

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

LOCAL 258 IBEW

HOTLINE

Your Union News Magazine

PUBLISHED & DELIVERED
SUMMER 2026



Opposite Sides of the Same Coin:

The Story of Former Local 258 Business Manager Art O'Keeffe

⚡ Local 258 Election Results

⚡ Introduction and Message from New ABM Jenny Short



The Gatzke Gazette

Summer 2026



Cody Gatzke

*Local 258 IBEW Business Manager
& Financial Secretary*



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As this edition of the Gatzke Gazette goes to print, it will be my last article as your Business Manager and Financial Secretary.

After a great deal of thought, I made the decision not to seek re-election to the position. It was not easy; in many ways, it was one of the harder decisions I've made, but ultimately it was the right decision for me.

Over the past several months, I have been overwhelmed by the support from members. Many expressed disappointment that I was not running again, while even more took the time to thank me for my service. Those conversations meant a great deal to me. Serving this Local has been one of the greatest honours and privileges of my life, and I want to sincerely thank every member who supported me, challenged me, and trusted me over the last four years.

While I chose not to run again for Business Manager, I did choose to stand for Recording Secretary, and the membership gave me a mandate to serve in that role for the next four years. Part of that decision came from my own experience transitioning into office.

When I assumed office in 2022, the transition was difficult. There was very little handover, very little support, and at times it felt like the outgoing administration had simply walked away. Efforts were made to ensure failure rather than success. I am proud we proved people wrong, but it was unnecessary and ultimately came at the expense of the membership. Things could have been different if egos had not gotten in the way.

I refuse to conduct myself that way, and unlike McKay, the Union's car will stay after I've gone away!

One reason I sought the Recording Secretary position was because I want to help ensure the next administration, regardless of who was successful, has support during the transition. It is a major responsibility, one I learned firsthand.

Looking back on the last four years, I am proud of what we accomplished together.

We negotiated the first-ever Master Traffic Control Agreement, the first Line Clearance Tree Trimming Agreement, and the first Yukon Line Agreement.

We bargained back-to-back two of the strongest BC Hydro agreements in decades, including a modernized essential services order that had not been meaningfully reviewed since 1994. For Master Line, we achieved the second-highest wage increase in the history of the Master Line Agreement, second only to what was reached under Business Manager John McGraw in 2001.

Communication also changed dramatically.

We moved toward more frequent news articles, meaningful email updates, video town halls, expanded website access, improved transparency, and embraced social media. Information that belonged to members, such as bylaws, updates, and bargaining information, became more accessible.

One accomplishment I am particularly proud of was changing our bylaws around ratification.

The catalyst for me running in 2022 was the decision by Doug McKay to roll over the BC Hydro agreement and leave 2% on the table without a membership vote. That money is gone forever. I campaigned on reducing the authority of the Business Manager in that area and followed through by amending our bylaws to require membership ratification for all agreements affecting wages and working conditions.

Modernization was another major undertaking.

Cleaning up procedures, introducing better processes, creating accountability, and modernizing how the office operates has been challenging work. We made significant progress, but there is still more to do. I am confident the next administration will continue moving that work forward.

I am also pleased to report that both Graham and 42 West Constructors are now officially signatory to the Master Line Agreement. Navigating Rokstad's insolvency, receivership, and court-ordered sale was a daunting undertaking. Not many companies survive insolvency, let alone the workforce remaining employed throughout the process.

One issue that remains unfinished is free collective bargaining in the public sector.

Early in my tenure, I obtained a legal opinion regarding whether a constitutional challenge to PSEC and bargaining mandates was realistic. The answer was clear: success was unlikely. That shifted our strategy toward lobbying for better mandates and building re-

lationships that could improve outcomes. That shift paid off.

At the same time, my view has not fundamentally changed: I still believe BC Hydro workers should bargain freely and openly. However, I also recognize the realities.

Getting out of PSEC would require legislative change, something no political party, left or right, appears interested in pursuing. Not all public sector unions even agree on the issue. Some support PSEC; others oppose it. If Local 258 wants out, we are better off pursuing that fight ourselves.

The reality is that leaving PSEC would also come with consequences. BC Hydro would almost certainly take a harder line at bargaining. Members would need to be prepared for prolonged strikes and difficult rounds of bargaining because Hydro would likely test whether we were serious or simply bluffing.

Retired Senior Assistant Business Manager and current Vice President Jim Greenwell often reminded me that PSEC can be both a sword for government and a shield for unions. He is not wrong. This round of bargaining showed that complexity. PSEC provided additional funding during negotiations and pushed BC Hydro to remove their concessions, much to Hydro's frustration.

I still believe reducing bureaucracy and fighting for free bargaining is the right principle. But principles also require members prepared to back them with action. Now that we have a Defence Fund, maybe that is worth considering after the fund has had time to grow.

To the staff who supported me, the Executive Board, every steward, committee member, retiree, and member who answered the phone, challenged an idea, attended a meeting, or simply cared enough to stay involved—thank you. The last four years have not always been easy, but they have absolutely been worth it. Serving as your Business Manager and Financial Secretary has been the honour of a lifetime.

I look forward to seeing what the next four years bring for our membership, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in a different capacity.

In solidarity,



Cody Gatzke

Business Manager and Financial Secretary ⚡

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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Cover Photo

Former Local 258 Business Manager Art O'Keeffe (seated, left) at a union gathering, circa 1979.

Photographer unknown.

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

Local 258 IBEW Officers:

Cody Gatzke - *Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

Kevin Duchak - *President*

Jim Greenwell - *Vice-President*

Larry Byhre - *Treasurer*

Karen Porter - *Recording Secretary*

Local 258 IBEW Executive Board Members:

Unit #1 Chair - Corey Higgins

Unit #4 Chair - Lloyd Clark

Unit #2 Chair - Lianne Bunting

Unit #5 Chair - Mike McMinn

Unit #3 Chair - Dean Kotaras

Unit #6 Chair - Jordan Flanagan

Local 258 IBEW Staff:

Senior Assistant Business Managers - Jag Aujla, Ben Berkelaar

Assistant Business Managers - Rob Munro, Marina Luporini, Ken Mitchell, Colin Petersen, Tatton Zanardo, Jenny Short

Membership Development and Organizing - Dean Kotaras, Ben Berkelaar

Dispatch - Noel Johnston

Business Representative - Emily Organ

Administrative & Office Staff (members of MoveUp) - Tracey Tilsley, Paula Bawa, Shila Stewart, Jamie Gee, Nikki Toews

BC Hydro Grievance Update: Apprentice Selection Preference

By Brother Jag Aujla, *Senior Assistant Business Manager*

Local 258 has reached a settlement with BC Hydro regarding the application of Appendix B 1(b)(i) of the collective agreement, which governs the selection and initial placement of apprentices.

