dan Huang-Taylor, Executive Director of Food Banks BC, on October 6, 2020. 📄

An invitation to join our first NextGen Committee



Offering opportunities and support to our members to become more active in your communities and within our Local Union, Local 258 is reaching out to members 35 years of age and younger who want to make an im-

act – in our Union, in the organized labour movement and in your community – and invite you to join our first NextGen Committee!

We've created this space for younger members to get involved in our Union's future and to ensure your needs and interests are properly understood and represented. With a mandate to increase Union activism through education, engagement and leadership opportunities, your Union can help guide and equip young workers like you with the tools you will need to be our leaders of tomorrow.

Since being assigned to help launch this initiative by Business Manager Doug McKay in July, Local 258 IBEW ABM Dayna Gill says, "We have members from all over the province joining our Zoom meetings and working to get our first NextGen Committee off the ground. And we're encouraging more members to join us!"

Meetings are planned by the Committee and they are extending an invitation and seeking leaders and members to help grow our NEXTGEN Committee and take an active role in our Union!

You can email the Committee directly at nextgen@ibew258.bc.ca or contact Dayna Gill, ABM, at dgill@ibew258.bc.ca, by direct phone at 604-515-3243 or toll free at 1-877-520-3305, to confirm your interest and if you have any questions. We are here to help and have tools and resources that can help grow a successful NextGen Committee! Updates and Committee activities will be posted on our Local 258 IBEW website – register for your member account today at www.ibew258.bc.ca

Next Gen Event

It's Moustache Season!

By Cheyenne Hartley,
NextGen Committee member

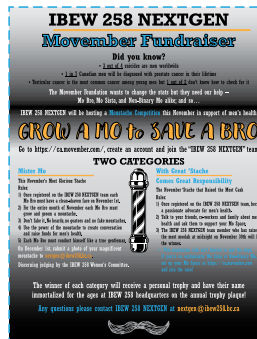
We'd like to introduce ourselves – we are the IBEW 258 NEXTGEN Committee and we'd like to invite you to join our Movember Fundraiser.

NEXTGEN, also called RENEW in the USA, is an initiative popping up in IBEW locals everywhere with support from the international office.

The concept for NEXTGEN is to engage IBEW members under 35 with our Union to get more involved with our communities. If your interest is piqued, please email nextgen@ibew258.bc.ca for more information, but for now, we need to talk about facial hair.

Most, if not all of us, have heard of Movember – a play on the month of November when moustaches are grown in support of prostate cancer research. There is a touch more to the story than that though, and I'd like to share it with you.

Full disclosure: I cannot grow a moustache. I don't particularly lament this fact since I identify as a woman, but it does mean that my appreciation for Movember will be slightly different than those sporting the Mo.



So, in 2003, two gentlemen in Melbourne, Australia, mourned the loss of the moustache as a style choice and joked about bringing it back. They convinced 30 men to participate and, inspired by a friend's mother who was fundraising for breast cancer, they penned the Movember rules and held the first Movember campaign for men's health.

Since that quiet beer, the Movember Foundation has expanded to 21 countries and raised over 670 million dollars for men's health programs.

You may notice I say "health programs" and not just "prostate cancer research", and that's because they do quite a bit more than just fund prostate cancer research. They are also heavily involved in testicular cancer research and men's mental health programs. Take a gander at <https://ca.movember.com/> to learn more.

So this November, IBEW 258 NEXTGEN will be running our first Movember fundraiser, and we welcome everyone to participate; join for you, for your dads, brothers, sons, co-workers, friends, or just for a socially acceptable reason to grow a rad moustache.

Next Gen Event

IBEW 258 NextGen volunteering in Hudson’s Hope

Submitted by Cheyenne Hartley,
IBEW 258 NextGen Committee member

Halloween celebrations were a little different this year but with 2020 already feeling like a bad dream it was important for people, especially kids, to get out and safely have a good time. And so, the town of Hudson’s Hope put on Frightful Frolics with assistance from the 2021 Hudson’s Hope Grad Class, the RCMP, Hudson’s Hope Fire Rescue and your very own IBEW 258 NextGen.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in mind the event took place outdoors, which is somewhat dicey in Hudson’s Hope this time of year; in fact it snowed over a foot the night before the event and the temperature was a balmy -1 to -5 C.

Luke Allen-Garbutt stole the show with the Frightful Frolics Express and his sasquatch costume, patiently towing hordes of goblins, gremlins, superheroes, and princesses behind his quad. He was supported by a pit crew of Kaleb Slamang, and Rebecca Piercey who oversaw sanitizing between riders and herding the excitable youngsters on and off the train.

Elsewhere, fog was billowing, evil laughter echoed, and a mummy shambled between gravestones; a graveyard had appeared near the Hudson’s Hope ball diamonds.

NextGen members had done battle with papier mâché, spray paint, tape, and various sharp things to create a walk-through cemetery.

However, Hudson’s Hope children are made of sterner stuff than anticipated though and braved the burial ground with some screams, some laughter, and a lot of enthusiasm.

JM Lessard and Ciaran Ballantyne staunchly manned the graveyard - a mummy and giant octopus respectively. Shayne Schweb, Cheyenne Hartley, and Chris Creelman preferred a more subtle role - controlling the sounds, operating the fog machine and generator, triggering animatronics, and generally keeping things going from behind the scenes.

All in all, it was a successful, exhausting and somewhat chilly night. IBEW 258 NextGen looks forward to next year with plans to dial up the scare factor... just a touch. 🚩



Labour News & Events

Diversity and Inclusion

Building a Stronger IBEW



The first page of the IBEW Constitution begins with the following declaration:

“Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, human security.”

It’s a powerful statement of the values that IBEW leaders and members pledge to uphold when they take the oath of membership. And combined with the Union’s first objective, to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, the message is unmistakable.

“There is a place in the IBEW for working people of every race and gender, every religion and sexual orientation, every background,” said International President Lonnie Stephenson in launching the implementation phase of the Union’s new diversity, inclusion and equity initiative, “IBEW Strong.”

“The IBEW has long stood for solidarity, equality and against oppression of any kind and IBEW Strong is a natural outgrowth of what this Union has stood for since its beginning,” Stephenson said. “The IBEW should be a place that welcomes all workers and gives everyone a voice and a shot at a better life for themselves and their families.”

Growing our base of leaders is an important component of IBEW Strong, which will work to encourage people of all backgrounds to run for office and assume leadership roles in their locals and elsewhere. Countless studies have shown the importance of having someone who looks like you in a leadership role. It helps to expand the boundaries of what is possible for someone and makes it easier for them to see themselves as a potential leader.

“It’s up to every single one of us to make sure that the IBEW not only survives, but thrives, long after we’re gone. Being inclusive, expanding the borders of opportunity to everyone in our communities, is the way we make sure that happens. It’s not just the right thing to do. It’s the smart thing to do so this great Union lasts another 129 years.”

If you are interested in participating in an IBEW Strong initiative with your Local Union, please email dmckay@ibew258.bc.ca.

Paid leave achieved for victims of domestic violence

In March, the BC government announced that five days of paid leave will be provided for workers fleeing domestic and sexual violence, making a real tangible difference for people who need to seek access to the justice system, or health and mental health services.

The BC Federation of Labour has been a strong advocate for paid leave for workers experiencing domestic and sexual violence. In the fall of 2019, the BC Fed mobilized thousands of workers and allies as part of an online campaign to put pressure on the BC government during its consultations on the issue.

Statistics show that sexual assault is on the rise in Canada and that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) disproportionately affects women and working-aged Canadians. IPV and sexual violence affect women, trans people, people with disabilities, Indigenous people and people of colour disproportionately.

Amendments to Employment Standards Act protect jobs

Many unionized workers in BC have negotiated paid sick leave in their collective agreements, including job protection if you have to take a sick day.

Unfortunately, BC’S employment laws don’t require employers to provide paid sick leave. For too many workers the reality of calling in sick puts them at risk of being fired by their employer and losing their job.


If it wasn’t already recognized how unfair that is, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the importance of paid sick leave as an income protection if a worker gets sick, and it’s also an effective public health strategy that supports workers to stay home if they are not feeling well, effectively reducing the possibility of coronavirus transmission. It has further revealed the importance of protecting a worker’s basic job.

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in mid-March, BC’s provincial government passed amendments to the Employment Standards Act (ESA) that will now provide up to three-days per calendar year of unpaid, job-protected sick leave to support workers who cannot work due to illness or injury (to qualify, you must have worked for your employer for at least 90

days). A worker may not get paid for taking those sick days, but they will not lose their job.

The ESA amendments also include, until further notice, unlimited unpaid job-protected leave if you are unable to work for reasons relating to COVID-19 and applies to:

- Workers who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are acting in accordance with instructions or an order of a medical health officer or the advice of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or registered nurse;
- Workers who are in quarantine or self-isolation in accordance with an order of the provincial health officer, an order made under the federal Quarantine Act, or guidelines of the BC Centre for Disease Control or the Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Workers who have been directed by their employer to stay home because of concerns about their exposure to others;
- Workers who are outside of BC and are unable to return because of a travel or border restriction.

In a forward-looking joint statement released in May, BC's Premier John Horgan, together with Premiers Brian Pallister of Manitoba and the Yukon's Sandy Silver, expressed their agreement that "the federal government is looking at a sick leave program that protects people and businesses, and we look forward to advancing this initiative. Paid sick leave is crucial for the safe restart of our economy." 

workingsickisntworking.ca

Campaign launched to ensure paid sick leave for every worker

With over half of workers aged 25 to 65 in BC not having paid sick leave, the BC Federation of Labour is calling for a minimum of three days of paid sick leave per year for every worker — full-time, part-time, permanent, temporary and casual, regardless if they are in a Union or not. They are also calling for workers to get more sick leave based on the hours they work, up to a maximum of 10 total days of paid sick leave every year and that workers on sick leave would receive their full wages or salary, paid by the employer.

The plan also calls for 10 days of paid leave specifically earmarked for COVID-19, covering workers who contract the disease, who have to self-isolate, or who need to care for a loved one who has the virus. (Workers who contract COVID-19 at work are already eligible to make a WCB claim.)

The BC Fed plan also allows for an additional 16 weeks of unpaid sick leave once a worker has used up their paid leave, during which their job will be protected and their employer can't fire them.




An open letter supporting the plan appears on the campaign website at WorkingSickIsntWorking.ca and you are invited to add your name to it, telling Premier John

Horgan and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to take action on this important proposal. 

Donations delivered to Aтира Resource Society to help women in need

A much-appreciated donation from our Women's Committee was recently delivered to Aтира Women's Resource Society in Vancouver's downtown east side. Dayna Gill, Committee Chair, delivered toiletries collected from delegates at the Union's 2019 Bridging the Gap conference and useful items gathered at December's Unit 5 & 6 meetings.

Thanks to Vicki Flett for donating the mini-duffle bags, and a special thank you goes to Joanne Delage for her generous donation of beautiful hand-knitted toque/scarf sets. In a thank you letter sent to her Union, Joanne wrote, "Every toque/scarf set is made with love and intention that the wearer be supported in their struggles. And I use wool I cherish love, not anything less."

Aтира supports women and children affected by domestic violence and our Women's Committee would like to thank everyone who donated these very necessary and useful items. 

Local 258 Traffic Controllers provide safety on roads, security at the border



Vancouver Local 258 Shop Steward Vicki Flett and Local 258 member Wendy Lawson, Traffic Control Persons employed by Valley Traffic Systems, working at the Pacific Highway Border Crossing's COVID-19 provincial checkpoint.



Vicki Flett worked an office job for Telus, the Vancouver-based telecommunications

company, until six years ago when she turned from that for a challenge more physically demanding – work as a traffic control person on the roads and byways of British Columbia.

Drivers recognize traffic control people as the workers holding a sign and directing traffic during construction projects, but that scrapes the surface of their responsibilities to drivers, themselves and skilled workers across the province.

“There was just something about it,” said Flett, now a Shop Steward for Vancouver Local 258. “I knew I was more suited to a work-boot industry than a high-heel industry. That’s the only way I can put it. Now, look at what I’m doing.”