The language in Appendix B states that preference will be given to Local 258 IBEW members in good standing when selecting apprentices, provided they meet the requirements of the apprenticeship program and subject to merit and efficiency.

Over time, the Union became aware that BC Hydro's interpretation of this language did not align with the Local's understanding of what "preference" was intended to mean. After candidates completed the selection process, which typically includes interviews and practical "show me" exercises, the Employer would tabulate the scores and simply select the highest-scoring candidate, regardless of whether the individual was a Local 258 member.

Under this approach, preference was effectively only applied in the event of a tie, meaning that a union member in good standing would only be selected over a non-member if both candidates had identical scores.

The Union filed a grievance challenging this practice, taking the position that the collective agreement requires a meaningful preference for members in good standing, not merely a tie-breaker.

Following discussions through the grievance process, the parties were able to reach a settlement prior to arbitration.

How the New Process Will Work

Under the terms of the settlement agreement, Local 258 members in good standing will receive an additional 10% added to their selection score, provided their initial selection score is 70% or higher. For example, if a union member in good standing receives a selection score of 70%, their adjusted score will be 80%.

Once the adjustment has been applied where applicable, the relevant selection committee will choose the highest-ranked candidate, provided that candidate's selection score is equal to or greater than 70%.

This change ensures that the preference language in the collective agreement is actually reflected in the selection process while still maintaining the requirement that candidates meet the necessary standards for the apprenticeship program.

As a precaution, Local 258 suggests that any member who does not get selected for a position they applied for should ask the Employer for their initial selection score, as well as their adjusted selection score (if applicable). This is to ensure that BC Hydro abides by the terms of the settlement as agreed upon.

As part of the settlement, the Union was also successful in obtaining a remedy for a member who had previously been affected by the Employer's interpretation of the language. In recognition of the lost opportunity resulting from not being selected for a Power Cable Technician Apprenticeship in an earlier competition, the member's Full-Time Regular seniority has been increased by one year.

This outcome reinforces the importance of enforcing the language of the collective agreement and ensuring that negotiated provisions are applied as intended.

The Union will continue to monitor how this selection process is applied moving forward to ensure that Local 258 members receive the preference that was negotiated into the agreement.

If any members have questions about the settlement agreement, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

In solidarity,

Jag Aujla

Senior Assistant Business Manager 

Letters to Local 258

Dear Local 258 Executive Board,
Thank you for your generous donation! Your support is greatly appreciated and makes a real difference to Minor Hockey. The skate sharpening machine will allow our players to have reliable sharp skates for years to come. We have a member who is actively learning to use the machine and will teach others including members of the district of Hudson's Hope.

Sincerely,
Hudson's Hope Minor Hockey



Dear Members of Local 258 IBEW,
On behalf of the U9 C6 Semiahmoo Blazers hockey team, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous sponsorship of \$500. Your support plays a meaningful role in helping our young athletes grow, learn, and enjoy the game they love. Contributions like yours help us provide quality coaching, essential equipment, and opportunities for team development that would not be possible otherwise. Your commitment to supporting youth in our community truly

makes a difference.

Thank you again for investing in our players and helping to make this season a memorable one. We are proud to have Local 258 IBEW as part of our team.

With appreciation,
U9 C6 Semiahmoo Blazers Hockey Team



Dear Local 258,

Thank you for the financial help of \$500 towards my trip to Japan for running the Tokyo marathon. The help from my Union gives me another reason to keep running at the age of 66.

Thank you again,
Brother Amrik Mahay



Dear Local 258,

On behalf of the Ridge Meadows Minor Hockey Championship Committee, I would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your sponsorship of the BC Hockey U15 Tier 1 Championship.

Your support was instrumental in making this event a success. Because of your generosity, we were able to provide an even more amazing and memorable experience for the athletes than would have been possible without your support. It is partners like you who allow us to make a tangible impact in our community.

We truly value our relationship with you and hope to find more opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Once again, thank you for your incredible support. We couldn't have done it without you!

Warm regards,
Nick Davis
RMMHA President

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$1000 to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

As a donor, you are part of a powerful community that's shaping the future of healthcare in BC. Your support helps to provide province-leading health care teams with the resources they need to save and improve lives—now and into the future.

When it's serious, the people of BC need the most specialized care—plus you.

VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation is proud to be BC's leading charity investing in health care innovation—but we couldn't do it without you. Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude,
Angela Chapman
President & CEO

Dear IBEW Local 258,

Thank you so much for your very generous \$500 sponsorship of our hockey team on behalf of Brother Victor Liberatore. Your support makes a meaningful difference by helping our players access the equipment, ice time, and opportunities they need to grow and succeed. Your contribution directly supports our athletes and helps ensure a successful season.

We truly appreciate your commitment to our team and community.

With gratitude,
Gennine Smith
Team Manager
U18A1 Cloverdale Colts



IBEW Local 258,

Our Christmas Charity event was a great success. We were able to raise \$2738 from our Asplundh employees who participated.

We divided the donations between the Canadian Red Cross and the Make a Wish Foundation.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation for your donation to our silent auction. Your participation is what makes this all work.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours Truly,
Steve Later
Manager

Dear IBEW Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for your generous donation in support of the Kamloops Minor Hockey Recreational Female program. Your contribution allowed the U13 Kamloops Chaos team to rent additional ice time and hire a skating coach, making a meaningful impact on the team.

This extra support helped all the girls—from those new to the sport to our more experienced leaders—build their skills, grow their confidence, and continue enjoying the game they love. Opportunities like this make a real difference, and we are incredibly grateful for your commitment to supporting youth and female athletics in our community.

Thank you once again for your generosity.

In solidarity,
Brother Justin Radmacker

My boys and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the IBEW members for establishing the funds back in 2008. These funds played a meaningful role in supporting their education choices and were a tremendous help in making those opportunities possible.

I'm proud to share that Eric is a journeyman electrician, and Ryan has built a career as a game designer. The support provided through the trust truly made a lasting difference in their lives, and we are very thankful.

Kind regards,
Nicola Lehmann

On behalf of the players, coaches, and families of the U13 Tier 3 Okanagan Knights, thank you for your generous donation. We truly appreciate your support of our team and the minor hockey in the North Okanagan.

Thank you for supporting youth sports and helping our athletes grow both on and off the ice. We are very grateful for your contribution.

Sincerely,
Mike, Raegan & Easton Carter

Thank you for the opportunity to take the OH&S training at Harrison.

I had an excellent week and gained a lot more knowledge to support my role in our JHSC and as a shop steward.

It is much appreciated.
Brother Curtis Spencer

Local 258,

We sincerely thank Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for your generous donation to our club. Your support helps us continue to build strong athletes and even stronger community members. Our club proudly fosters the values found in the Moral Code of Judo: honour, friendship, courage, respect, courtesy, honesty, modesty, and self-control. These principles guide our athletes both on and off the mats.

We would also like to recognize Shawn Kokko and his daughter Lennox, active members of our club for the past 4 years, for being a part of the community connection that makes support like this possible.

Thank you for investing in our youth and our community,

Jeanette Riches

Club Manager/Head Coach

Invermere Judo Club



IBEW Local 258,

I would like to send a thank you on behalf of the Chilliwack Vipers Chilliwack Minor Hockey Team (U7 C8) for your generous sponsorship!

Attached is our team photo of

all these hard working kids (and coaches)!

The team will be using these funds to put towards our attendance at an Abbotsford Canucks game where the players will be participating in the game intermission!

Thank you again for your support!

Alicia Ware

Team Manager

CMHA U7 C8



Dear IBEW Local 258,

On behalf of the Kamloops Cowboys U11 Minor Hockey team, we would like to sincerely thank you for your generous \$500 donation to our team.

Your support has been incredibly helpful in building our team development both on and off the ice. Contributions like yours help cover the costs of ice time, equipment, training opportunities, and team activities that strengthen not only our hockey skills, but also our teamwork, sportsmanship, and friendships.

We are proud to share that our team finished the regular season with 14 wins and 2 ties. The players have worked extremely hard all year, and we are excited to head

into the playoffs. Your generosity has played an important role in helping make this successful season possible.

Thank you again for investing in youth sports and supporting our team. We truly appreciate your commitment to our community and to helping young athletes grow and succeed.

Sincerely,

Brother Darren Greenwood & the Kamloops Cowboys U11 Minor Hockey Team

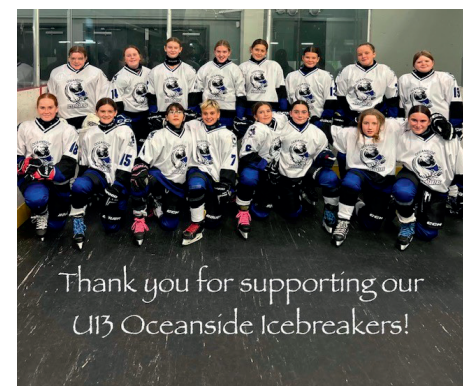


Local 258 IBEW,

On behalf of the Oceanside Icebreakers, we would like to thank Local 258 IBEW for the generous donation towards our U13 Girls hockey season.

Sincerely,

Brother Sean Croteau



Veterans Committee: Progress Report

By Brothers Jordan Geddert & Jamie Lowe, *Local 258 Veterans Committee Co-Chairs*

The Veterans Committee has experienced a highly productive and successful year in 2026. Since our last publication in the August 2025 Hotline, we have continued to advocate for and support existing veterans within the IBEW, as well as new members who are transitioning to civilian careers.

Our Local 258 Veterans Committee has grown to 43 members, making it the largest in the country. We continue to encourage participation and engagement, as the strength of our network directly enhances our ability to support veterans. Our Committee also remains actively involved in mentoring other newly-established local committees across Canada, further expanding our collective impact.

We are grateful for the ongoing support from the entire Local 258 membership. Your commitment and involvement are instrumental to the success of our initiatives.

Key Highlights (August 2025 - Present)

The Veterans Committee remains committed to its mandate of supporting those who have served. As such, we are proud to share with you what the Committee has accomplished since our last update.

Meaningful Careers

The Committee, with the invaluable support of the Local 258 membership, has successfully assisted four veterans in securing meaningful careers within the IBEW. Your contributions, such as ride-alongs, mentorship, and guidance, have been essential in demonstrating the strength of our Brother and Sisterhood.

We also secured a sponsorship by Milwaukee Tools Canada, who provided our most recent hire with an apprentice tool kit. We are proud to note that Brother Jamie Lowe contributed to the design of this kit.

Strengthening Support

Two additional collective agreements have been negotiated by Local 258 that include provisions supporting veterans, bringing the total to three agreements. Local 258 continues to lead nationally in this area.

Delegates from Local 258 attended the All-Canada Progress Meeting (ACPM) on May 11, participating in the second annual Veterans Caucus. Our Committee played a key role in organizing this event, which offers IBEW veterans from across the country an opportunity to meet other veterans and engage in discussion about veteran-specific topics in a safe and open forum.

Community Outreach & Engagement

The Committee has remained active in community outreach and engagement efforts. Our members attended the BC Hydro Curling Funspiel and participated in the Esquimalt Naval Base trade show, where they connected with members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Delegates to the Veterans Caucus also coordinated a volunteer initiative to clean up a military section of the local cemetery and nearby cenotaphs. Delegates also attended a guided tour of the local Legion, which featured a significant collection of military history and artifacts.

Additionally, our booth was present at the BC Hydro Hockey Tournament, where we raised funds for Honour House in Burnaby and Honour Ranch in Ashcroft. These organizations provide essential housing and support services to military personnel, veterans, first responders, and their families. Through the generosity of participants in our raffle, a total of \$5,000 was raised in support of these initiatives.

Next Steps

We have plans to expand our reach while simultaneously bringing existing veterans together through a provincial-level veteran program, as all five BC locals now have Committees. We are also in the infant stages of planning a national event for all First District veterans—stand by for future updates.

We sincerely thank all members for their continued dedication and support.

In Solidarity,

Jordan Geddert & Jamie Lowe

Local 258 Veterans Committee Co-Chairs ⚡

Bargaining News

3 Traffic Control Agreements Ratified To Date in 2026

Local 258 members working for the Universal Group and Streetwise Traffic Control, as well as those working under the Master Traffic Control Agreement, have all ratified their collective agreements this year. Together, these agreements demonstrate the impact of member engagement and a clear bargaining mandate, which resulted in stronger contracts that better reflect the needs and priorities of traffic control workers.

The Universal Group & Master Traffic

Following initial rejections, the membership was surveyed to establish a mandate. With that feedback, the respective bargaining teams returned to the table and secured the majority of what members had asked for.

The revised agreement with Universal Group includes increased wages, enhanced benefits, improved premiums, and the formalization of numerous previously discretionary items. This brings greater consistency among the membership and better transparency regarding working conditions.

Similarly, the Master Traffic Agreement, after an initial rejection, was renegotiated and ratified with meaningful improvements to wages, benefits, and premiums.

Streetwise Traffic Control

The Streetwise Traffic Control agreement also delivered gains, including higher wages and expanded benefits such as paid sick days, RRSP contributions, and travel provisions. ⚡

Members Ratify New Master Utility Arborist Agreement

Local 258 is pleased to announce that its newest Master Collective Agreement, covering members working at Davey Tree Expert Co. of Canada and Kootenay Complete Tree Service, has been ratified. We sincerely thank all members who took the time to vote.