Flett currently works on the Canadian side at the Pacific Highway border crossing, helping her country deal with the COVID-19 pandemic from the front lines. She also works with other Local 258 leaders to gain more respect for traffic control persons, who perform dangerous and vital work – even though it often feels like citizens and even political leaders don’t seem to realize it.

“We touch base with every single industry that has to be on the road,” Flett said. “We go from road paving to hydro to concrete pouring to repair work when a gas

line brakes to utility when a power line collapses. We need to know how every single trade does their job so we can do our job effectively.”

More than 800 Local 258 members work as traffic control persons and about 90 percent are women, Assistant Business Manager Dayna Gill said.

Most drivers view traffic control people as the individual who holds a sign telling them to “slow down” or “stop” or “go” during construction projects. Flett’s current job plays a role in national security.

With travel between Canada and the U.S. limited during the pandemic, she and a colleague are in charge of directing incoming cars to a designated area, where they are questioned by a screening officer from Canada’s Border Services Agency.

Depending on the day, between 20 and 35% of those cars are denied entry. That’s helped keep British Columbia’s infection rates lower than neighbouring Washington state, where Seattle was an epicenter of the coronavirus early this year and also saw a spike after the U.S. Memorial Day in late May.

Flett said most drivers have been considerate, but with tensions riding high, getting some to follow directions is a challenge.

“I know I’m doing my part to help keep my country safe,” she said.

Commonly called “flaggers” in the United States, traffic control people have a myriad of responsibilities

even in normal times. They provide a safe workplace for crews and workers on the scene. Directions to motorists must be clear so they easily understand their meaning, often in areas with high levels of noise because of both construction and passing traffic. They do both of these things while staying in radio contact with supervisors on the jobsite, who are constantly informing them of when to expect a slowdown or to give an all-clear.

As if that isn't enough, they're understandably worried about staying safe themselves.

According to the British Columbia Federation of Labour, 13 roadside workers in the province were killed on the job and another 63 suffered serious injury between 2009 and 2018. More than half of those incidents involved traffic controllers, with two being killed on the job in 2018. Verbal abuse from passing drivers is all too common.

"It's one of the most dangerous jobs," said Gill, who has worked as a traffic control person since 2006. "You're maintaining the flow of traffic while protecting workers, bicyclists and pedestrians. Your ultimate goal is to maintain that flow while keeping it safe at all times."

Training is lightly regulated, however. In British Columbia, new employees must take a two-day course put on by a province-certified Construction Safety Alliance Certified Instructor – which can cost them \$250 unless the employer agrees to pay for it.

The quality of training depends on the employer's commitment. Unlike apprenticeship programs in construction and some utilities, Unions have virtually no say in their operation, although Local 258 works to hold its signatory companies to a higher standard.

Local 258 participated in a recent labour federation study that made 17 recommendations to the Worker's Compensation Board of British Columbia (also known as WorkSafeBC), a provincial statutory agency that enforces workplace safety standards, on improving job conditions for traffic control persons (see article on page 20).

Gill hopes to see a day when they earn Canada's Red Seal certification, awarded to journeyman tradesman as a sign they can perform their work at the highest level. On a jobsite, traffic control people work with skilled tradesmen and women from virtually every other industry.

That also might lead to more respect. Gill said Local 258 members working as traffic controller persons make \$25-30 CDN per hour – far better than non-union traffic control people but significantly less than a journeyman trades person.



Local 258 Shop Steward April Wolsynuk, right, and member Daena Judd, left, hold signs while directing traffic around a BC Hydro crew working in Maple Ridge. Wolsynuk and Judd are employed by GoTraffic Management.

"With the Red Seal, training and apprenticeships across the country would be just the same," she said. "Now, we're relying on that company to train you."


Organizing is a priority for Gill since becoming an Organizer and Assistant Business Manager in March. She's working with Business Manager Doug McKay and other IBEW leaders in Canada to develop a master traffic control agreement.

"We're very proud of the work our traffic control people do and the organizing success of them by Local 258," First District Vice President Thomas Reid said. "This is another example of the diversity of our membership in the First District. We look forward to welcoming many more in our great Union and helping them get the recognition and representation they deserve."

Local 258 is primarily an outside and utility local with members also working in manufacturing, tree trimming and power vac.

"I'm very proud of the traffic control people that we represent," McKay said. "It's a dangerous job that they do and they do a great job protecting our line workers. They're the ones out on the road. They stand there with a plastic sign and keep a 5,000-pound vehicle from coming at you."

From the IBEW's Electrical Worker

Editor's Note: Vicki Flett was recently appointed as Vice Chair of Unit 6. To watch a video about this story, visit your Local 258 IBEW website at www.ibew258.bc.ca 

Occupational Health & Safety Regulation, Part 18: Traffic Control

Working to keep members employed in traffic control out of harm's way

Roadside work is one of the most dangerous occupations in British Columbia and for many Local 258 IBEW members, the roads are their job sites. There are many high-risk and dangerous hazards in this work, and safety for everyone on the job is the number one priority.

In a ten-year period between 2009 and 2018, 13 roadside workers were killed and 63 suffered serious injury; 25,429 days of work were lost; and, \$15M in claims costs were paid. Over half of these workers were Traffic Control Persons (TCPs) and in 2018, two TCPs died on the job.



Kristina Henson works in traffic control with Valley Traffic.



Safety requirements for the province's traffic control industry fall under WorkSafeBC's (WSBC's) Occupational Health & Safety Regulation (OHSR), Part 18: Traffic Control.

The BC Federation of Labour is the leading force in this province that advocates for worker health and safety and is a member of the WSBC's internal working group for Traffic Control alongside employer health and safety advisors, the BC Construction Safety Alliance, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), BC Ferries, and the Council of Construction Association.

In 2019, the Fed's Occupational Health & Safety Committee, under the direction of Sheila Moir, participated in a comprehensive review of the WSBC's Traffic Control Regulation and Local 258 IBEW was directly involved, making a significant contribution and providing valuable input on behalf of more than 700 members who work in the traffic control industry in communities across BC. The OHSR was last updated in 1999.

Traffic Control Persons have an important job on construction, maintenance and utility projects. They regulate the traffic at worksites to keep them safe for workers, motorists and pedestrians. 90% of TCPs in BC are women.