This is the first time Local 258 has successfully negotiated a master agreement for the utility vegetation sector, and it is a major milestone for the industry in British Columbia. It marks the beginning of higher wages, better working conditions, and stronger recognition for utility arborists across the province.

Over the coming year, your Union will be focused on growing its presence in the utility vegetation sector by organizing non-union contractors and working to add other unionized contractors to the master agreement. This agreement is a foundation we can build on, toward a more unified sector and the potential for broader, industry-wide improvements. ⚡

North of 60: The Yukon Line Agreement

Local 258 has reached another milestone with the negotiation of our first-ever Yukon Line Agreement, which establishes a framework that will support organizing and representing linemen across the Yukon Territory for years to come.

The agreement was negotiated following the successful unionization of Castle Power Line Contractors, a division of Midlite Construction LP, and represents an important expansion of Local 258's presence beyond BC.

Line work performed in BC falls under provincial jurisdiction, specifically the BC Labour Relations Code, whereas all work in the Yukon falls under federal jurisdiction and is governed by the Canada Labour Code. This difference required the Union to negotiate a separate agreement from the Master Line Agreement that our members work under in BC.

The new Yukon Line Agreement closely mirrors Local 258's Master Line Agreement, creating consistency for contractors and workers who are familiar with the Master Line Agreement. At the same time, the agreement was tailored for the Yukon to reflect the many jurisdiction-specific provisions.

"Local 258 has held jurisdiction in the Yukon for years, but we never had any agreement in place," said Business Manager and Financial Secretary Cody Gatzke. "Previous administrations made efforts to organize this contractor and have them sign directly onto

the BC Master Line Agreement. The reality is that approach didn't get us there and the contractor remained non-union until now. This is a significant achievement, and I am extremely proud of that"

With a Yukon-specific agreement now in place, Local 258 has established a framework that can be used to organize additional line contractors operating throughout the territory, creating new opportunities to expand union density, improve working conditions, and ensure more workers benefit from strong collective agreements. ⚡

Months of Bargaining End in Landmark Agreement for BC Hydro Members

After months of difficult negotiations, essential services mediation, and preparations for a strike vote, Local 258 members at BC Hydro have overwhelmingly ratified what will be remembered as a legacy agreement for the membership and the Union.

This round of bargaining was anything but normal.

Throughout negotiations, the public sector bargaining mandate changed numerous times, creating uncertainty and frustration at the table. When members of the BCGEU took strike action and improved the mandate across the public sector, IBEW expected to receive the same mandate being extended elsewhere. Instead, the Public Sector Employers' Council attempted to provide Local 258 with less.

Your Union refused.

Local 258 declared an impasse and took the unprecedented step of the Union (not the employer) filing for essential services mediation. This was something that had not been meaningfully addressed since 1994, when MoveUp went on strike. The decision sent a clear message to both PSEC and the government: Local 258 would not be pushed around and would not accept less than other public sector workers.

For more than three decades, since the creation of the Public Sector Employers Act, the mandate framework has been the same across the entire public sector. The bargaining committee recognized early that essential

services disputes can take months to resolve and moved proactively to ensure BC Hydro could not simply delay any potential strike action as upcoming FIFA events were a major pressure point.

Local 258 filing for essential services was not only about this round of bargaining, but it was also about the future. The BC Labour Relations Board recommends that unions and employers who are designated as essential meet several months ahead of the contract expiring to ensure the essential service order is in place to allow either party to take prompt job action should it become necessary. The essential services process also drew direct attention from the government. Through sustained pressure and advocacy, the Union secured what it had been demanding: the full mandate.

After receiving the full mandate, the parties returned to bargaining only to hit another impasse when BC Hydro refused to remove concessionary proposals from the table. In response, Local 258 began preparations for a strike vote.

Before that vote could take place, the government requested both parties return to bargaining over the weekend one last time before the Union initiated our strike vote. What followed was a marathon weekend.

Your bargaining committee pushed through long hours at the table before finally reaching a tentative agreement at 5:15am on the Monday morning.

When members voted, they delivered a strong mandate of their own. Voter turnout reached 82% of eligible members, with 85.4% voting in favour of ratification.

The new four-year agreement delivers annual wage increases of 3% each year, which compounds to 12% over the life of the contract plus an additional 2.7% adjustment tied to the elimination of gainsharing.

Members also secured significant improvements to benefits and working conditions, including the creation of an annual health credit, increases to standby and PIC premiums, stronger contracting out language, preference provisions for Local 258 traffic control work, and numerous additional improvements throughout the collective agreement.

This agreement was not handed over. It was fought for, defended, and won. The bargaining committee should be proud of what was achieved. And more importantly, the membership should be proud of what was accomplished together. ⚡

Local 258 News

Owner-Operators Sign Union Agreements

Local Union 258 has signed agreements with five member-owned companies who are now operating under a union agreement: JWD Rental Enterprises, Lorne Kowblich Powerline Consulting Ltd., DJS Utility Services Inc., Switch Construction Ltd., and Sunshine Coast Powerline Services Ltd.

These firms, established by members as sole proprietorships or corporations, subcontract to signatory line contractors and contract directly. Their inclusion strengthens the Local's jurisdiction in the outside line sector and reinforces the Local Union's support for entrepreneurship and small businesses.

Incorporating owner-operators has been a key factor in securing outside line jurisdiction and remains central to the Local's success in organizing the sector. ⚡

Local Union Hires New Assistant Business Manager

Local 258 is pleased to announce that Sister Jenny Short has joined the staff at the Union Hall as the newest Assistant Business Manager.

Jenny is a Red Seal Electrician who joined IBEW Local 213 shortly after completing her apprenticeship. In 2019, Jenny shifted directions within the electrical industry and took a travel card to Local 258 to work in the Fraser Valley Office (FVO) Control Centre.

Jenny has completed apprenticeship training as both an Interchange Plant Operator (IPO) and a Load Operator (LO). In early 2026, she began working as a Generation Plant Operator at Burrard SC.

Jenny has been highly active within the Local, previously serving as Secretary of the NextGen Committee and Co-Chair of the Women's Committee. She has also served as Unit 6 Vice Chair and has been acclaimed as a Unit 5 Executive Member for the upcoming term.

Jenny has represented the membership as a Shop Steward, a Joint Health and Safety Committee representative for FVO, an IBEW representative on the Apprenticeship and Trades Training Sub-Committee for Apprentice IPOs and LOs, and as a member of our most recent BC Hydro Bargaining Committee. She has also attended various national and international conferences throughout Canada and the US on behalf of the Local Union.

Please join us in welcoming Sister Jenny Short to the team. ⚡

Local 258 IBEW Succeeds at Arbitration

Local 258 has won an arbitration against BC Hydro involving meal entitlements for members working away from their assigned headquarters.

The grievance centred on a member assigned to work on Vancouver Island during the week of September 18, 2023. While working overnight overtime shifts away from home, the member was denied several meal per diems and missed meals that the Union argued were owed under the collective agreement.

The Employer raised many arguments to support their position. One such argument was that employees are only entitled to meal allowances for "work time" and that travel and rest time do not constitute work time. The Employer also argued that the grievor's meal entitlements amounted to "double dipping" or "pyramiding" of benefits.

Arbitrator Randall Noonan rejected the majority of the Employer's arguments and ruled mostly in favour of the Union. The decision confirmed that:

- » Employees working away from their headquarters remain entitled to meal per diems under Article 15(f)(i);
- » Overnight work performed outside regular hours constitutes overtime work for the purposes of missed meal entitlements under Article 21(h);
- » Travel to and from an "unusual destination" at the Employer's direction constitutes work time;

- » BC Hydro could not unilaterally treat the assignment as a “shift change” without agreement from the Union.

The Arbitrator ultimately ruled that the grievor was entitled to 8 meal per diems and 10 missed meal payments, exactly as claimed by the Union, and ordered BC Hydro to compensate the member accordingly.

This award is important for members performing temporary assignments, overtime work, and travel outside their normal headquarters and reinforces the protections negotiated in the collective agreement.



Scan the QR code above with your cell phone camera or [click here](#) to read the full arbitration decision. ⚡

Local Union Establishes First Joint Safety Committee for Utility Arborist Sector

One of the most significant advancements for Local 258's Utility Arborist members is finally becoming a reality with the establishment of the Local Union's first-ever Joint Safety Rules and Regulations Committee (JSRRC) for the Utility Arborist sector.

The concept behind the committee is similar to the long-established Safety Practice Committee between IBEW Local 258 and BC Hydro, which oversees safety practices and develops the Safety Practice Regulations (SPR) used throughout the utility system. While Utility Arborists working on the BC Hydro system will still be required to follow the SPR, this new committee will focus on developing safety rules, practices, and standards specifically tailored to the realities of utility arborist work.

BC Hydro does not employ internal Utility Arborist crews, meaning there has historically been limited industry-specific expertise available when developing safety practices affecting utility arborists working on the system. The creation of the JSRRC helps address that gap by ensuring workers and industry experts have a direct voice and role in shaping the standards that affect their work.

“The language and framework to create this committee have existed since Business Manager Emeritus Gerry Bramhill bargained it in the late 80s and early 90s, but nobody ever implemented it or acted on it,” said Business Manager Cody Gatzke. “Tatton and I decided enough was enough—no more excuses, safety is our responsibility, we will take the ball and run with it.”

This committee is about more than creating another committee or adding another acronym to the industry. It is about giving Utility Arborists a real voice in shaping the rules that govern their work and recognizing that Utility Arborists matter. Their work is specialized, their hazards are unique, and the people doing that work deserve safety standards built by people who understand the realities of the job.

What existed on paper for decades is finally becoming reality. ⚡

Business Manager Speaks in NCTL Panel Discussion

This past May, Business Manager Cody Gatzke was invited to participate in a panel discussion at Generate 2026, Clean Energy BC's annual conference focused on the future of energy development in British Columbia.

The discussion centered on the North Coast Transmission Line (NCTL) project and the critical role it will play in supporting growing electricity demand and industrial development in northwestern BC.

Gatzke spoke about the importance of skilled union labour in delivering major transmission infrastructure projects safely and efficiently, while also highlighting the opportunities these projects create for apprenticeships, long-term employment, and economic growth across the province.

As the project advances, four of the five shortlisted line contractors have now been identified: Valard, Forbes Bros, Allteck, and Aecon. Both Forbes Bros, through FB Valley, and Allteck are currently signatory contractors to Local 258's Master Line Agreement. Business Manager Cody Gatzke is working to meet with Valard and Aecon while continuing discussions with BC Hydro to ensure Local 258 members are positioned to maximize opportunities created through the project. ⚡

The Road to Domcor

By Brother Dean Kotaras, *Organizer*

When I took on the role of Organizer at Local 258 back in September 2025, it started out as a fun new challenge. I hit the ground running (might have tripped a few times) and found myself wondering what I'd gotten into. Thankfully, the road to organizing Domcor turned into one of the most rewarding organizing wins I've been part of.

At the beginning, I sat down with Business Manager Cody Gatzke, and we started to identify the targets we wanted to go after. When I started, we had approximately 70 targets identified. Now we have 135 targets—and growing. One of those targets was Domcor, specifically their Vancouver Island Traffic Control division. Local 258 had attempted previously to unionize them but was unsuccessful.

I started asking questions about Domcor and dug up all the previous information we had on file. I reached out to Sister Dayna Gill, IBEW Canada's Western Lead Organizer and former Local 258 Assistant Business Manager, as well as Sister Marina Luporini, Local 258 Assistant Business Manager, both of whom have experience representing Traffic Control members at Local 258. I wanted to understand what had happened with the previous campaign, as there had been nearly six years with no movement.

I also contacted Brother Brad Masse, who lives and works on Vancouver Island, and asked if he had any contacts working at Domcor. He called back and said, "Damn rights, I've got a couple that are on board to get organized. Make it happen—they're great people."

Marina was negotiating another collective agreement at the time, so I asked Dayna if she was available to come to Vancouver Island and run an organizing campaign. So, in October 2025, with their support, I got started arranging dates and times to personally meet the contacts we'd collected at Domcor.

We asked them about the issues they were facing, and they indicated inconsistent treatment, pay discrepancies, and a lack of benefits, to name a few. We discussed what the Union could do for them and explained that

we already support 4500+ members, with approximately 800 in the traffic sector at Local 258.

The difference in our organizing drive this time around was that we took a bottom-up approach; in the past, the Local had tried a top-down approach to organize Domcor. When planning a campaign, this decision can make or break it. A bottom-up approach is more discreet, as it allows employees to make their own decisions and sign support cards on their own terms. Employers who are not pro-union will often make every effort to prevent unionization, which is why top-down can be risky.

We felt we had to act quickly and discreetly if we were going to be successful. There were times I had concerns about how open some of the conversations with Domcor employees were, especially when they were saying things like, "When are we getting this done? We need the Union to help us get better." In those moments, it became clear that this wasn't just organizing; this was workers putting their trust in us to help change their lives.

We started collecting Local 258 digital support cards, and the initial response was strong. However, I became concerned when the number of signed cards slowed down to about one per week.

In campaigns like this, you always need a reliable list of workers to reference. We finalized our list in early December and began cross-referencing it with the names of those who had already signed cards so we could determine where the gap was. Lo and behold, during that process we discovered that one region on Vancouver Island had not returned any cards. That slowdown could have stalled the campaign, but instead, it reminded us to refocus, create a plan of action, and rebuild momentum where it mattered most.