"This review was long overdue," says Dayna Gill, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager. Gill has been working in traffic control since 2006 and has previously served as a Shop Steward in her workplace. She was appointed to serve on the BC Fed committee reviewing the Traffic Control Regulation in January of 2019 by Doug McKay, our Union's Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

The Fed's submission to the proposed amendments focused on updating and harmonizing the OHSR with the 2020 edition of the Traffic Control Manual for Work on Roadways issued by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

"Our contribution reflected Local 258 IBEW's focus on ensuring safety is the #1 priority for our members, their employers in Traffic Control, and safety for motorists" says Gill. "A lot of hard work was put into this review by many committed stakeholders, all with the same priority – to ensure the highest standards of safety for workers in this industry.

"I'd like to thank Doug McKay for the opportunity to serve on this committee and to the Chair, Sheila Moir, for her leadership. I encourage all of our members working in traffic control to read the BC Fed submission and be familiar with the MoTI Manual – both available on our website."



Proud members of Local 258 IBEW are shown here socially distancing in solidarity as they worked together in their COVID-19 pandemic “pod” last May. From left: Daena Judd, GoTraffic Management; Devin Scott, BC Hydro; Tyler Wynsouw, BC Hydro; Josh Van Den Born, BC Hydro; Will Bueschkens, BC Hydro; and, April Wolsynuk, Shop Steward, GoTraffic Management. Photo taken in Maple Ridge by Dayna Gill, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager.

Among the 17 recommendations put forward in the BC Fed submission, are:

- Employers must ensure that all roadway work zones comply with MoTI Traffic Management Manual for Work on Roadways, 2020;
- Clarifying the definition of a “qualified person” in reference to the requirement for employers to conduct a risk assessment for all types of roadwork.
- Addition of new “Consultation” section in the Regulation requiring that the employer consults with the joint committee or the worker health and safety representative when required to ensure workers are involved in the process of, among other things, risk assessment and reviews; development of the traffic control plan and control measures; and, content and provision of worker education and training.
- Clarification of employer responsibility to prevent workplace violence and to add workplace violence to the list of workplace hazards to be considered in the risk assessment.

Additional recommendations specifically addressing TCPs, emergency scene management, TCP and Traffic Assistant training, location of TCP and long periods of delay are also included in the submission. The complete list of recommendations can be viewed on the WSBC website at www.worksafebc.com/en.

The proposed amendments have now undergone a public consultation process and a final recommendation by the WSBC’s Board of Directors is anticipated in the near future.

“It’s important that each and every person working in Traffic Control understand and are able to implement safety practices to the highest standards,” says Gill, “Safety is our job!”

If you have any questions about the OHSR Part 18: Traffic Control, please feel free to contact Dayna Gill directly at 604-771-8557; by email at dgill@ibew258.bc.ca; or by calling the Local 258 IBEW office in Langley at 604-520-3305 or toll free at 1-877-520-3305. 📞

Be kind. Be calm. Be safe.

A microscopic virus has changed our world

As we all adapt to living through the COVID-19 pandemic, the only thing that is certain is that our world has changed.

Non-essential travel is restricted and “staycations” have become the norm. Our options for socializing and engaging in groups are curtailed. Our connections with senior or immunocompromised family and friends are missing or fraught with anxiety and caution. Close embraces and handshake greetings have been replaced with waves or distant fist-bumps. And for many of us, our workplaces and working conditions have significantly changed.

It’s all been somewhat disorienting.

We’ve also seen changes with the streets becoming quieter, the skies appearing cleaner, and more birds and wild animals visiting our green spaces. Homes have filled with the smell of fresh baked bread and we’ve heard the sounds of pots and pans clanging together every evening in our neighbourhoods.

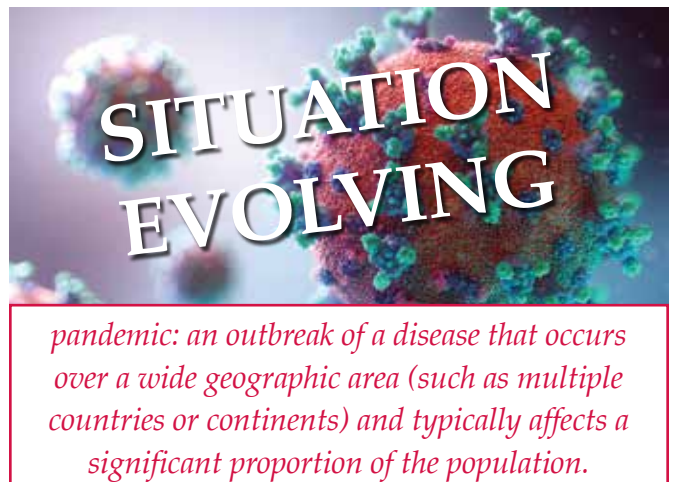
We’re discovering new ways of doing routine tasks like grocery shopping, visiting the doctor and getting a haircut. We’ve grown to appreciate workers who we previously may have taken for granted in service industry jobs.

Many have learned new skills on the computer with joining a Zoom meeting or having a medical appointment in a “cloud” or via telehealth.

As we continue to reshape our familiar routines, we cannot forget that a highly contagious airborne virus that has the potential to kill us is active in our communities. The virus is transmitted by human contact and until there is a vaccine or viable treatment the only tool each of us has right now to stop the spread is to follow all of the public health measures that are issued on a regular basis. In 2020, and for the near future, this is your primary personal responsibility.

Because of an asymptomatic phase that’s been determined to highly contagious, you really don’t know who has COVID-19, so you must follow the recommended public health orders and measures to prevent from getting it yourself and unknowingly transmitting it to others. You are your own best protection against COVID-19 when you restrict your interactions with others and follow all of the public health orders.

This year, public health officials, and what they have to say, have become more important in our lives



than ever before. As highly trained medical doctors and scientists who study and understand the communicable diseases that can harm the public on a mass scale, like COVID-19, these skilled and knowledgeable professionals develop plans and policies to manage these diseases and work to eradicate the harmful effects and lethal outcomes. And now, more than ever, is the time to follow their recommendations to keep each other safe.