I contacted Brother Sean Walker, another one of our members on Vancouver Island, and asked if he had any contacts at Domcor. Luckily, he did. He responded similarly to Brother Masse: "That's awesome—they really need our help, and they're good people."

After gaining a new contact, I arranged another trip, this time solo, to get things moving. At that point, we only needed eight more cards to reach the 55% threshold required for automatic certification under the BC Labour Relations Code (it's possible with 49–54%, but there are more steps involved).

I travelled back to Vancouver Island in January of 2026. When I met with the new contact and some other Domcor crew members and updated them on our progress with the campaign, three more workers signed cards during that conversation alone. Interestingly, many of them didn't even realize we were the Union supporting their efforts, as they weren't familiar with their colleagues from other regions.

Within the next two weeks, we didn't just get the eight cards we needed—we received *twelve*.

It's important to note that signed cards are only valid for six months from the date of signing. If they expire, they must be re-signed, which meant we had to move quickly.

At that point, knowing we had support from the workers at Domcor, I began preparing to file for certification with the Labour Relations Board (LRB) and confirmed with them, the Union's confidential list of signed cards. Once we had filed, a hearing was then scheduled for February 2, 2026. Unfortunately, that hearing was postponed due to a family emergency on the employer's side. Local 258 and Council agreed it was the right thing to do, and so the hearing was rescheduled for February 6, 2026.

What no one tells you about the certification process is that you must meticulously review the Board Officer's report before the hearing—and we received it at 3:30pm on the day before. As I went through the employer's list of employees and cross-referenced it with our confidential support cards, I found that seven of our cards were “orphaned,” meaning they were signed by workers who were no longer employed at the company.

Unfortunately, this dropped us below the 55% threshold.

Then, around 6:30pm on the evening before the hearing, I noticed that a manager had mistakenly been included on the list from the Board Officer's report. After discussing it with Council, we realized this correction would bring us back up above 55%.

On the morning of February 6, Council submitted the finding. The amended report confirmed that we had reached the threshold, and thus, automatic certification was granted.

Shortly after, the hearing concluded, and Local 258 was officially certified as the bargaining unit for Domcor's Vancouver Island Traffic Control division.

While Local 258 is incredibly pleased to be welcoming new members into our Union family, this win really belongs to the Domcor workers who stepped up, spoke out, and stood together.



Newly organized employees at Domcor in February, 2026.

The latest update we can provide on the Domcor journey is that Assistant Business Manager Marina Luporini and staff are working diligently with Domcor ownership and management to get to the table and begin negotiating a contract.

This campaign was also featured in the North of 49° section of the April 2026 edition of the Electrical Worker newsletter on ibew.org: “BC Local Earns Another Traffic Control Triumph.”

This successful campaign sets the tone for future organizing efforts, proving that a worker-led, bottom-up approach works. But at the end of the day, this wasn't just a campaign—it was a reminder of what solidarity looks like in action.

In solidarity,

Dean D. Kotaras

Organizer ⚡

HOLD THE PULL | Electrical Industry Safety Bulletin

Primary Voltage Electrical Contract

Incident Overview

On January 15, 2026, an IBEW Local 258 member employed by a signatory vegetation management contractor experienced a serious primary voltage electrical contact while performing tree climbing operations for BC Hydro. Following the contact, the worker required immediate assistance, and an aerial rescue was performed.

The Certified Utility Arborist (CUA) sustained electrical burns to their hand and calves and required a brief stay in the hospital for assessment, treatment, and monitoring. Thankfully, they have been on a positive road to recovery and have since returned to the workplace.

In an extremely high-pressure situation, two Level 1 apprentices on the crew stepped up in a major way. They successfully carried out the rescue, communicated with the control centre and emergency services, and assisted in bringing the injured member safely to the ground so the CUA could receive emergency medical care.

This incident is a sobering reminder of the hazards our members face every single day while working on and around energized power systems. The work performed by our members is highly skilled, physically demanding, and unforgiving when incidents occur. Every climb, work task, and any movement near primary conductors carries real risk. While the investigation is still ongoing, what we know about this event reinforces several critical safety principles that must remain at the forefront of every jobsite.

Key Safety Considerations

One of the most important lessons from this incident is the need to consistently respect and maintain minimum limits of approach. These limits exist to protect us from the devastating consequences of an electrical contact.

When working on or near energized conductors, workers must consider not only their current position, but every possible movement that could occur during the task. This is where an understanding of “reasonable likely movement” becomes critical.

Reasonable likely movement means evaluating all foreseeable movement that could occur throughout the work process, including movement from a climber, vegetation, rigging systems, tools, conductors, and environmental conditions. If any likely movement could result in breaching minimum approach distances, the work plan must be reassessed before proceeding with any work.

This incident also reinforces the importance of detailed job planning and continuous hazard assessment. Work conditions can change rapidly, and crews must remain adaptable, engaged, and communicative throughout the entire operation.

Every climbing operation must also include a viable and executable rescue plan before work begins. Rescue procedures cannot simply exist on paper; crews must understand their responsibilities, have immediate access to rescue equipment, and be capable of responding effectively under pressure.

In this incident, the successful rescue performed by two apprentices highlighted just how critical proper rescue training and preparedness truly are. Their actions demonstrated composure, teamwork, and professionalism.

Effective tailboard discussions should address:

- Circuit identification
- Voltages
- Minimum approach distances
- Work positioning
- Rescue planning
- Communication procedures

When incidents like this occur, seconds matter.

Maintaining situational awareness at all times is essential. Even experienced workers can become vulnerable to complacency, production pressure, routine tasking, or mental distraction. Constantly reassessing body position, conductor proximity, and changing site conditions is critical to preventing serious incidents.

Bottom Line

Many of our members work daily in proximity to, or directly on, energized power systems, where a single moment, movement, or miscalculation can have life-altering consequences.

This incident is a reminder that safety fundamentals are not optional:

- » Respect limits of approach
- » Account for reasonable likely movement
- » Conduct detailed job planning
- » Maintain constant situational awareness
- » Ensure every job has a viable rescue plan

Local 258 also recognizes the professionalism and courage shown by the crew members involved in this incident, particularly the two apprentices who carried out the rescue under extremely difficult circumstances.



Brothers Easton Elson (left) and Bailey Parsons (right) receiving awards for the quick thinking and action that saved a colleague's life.

We wish our injured brother a continued full and speedy recovery and remind all members to stay vigilant, communicate clearly, and look out for one another every single day on the job.