In your home you must limit/restrict visitors. When you’re outside of your home you must physically distance from the next person by a minimum of 6 feet (2 metres). You must wear a mask to minimize the airborne transmission of the virus and you must wash or sanitize your hands frequently and keep them away from your face. If you don’t feel well – you must stay home and isolate – do not go out, distance yourself from other members of your household and **DO NOT GO TO WORK**.

As winter rapidly approaches and the forecasts of a rise in COVID-19 cases appears to be happening, we can’t succumb to “COVID-19 fatigue” and must remain vigilant with adapting to the constant and evolving changes that are taking place around us.

Are you planning changes to your traditional Christmas gathering this year? In an effort to support each other, Local 258 IBEW invites to share your creative ideas, stories and plans with other members on your password-protected Union website. Contact the Hotline at communications@ibew258.bc.ca so we can get your suggestions posted. Thank you for being kind, being calm and being safe. 📧

Supporting the United Way Labour partnership

The United Way and Canadian Labour have been partners since 1988 – working together to strengthen communities across Canada. The partnership developed around a common interest: ensuring that workers and working families have the support they need to succeed.

Each year, the United Way partners with Unions across the country to improve lives in local communities. This year, Local 258 IBEW sponsored Rachel Allan, Unit 6 Chair and member working in Traffic Control at Prime Traffic Solutions, as a Campaign Associate to work with the United Way of the Lower Mainland's (UWLM's) workplace fundraising campaign, continuing the tradition of our Union's partnership with the United Way.

Rachel attended the Union Hall in early November delivering a lunch n'learn event to support Local 258's own workplace campaign. Committee co-chairs Rob Munro, ABM and former UWLM campaign associate, and Janice Krieger, Administrative Support Staff, together with committee members Dayna Gill, ABM, and Marina Loporini, ABM, organized a successful online auction with items donated from generous sponsors.

Rachel also participated in her own fundraising initiative as part of team Seymour's Striders collecting more than \$900 in sponsorships through the UWLM's Climb Up 2020 fundraiser.

Rob Munro serves as Local 258 IBEW's representative on the UWLM's Labour Campaign Cabinet. 📧

bc 211

Help is available 24/7 by calling or texting 211.

bc 211 is a British Columbia non-profit organization, funded by the United Way, that provides a free, confidential, multilingual service that links people to resources for help, where and when they need it.

They provide information about and referral to a broad range of programs and services, including:

- basic needs like food and shelter
- mental health and addictions support
- legal and financial assistance
- support for seniors, and much more.

bc211 is accredited by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS), and meets international standards relating to call response, privacy and confidentiality, and quality and accuracy of resources listed in the database.

Site C transmission lines and towers are being constructed UNION by Local 258 IBEW members



From left are Taylor Anderson, Scott Schaffer, Jay Black, Reid Freeman, Byron Noble, Mitch Klarner, Skylar Desjarlais, Juan Villalba and Cole Rennie. Thanks to Jay Black for the photo.

BC Hydro's Site C transmission lines and towers are being built and installed across north-eastern BC's Peace River Regional District and the work is being done UNION by Local 258 IBEW members working with Allteck Line Contractors.

Allteck, a signatory employer on the Union's Master Line collective agreement, was the successful bidder on the \$113 million contract awarded in 2018, and signed a project specific agreement with Local 258 IBEW. The work, expected to be completed in 2023, includes the construction of two new 500kV transmission lines and 400 towers across 75 kilometres to connect the Site C project and the Peace Canyon generating station.

Visit your Union website at www.ibew258.bc.ca to view Allteck's tower construction video. 📺



Visit your website at www.ibew258.bc.ca to take the survey.

5 questions with Laird Cronk, president of the BC Federation of Labour

Looking beyond COVID-19, the labour leader makes the case for workers' rights

Reprinted with permission from BC Business magazine; original article by Nick Rockel.

1 Whom does the BC Fed represent, and what is its mission?

The BC Fed represents nearly half a million workers through more than 50 affiliated unions. Our mission is to advance the rights, protections and safety of all workers in British Columbia.

2 As BC and the rest of the world struggle with the health, social and economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, why does organized labour matter?

This pandemic has highlighted gaps in workplace protections and the social safety net. It has demonstrated the need for the very things the labour movement has long advocated: strong worker rights—like protected and paid sick leave, living wages, and occupational health and safety protections—and robust social supports.

It's now blatantly clear that lower-wage workers—whether in grocery stores, food delivery or the care sector—never performed work of less value. Their pay and benefits should reflect that value, and that's the kind of thing unions fight for every day, not just in a crisis.

3 Unionization rates have plunged in Canada since the 1980s, and at 29 percent last year, according to Statistics Canada, BC has some of the lowest participation in the country. What accounts for that drop, and how can you turn things around?

The troubling drop in union density is mostly the result of attacks on unions by right-wing governments seeking

Laird Cronk essentials

Cred: Red Seal electrician; board member, provincial Industry Training Authority

Hobby: Working out and motorcycle riding

Favourite place in BC: Ogden Point, or anywhere along the ocean, in Victoria

Last book I read: Memory Man by David Baldacci

Most memorable concert: ZZ Top at the Pacific Coliseum in the early '80s

Can't leave home without: My International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Challenge Coin

Guilty pleasure: Salt-and-vinegar chips

to erode worker rights. In BC under the previous government, this included privatizing many unionized public sector jobs to drive down wages. In the private sector, it meant changes to the labour code that rigged the system and made it harder and harder for workers to form or join a union.

Compounding all of this has been a shift in the labour market from the resource sector and other traditionally unionized sectors in BC to the service sector. Add a move by many businesses to cut costs by using contract and precarious workers, and you have a perfect storm.

We work hard every day to turn this tide. A big part of that work is communicating with and organizing workers in more-precarious sectors with few workplace protections. We did this, for example, when we campaigned

to ensure that ride-share drivers for Uber and Lyft had access to basic employment protections like minimum wages, workers' compensation and employment insurance. But we also need to push governments to make policy and legislative changes that make it easier for workers to organize and join unions.

4 The BC Fed has called for a fair and equitable economy for all. How is BC doing on that front, and what are three key things that need to happen?

After years of growing inequality, the BC NDP government has made significant progress in reversing the damage of years of social service deficits. Key to this

has been boosting the minimum wage and improving employment standards. Eliminating the regressive MSP tax and improving overall tax progressivity has also meant more resources to invest in key inequality-fighting programs like child care, housing and Indigenous self-determination.

But we need to make a lot more progress. Three measures that would help are, first, further changes to the labour code—to make it easier to form and join a union, and to develop a sectoral bargaining model to help workers in gig and contract-dominated sectors unionize. Second, lift everyone out of poverty, starting with more support for injured workers through much-needed changes to the Workers' Compensation Board, and a significant lift to income and disability assistance rates. And third, in the wake of COVID-19, we need massive public investment to grow social programs, build green infrastructure and expand public goods like transit, child care and sustainable forest management.



What do you say to people who accuse unions of making businesses less efficient and competitive?

It's an outdated and inaccurate picture that unfortunately continues to be spread by certain voices on the right. Ultimately, long-term economic growth can only be stable if working people share in that growth and have dignity in their work.

Bill 23: Changes to Workers' Compensation Act a welcome first step

Changes enacted into law in mid-August are a big first step in creating a worker-centered approach to health and safety and ensuring support for injured workers, said BC Federation of Labour president Laird Cronk.

"These long-overdue changes will prevent injuries and save lives," he said shortly after Bill 23 received royal assent in mid-August. "And they'll mean fairer, faster compensation for sick and injured workers."

Arising from three expert reviews conducted over the past two years, the new law:

- removes the one-year restriction on filing mental health claims;
- directs the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) to

consider both functional impairment and loss of earnings in calculating benefit, and ensuring workers will get the higher of the two;

- removes barriers to investigations, gives investigators more power and allows courts to hear victim impact statements;
- makes it harder for employers to avoid paying premiums; and
- relaxes the 75-day rule that limited the ability of WCB to change a decision.

"Unions, injured workers and their advocates worked hard to see these changes happen, and we're glad to have a government that's willing to listen to them," Cronk said. "We're confident that Premier Horgan, Minister Bains and the NDP government understand this is a first step. We'll be continuing to push for change to restore lost benefits and make the system fairer and easier for workers to access."

He cited a fourth report that has yet to be released from a review by Janet Patterson exploring comprehensive changes to workers' compensation in BC. "We'll keep pressing to have the Patterson report released, and to get quick action on its recommendations," he said.

Patterson's report released

The August 26 release of Janet Patterson's report on workers' compensation in BC is a watershed moment for sick and injured workers, said BC Fed president Laird Cronk.

"For the first time, we've had a process that put the voices of sick and injured workers and their families and their experience with the workers' compensation system in our province front and centre," Cronk said. "We thank government for releasing this report, which is a mark of respect. It validates workers' experience with a system that for too long has often been stacked against them."

Both Patterson's Report, including the Executive Summary and the Addendum are available on your Union website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

"Previous governments skewed the workers' compensation system in favour of employers and against workers," Cronk said. "Coming so soon after the much-needed reforms in Bill 23, the Patterson Report could put us on the road to finally rebalancing workers' compensation in BC. And it moves us closer to the goal of a truly worker-centered compensation system."

"On behalf of all workers in BC, and especially those who've been injured or made sick because of their work, I want to deliver a heartfelt thanks to Janet Patterson for everything she's done."

Barehanding on the Island



Many thanks to Journeyman PLT Brad Masse, Local 258 IBEW Shop Steward working at BC Hydro's Vancouver Island Transmission based out of Nanaimo, for sharing photos of work performed this summer changing out a number of insulators at various locations on 2L 128 on southern Vancouver Island, a 230,000 volt line built to 500kV standards, that were broken or "flashed" from lightning strikes.

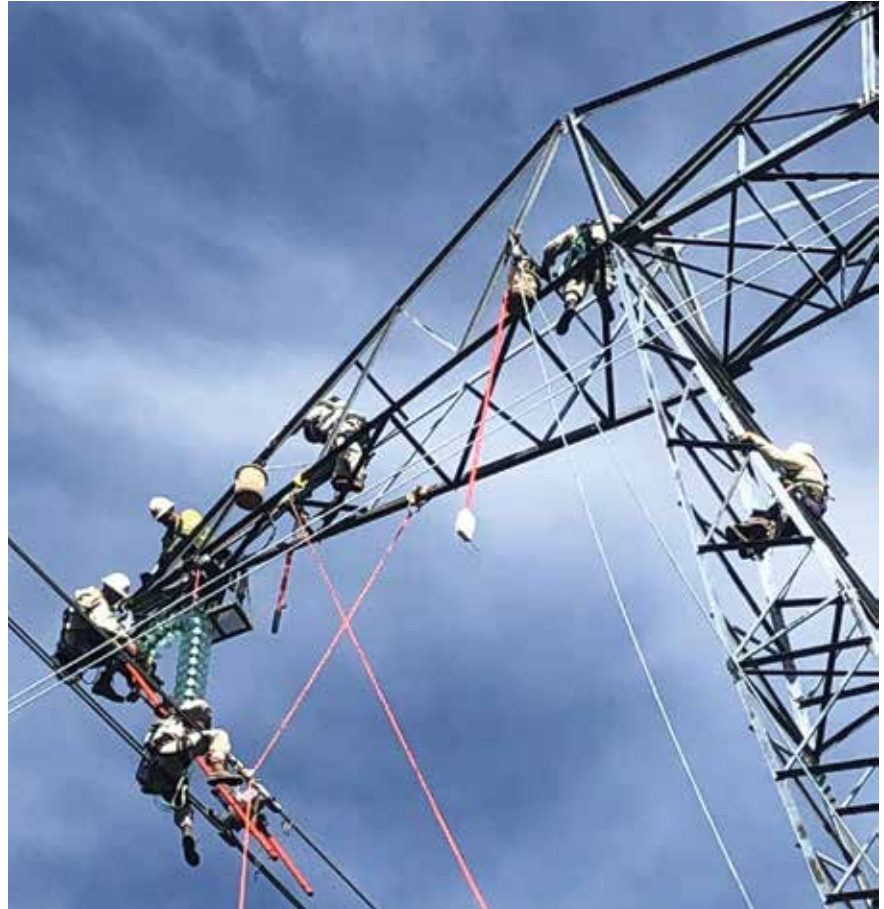


Photo top left: From left, Brad Masse, with TJ Fisher, Journeyman PLT and Trey Turko, Apprentice PLT.