Safety is not a paperwork exercise; it's what gets every worker home at the end of the day. ⚡

Local 258 IBEW Election and Convention Delegate Results

Officers		
Business Manager/Financial Secretary*	Kevin Duchak	Elected
President*	Jason Lombardo	Elected
Vice President	Jim Greenwell	Acclaimed
Treasurer	Larry Byhre	Acclaimed
Recording Secretary	Cody Gatzke	Elected
Unit 1		
Chair	Andy Anderson	Elected
Vice Chair	Keith Gaskin	Acclaimed
Recorder	No candidate	
Executive Member	No candidate	
Delegate to Convention	Shawn Pozzo	Acclaimed
Unit 2		
Chair	Jamie Lowe	Elected
Vice Chair	Lianne Bunting	Acclaimed
Recorder	No candidate	
Executive Member	No candidate	
Delegate to Convention	Jamie Lowe	Elected
Unit 3		
Chair	Kelly Hambleton	Elected
Vice Chair	Jeremy O'Laney	Acclaimed
Recorder	Ben Horton	Acclaimed
Executive Member	Tyson Norrish	Acclaimed
Delegate to Convention	Jeremy O'Laney	Elected
Unit 4		
Chair	Sean Walker	Acclaimed
Vice Chair	Brian Gueldenstern	Acclaimed
Recorder	Brad Masse	Acclaimed
Executive Member	Jason Slotte	Acclaimed
Delegate to Convention	Jeff Gray	Elected
Unit 5		
Chair	Mike McMinn	Elected
Vice Chair	Simon Gregg	Acclaimed
Recorder	No candidate	
Executive Member	Colin Bock Jenny Short	Acclaimed Acclaimed
Delegate to Convention	Mike McMinn	Acclaimed
Unit 6		
Chair	Jordan Flanagan	Elected
Vice Chair	No candidate	
Recorder	No candidate	
Executive Member	No candidate	
Delegate to Convention	Jordan Flanagan	Elected
Delegates to Convention at Large		
Delegate at Large	Jim Greenwell	Elected
Delegate at Large	Colin Petersen	Elected

*Delegates to the International Convention by virtue of holding office.

Labour News

Site C Receives New Permanent Name

The BC government has officially announced the permanent names for the Site C dam, generating station, and reservoir, marking another milestone in one of the province's largest infrastructure projects.

During an announcement on May 21, 2026, in Victoria, Premier David Eby revealed that the facility will now be known as the John Horgan Dam and Generating Station, recognizing former premier John Horgan's leadership and long-standing involvement in British Columbia's energy sector.

Horgan played a significant role in energy policy throughout his public service career, including serving as Opposition energy critic and later as premier. His decision to continue the Site C project was described as critical to delivering a major source of clean, reliable, and affordable electricity for the province.

The reservoir will take the Indigenous name Nááchę mege (pronounced *nah chay meegeh*), which translates to "Dreamer Lake" in the Beaver language. The name was decided in collaboration with Treaty 8 First Nations and reflects the cultural, historical, and linguistic ties of the Dane-zaa (Beaver people) to the Peace River region.

The proposal for the reservoir name was offered by the Doig River and Blueberry River First Nations, whose histories identify their ancestors as some of the earliest in-

habitants of the Fort St. John area surrounding Site C. The name honours the importance of "Dreamers" in Dane-zaa culture and traditions.

The announcement highlighted the partnerships with Indigenous communities, government, and project teams that contributed to the completion of Site C. Leaders also recognized the decades of work and collaboration required to bring the hydroelectric project online, which is expected to play a key role in British Columbia's clean energy future by helping provide reliable electricity for generations to come. ⚡

Clean Energy BC Announces Change in Leadership

The Clean Energy Association of British Columbia (CEBC) announced that Executive Director Kwatuuma Cole Sayers has transitioned to the Indigenous Power Coalition. He will continue supporting the organization part-time during the transition.

During his leadership, Sayers helped strengthen CEBC's influence with key government, industry, and First Nations partners while advancing advocacy efforts that supported growth in BC's clean energy sector. His work focused on clean electricity development, Indigenous partnerships, and long-term economic opportunities.

The current CEBC Board Chair thanked Sayers for his leadership and confirmed the organization will continue advancing key priorities, including advocacy, energy security, and collaboration across BC. ⚡

Carpenters' Union Leaders Resign Amid Investigation

Three senior officials with the Carpenters' Regional Council (CRC), including Executive Secretary-Treasurer Jason Rowe, have resigned as an internal investigation by the union's US-based parent organization continues.

The resignations follow media reports revealing that the union purchased two luxury homes in Nobleton, Ontario; one valued at approximately \$4 million and the other at approximately \$2.5 million. According to a report by The Trillium, Jason Rowe and his wife, Stacey Rowe (who was also a CRC official), lived in the larger home from 2022 to 2024, while the purpose of the second property remains unclear.

The investigation was launched by CRC's parent union, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (UBCJA), after questions emerged about the union's financial management and real estate purchases. Along with Jason and Stacey Rowe, CRC Chief of Staff Tom Cardinal also stepped back.

The Carpenters' Regional Council is one of Ontario's most politically connected construction unions and has received significant provincial funding through the Ford government's Skills Development Fund. The union has also publicly supported Premier Doug Ford's Progressive Conservatives in recent years.

The UBCJA says its investigation remains ongoing. ⚡

Member Spotlight: Tatton Zanardo

Highlighting our members' achievements.

Brother Tatton Zanardo is a Certified Utility Arborist and Assistant Business Manager with Local 258. Tatton and his family run Clayburn Creek Cattle, a local pasture-raised beef farm.

Nestled in the heart of British Columbia's Fraser Valley, Clayburn Creek Pasture Raised Beef is a small-scale, family-run farm in Abbotsford operated by Tatton Zanardo, Assistant Business Manager, and his wife. Both come from long-standing farming families whose roots in the region stretch back more than a century. For the Zanardo family, agriculture is more than a livelihood—it is a way of life. "Agriculture has always been part of our lives," says Zanardo. "Today, we're proud to continue that tradition while raising our children with a strong connection to the land, family and an appreciation for where their food comes from."



Brother Zanardo and his family on their cattle farm in Abbotsford, BC.

Clayburn Creek specializes in pasture-raised Angus and Hereford beef, with cattle grazing on diverse grasses and select grains in a low-stress environment that is designed to support their natural health and well-being. Known for their quality, consistency, and flavour, Angus and Hereford cattle are well suited to the farm's approach of producing premium beef while maintaining strong animal health on pasture. The herd is raised without added hormones or routine antibiotics and is fed a natural forage-based diet focused on both animal welfare and sustainable land stewardship.

The family also places a strong emphasis on producing a high-quality final product. Careful attention is given to genetics, nutrition, and finishing practices to ensure the beef develops excellent flavour, tenderness, and consistent marbling. By combining traditional pasture-raising methods with thoughtful feeding and animal management, Clayburn Creek aims to produce beef that reflects both ethical farming practices and exceptional quality on the plate.

A major focus of the operation is rotational grazing and responsible pasture management. By carefully moving cattle through different grazing areas, the farm allows grasses time to recover, strengthens root systems, and improves soil biology and nutrient cycling. The result is healthier soil, healthier forage, and ultimately healthier cattle.