Photo center left: Trades trainer Steve Fyfe is shown on the wire working to replace the insulators while wearing a protective barehand suit made of 70% Fire retardant Nomex and 30% stainless steel woven into the fabric.

Photo bottom left: Work shown on the cold end involves using a special kermantle rope with a wax coating to prevent contamination. Rope near the energized wire is tested to ensure the correct insulating value.

Shown on the tower is TJ Fisher on the wire with Dwayne Popek on the cold end. Above him is Jordan Gilraine and Darren Smith is beside him. At the arm pit of the tower is Trey Turko and down the tower is Steve Fyfe in the safety watching position. 🚧

Union mourns the loss of Dwayne Popek



In early September, Doug McKay, Local 258 IBEW Business Manager/Financial Secretary shared the sad news of the unexpected passing in August of Dwayne Popek with an announcement on our Union

website and in an e-mail message to members.

“Dwayne was a well-liked family man and a highly respected lineman,” said McKay. “He worked at BC Hydro and was a skilled member of the crews who have built a number of big transmission projects across this province. On behalf of our Local 258 members and staff, we extend our sincere condolences to Dwayne’s widow, his daughter, mother and brother, and all extended family, friends co-workers and Union brothers and sisters.”

An IBEW member since 2007, Dwayne participated on many award winning teams during his career at BC Hydro, including at Safety Rodeo competitions, the hockey tournament, and had his name included on a safety recognition award as part of the Spuzzum Transmission Construction Project. He also represented the Utility as a member of the BC Hydro contingent competing at the 2018 Kansas Rodeo.

A COVID-aware funeral took place in Bella Coola on August 19th where dozens of co-workers travelled to join with family and mourners to pay their respects.

Brad Masse, who worked alongside Dwayne on many transmission construction projects, was in attendance and said, “It wasn’t his time to leave us. We travelled to Bella Coola to pay our respects to our Union Brother, and joined the family to help place Dwayne in his final resting place. He was buried with an Local 258 IBEW challenge coin.”



Local 258 IBEW is very pleased to welcome Revamp Wellness, our new neighbour at our commercial strata building, as they officially opened for business on June 1st, 2020. Revamp Wellness is providing professional physiotherapy, massage therapy, kinesiology and chiropractic services.

With a long-term lease in place with the Local 258 IBEW Holding Society, Business Manager Doug McKay says, “I’m very pleased to welcome our new neighbours who have now opened their health clinic business next door to us here at the Union Hall in Langley.”

Revamp Wellness is a hands-on integrated health clinic providing top quality professional services and treatment delivered by professionally certified therapists. They are focusing on an integrated approach providing treatment designed to help people with muscle, joint or ligament injuries and disorders. They offer direct billing for clients to all major service providers, including Manulife and Sunlife Financial, and are open 7 days a week, with extended evening hours Monday to Friday.

For more information, and to book your appointment today, please visit www.revampwellness.ca.



Local 258 IBEW Photo Gallery



Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope gave out IBEW member service awards at the Hudson's Hope meeting in early March, from left are Justin Gammie, 5-year pin and Tony Dixon, 10-year pin.



Doug McKay, Local 258 Business Manager and Noel Johnston, Dispatcher, gathered with a few retired colleagues back in January before we were hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. From left are Carl Seabrook, retired from Midway Power, Doug, Kenny Peace, Noel and Doug Deolin.



Local 258 IBEW members are sworn into the Union by Dayna Gill, Unit 6 Chair, on the left, at the February 2020 meeting at the Union Hall in Langley. From left are Mitch Schweitzer, Stephanie Dallas, Colleen Huespe, James Anderton and Jack McKay.



Congratulations to Terry Price, left, on being awarded his 25-year IBEW member service pin in early March of this year by Lloyd Clark, Unit 4 Chair.



The Unit 6 meeting in Langley back in February was a lively event with lots of active member engagement!

Correction



Unit 3 Chair Dean Kotaras apologizes for sending forward an incorrect photo caption that appeared in the last issue of the Hotline. Congratulations to Bill Dawson on being awarded his 45-year member service pin at the December 2019 meeting in Castlegar.



Many thanks, and a belated happy birthday, to Shandy Wardrop, 3rd year apprentice PLT working at Allteck, for sending the Hotline magazine this photo of the custom made birthday cake created by his wife, Christine Smith, who is also a Local 258 IBEW member working at Allteck in the stores department, and his sister Emilee Wardrop. The cake was enjoyed at his 40th birthday celebration in August.



Women's Committee members Carolyn Furler, left, and Karen Porter, second from left, joined with Local 993's Women's Committee members to help deliver 64 Comfort Cases for sexual assault victims in northern BC, just before International Women's Day on March 8. Our Local 258 Women's Committee would also like to thank members who donated their time to volunteer at the Meaope Transition House in Fort St. John.



Dayna Gill, L258 IBEW ABM, is awarded her 5-year service pin from Business Manager/Financial Secretary Doug McKay.



Recently retired ABM Dan Klassen delivered a gift basket to David Goss wishing him a speedy recovery on behalf of Local 258 IBEW.



Congratulations to Tom Hockin, left, on being awarded his 40-year IBEW member service pin by Lloyd Clark, Unit 4 Chair, in early March.



Sworn in to IBEW membership by Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope at the March meeting in Hudson's Hope are, from left, Joe Carruthers and Shayne Schweb.



Congratulations to Dale Fulton, right, on being awarded his 25-year IBEW member service pin in early March of this year by Lloyd Clark, Unit 4 Chair.


You can view more photos at your Union website Photo Gallery.

UNION NOTICE BOARD

IMPORTANT NOTICE! WE NEED YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION


If you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please make sure you update your Union:

- phone us: 604-520-3305
- phone us toll free: 1-877-520-3305
- fax us: 604-522-3371
- e-mail us: info@ibew258.bc.ca
- update your website member account
- complete the online Address Change Form at [s](#).

Please note: your employer is not responsible for sending us your new mailing address, so let your Union know where you are so we can continue to deliver important information to you in a timely manner, including voting ballots and Union dues tax receipts (mailed in February). 


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 Union Hall in Langley for further information or if you have any questions:

- phone us: 604-520-3305
- phone us toll free: 1-877-520-3305
- e-mail us: info@ibew258.bc.ca 

Do you have photos, original artwork, cartoons or poems for The Hotline?

The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. We also know there are some of you who are very creative. 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 by postal mail to:

Local 258 IBEW
Attention: The Hotline
Suite #140 – 8029 199 Street,
Langley, BC V2Y 0E2 

Are you seeking, or is your employer transferring you, to work outside of British Columbia?

Before you seek work outside of our Local's jurisdiction in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, please contact the Local 258 IBEW Dispatch office to obtain the necessary documents.

If your employer is transferring you outside of our Local's jurisdiction in British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, **YOU MUST OBTAIN THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION BEFORE YOU GO.** Please contact the Local 258 IBEW Dispatch office:

direct: 604-524-3547

cell: 604-741-8857

**phone toll-free and ask for
Dispatch: 1-877-520-3305**

email: dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca 

Union Dispatch Services

Your Union offers Dispatch services for members who are unemployed and are eligible to work (via trade qualifications) with BC Hydro or one of the our signatory outside line contractors.

Local 258 IBEW members are NOT allowed to accept jobs directly from employers without first securing clearance from Dispatch. If you look for work with a Local 258 IBEW employer and are hired without securing clearance from Dispatch, you may be pulled from the job and face a fine.

To be eligible for Dispatch, you must register as soon as you become 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 the date that you registered with Dispatch.

Procedure for placement on the Dispatch List:

1. Your membership in Local 258 IBEW must be current 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 license(s) PLUS PAYMENT OF \$71.50 (current 2020) - via regular mail to Local 258 IBEW, ATTENTION: DISPATCH, Suite #140 - 8029 199 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 0E2; or scan and email to: dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca. We also accept payment by phone for debit or credit card, and by e-transfer.

For inquiries, please contact Dispatcher Noel Johnston directly at 604-524-3547 or 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. 📞

Updated Membership Guide now available



The popular Local 258 IBEW Membership Guide has been updated. Printed in March of this year, copies are now available by contacting your Union.

Originally published in 2017, this second version of the Guide is also available on your Union website. Log-in to your member account at www.ibew258.bc.ca. 📄

Published in the October, 2020 issue of IBEW's



Tony Brand, Retired Journeyman Lineman, Vancouver BC Local 258

In 1976, I was 17 and working the graveyard shift at McDonald's earning minimum wage. On advice from my dad, I got a commercial drivers license and took a temporary three-day job for our provincial utility. It lasted more than three months, so I was able to apply for membership to Local 258, and I was accepted. It was the best decision I could've made.

As a permanent employee, my wages jumped 300%. I got a pension and other benefits. My family never had to worry about the cost of prescriptions, dental, medical and more. Over 40 years we were able to save and buy a house. My children were able to get a higher education. I've been retired five years, and when I look back, the IBEW was the reason we enjoyed a great life and continue to do so.

I went on to serve as vice president and president of my local union, offices I never could have dreamed of at 17. If I learned anything, it's that every IBEW member is an organizer. Wear the logo proudly, talk to nonunion workers or call the local and make sure a staff organizer knows where to find them. Live up to the high standards of the code of excellence. Who knows? You could change someone's life just by telling them how good things could be with the union.

Editor's Note: Tony Brand served as an elected Officer with Local 258 from 2002 to 2018. 📄

From the Outside Office

Message from Dave McMinn, Local 258 IBEW President



It seems I receive most calls while I'm outside - with my assistant.



Contact:
phone: 604-520-3305
toll free: 1-877-520-3305
cell: 250-617-6787
email:
dmcminn@ibew258.bc.ca

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic this is the first issue of the Hotline since January and a lot has happened since then. At our Unit Meetings in January and February, the membership was asked to vote on a major donation. We asked you to approve a \$150,000 donation to support the work of Dr. Aziz Ghahary and the staff of the Burn and Wound Healing Lab at Vancouver General Hospital over the next three years. Thank you for voting in favour of this worthy cause.

In March, we started a project to transfer all of our office files to a digital format and get rid of hundreds of boxes of old paper files. Along with the file digitization, we had to set up a new operating system to use the digital files. This project was completed in September.

The Local is currently in the process of making a promotional video showcasing our membership and the work we do. We anticipate this video should be completed and available for viewing on our website by the end of 2020.

Our last in-person Executive Board meeting was held in March. When the pandemic hit, we switched to using conference calls and zoom to hold our monthly meetings. With the approval of IVP Tom Reid, I suspended all Unit Meetings until they can be safely resumed. Sadly, with new cases of the virus ramping up, it could be some time before we get back to in-person meetings and gatherings. All Executive Board information is now being posted on our website. Local Union staff and Unit Executive Board members are always available to answer any questions you may have.

I would like to thank outgoing ABMs Nicole Biernaczyk, Dan Klassen and Dan Giesbrecht for their years of service to the Local Union and all the best in the future. A big welcome to new ABMs Rob Munro, Dayna Gill, Joey Sutherland and Marina Luporini to Local 258. Unit 6 now has a new Chair in Rachel Allan who has taken over from Dayna Gill. Rachel is active on our Local's Womens Committee and she is our loaned representative for this year's United Way Campaign. This year more than any other we need to support the good work the United Way does in communities throughout the province.

I would like to congratulate former president of Local 258, Tony Brand, for the excellent letter he submitted for publication to the "Electrical Worker", describing how being a member of the IBEW impacted and benefitted him and his family. If you haven't read it yet, take a moment to do so (see page 31). Thanks, Tony, for a great letter.

On a final note, with winter coming on and poor weather and shorter days, please stay focused and stay safe. 🌨️

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LANGLEY, BC V2Y 0E2

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