Much of the farm's philosophy is also shaped by Zanardo's career as a Certified Utility Arborist. His background in arboriculture—an industry deeply rooted in science, environmental stewardship, and ecosystem management—has influenced the way the family approaches agriculture and land care. Many of the same principles used in arboriculture and silvopasture apply directly to regenerative grazing systems. "Farming should work with nature rather than against it," says Zanardo. "Forests and pastures are both living ecosystems that require balance and careful management."

Today, Clayburn Creek proudly produces local Fraser Valley beef raised with integrity, transparency, and respect for the land. For the Zanardo family, farming is about far more than raising cattle. It is about preserving a way of life, teaching the next generation the value of hard work and stewardship, and continuing a farming tradition that has been part of the Abbotsford community for generations.

If you are interested in purchasing beef from Clayburn Creek, call Brother Zanardo at 778-347-9331. ⚡

Introduction and Message from New ABM Jenny Short

Apprenticing as an electrician in the non-unionized sector provided an opportunity to experience the extractionary nature of business. These years demonstrated how poorly some employers will treat their workforce; whether motivated by a sense of entitlement or obligation, the impact on the people remained the same. That time was beneficial, both in building resiliency and developing an understanding of how all workers deserve to be treated; with dignity and fairness.

This perspective led me to join the IBEW, and I was initiated into Local 213, seeking fairer compensation and working conditions and a chance to save for my future. From a unionized environment, it was still apparent that many employers will try to shift cost savings onto the workforce rather than correct institutional-level flaws in their business practices. It became clear the most powerful tools a union member has are knowledge and their own voice. Awareness and understanding of their rights granted by provisions of their Collective Agreement, of regulatory standards that protect them, and the courage to say “No” when you know something is wrong. Being the person willing to advocate for what is right can be intimidating, but in my case it grew easier with repetition and with the support of solidarity.

Eventually my career path led me away from using my tools to build and into the office environment of BC Hydro, working as an Operator in the FVO Control Centre. In such a challenging environment, it was critical to seek opportunities to improve conditions for my fellow union members. Using my knowledge and voice established my role as an active and contributing member of the union, which led to the privilege and responsibility of representing my IBEW peers on multiple committee platforms and as a Shop Steward. Attending training events and conventions strengthened my passion for the Labour movement and brought insight on the past, present, and future struggles of the working class.

That is, awareness of the plight of the entire working class in an era where we face ceaseless job creep, growing asymmetry in work-life balance, and normalization of the idea that working beyond 40 hours per week is a privilege. In this world, the workers must come together and hold the line against the forces who seek the erosion of our most basic rights, which are now taken for granted. The modern working conditions we enjoy were initially hard-won by unions and then disseminated to the general population; they are not guaranteed to stay if nobody is there to maintain them. The cost of living and pressure on the working class grow while the labour activist population is shrinking, from attrition and from apathy. It’s easy to look at the state of the world and say, “How could I make any difference anyway?” It’s easy to refuse to act, for fear of losing what you still have; to wait for someone else to be the one to say “No.” Faced with the choice between the path of least resistance and the path of challenges, the activist spirit is compelled to take the challenge; to try to help.

This is what has driven me to join our representatives in the Local 258 IBEW Union Hall as an Assistant Business Manager. I look forward to this arc in my story, hoping to serve the membership well and improve working conditions for as many as possible. Furthermore, I hope that my words and actions will inspire more of our members to increase their engagement

with our Union, and to step into positions of leadership wherever and whenever the need arises. Our solidarity is our greatest strength, and we must nurture it.

In solidarity,

Jenny Short

Assistant Business
Manager ⚡



Opposite Sides of the Same Coin

By Cody Gatzke, *Business Manager and Financial Secretary*

In the August 2025 edition of the Hotline, I wrote about our Local's previous Business Managers. That piece was necessarily condensed, but there is one man I wanted to spend more time on: Art O'Keeffe. To properly tell the story of Art O'Keeffe and the founding of Local 258, you first have to tell the story of another man from another Local: George Gee of IBEW Local 213, the Local from which 258 was ultimately born.

George Gee was one of the most important labour leaders in the history of British Columbia's electrical industry. Born in 1908 in Virden, Manitoba, Gee came of age during the Great Depression and worked as a labourer and lineman throughout Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest. During that time, he became involved in left-wing labour politics and joined the Communist Party of Canada in 1935. He later joined IBEW Local 77 in Everett, Washington, before eventually returning to Vancouver and joining Local 213 in 1939.

By the late 1930s and early 1940s, Local 213 was changing rapidly. Alongside Jack Ross and other militant trade unionists, Gee helped defeat longtime Business Manager Teddy Morrison in a bitter internal election battle. When Ross became an International Representative in 1947, Gee successfully ran for Business Manager of Local 213 himself.

Under Gee's leadership, Local 213 grew dramatically. Membership expanded from roughly 700 members in 1946 to more than 2,000 by the early 50s. He negotiated wage increases, enhanced apprenticeship systems, better benefits, and stronger collective agreements for electrical workers across BC. Even many of Gee's critics admitted he was an effective Business Manager.

But the Cold War changed everything.

As anti-communist politics swept across North Amer-



George Gee, 1954

ica in the late 40s and 50s, Gee became a major target within the labour movement due to his earlier Communist Party involvement. Although he formally left the Party in 1948, many within the IBEW International Office continued to view Local 213 as a "red" local that had become too independent and too militant.

At the same time, the International was increasingly uneasy with the sheer size and power of Local 213 itself. During the Gee era, Local 213 represented an enormous range of workers: utility employees, manufacturing workers, construction electricians, linemen, and more. The Local had become influential, politically active, and difficult for the International to control.

One of the younger union activists who emerged during this period was Art O'Keeffe.

O'Keeffe became involved with the faction inside Local 213 that opposed Gee and worked closely with International Representatives who wanted change in Vancouver. In 1954, opponents of Gee travelled to Chicago to meet with IBEW International President J. Scott Milne and accused Gee of acting in the interests of Soviet communism.

The BC Electric Company also worked alongside the International in efforts to remove George Gee and weaken Local 213's leadership. During difficult 1954 contract negotiations, company executives stalled bargaining and refused to make meaningful offers while Gee remained on the bargaining committee.

At the same time, BC Electric management cooperated with anti-communist factions within Local 213 and investigators sent by the International Office, arguing that Gee's leadership threatened labour stability and relations with the company.

In January 1955, International Representatives Alfred Terry and Andrew Johnson arrived in Vancouver, suspended Gee and several allies, and placed Local 213 under trusteeship. Gee was removed as Business Manager and expelled from the IBEW despite retaining significant support within the membership.

Almost immediately after Gee's removal, BC Electric

returned to bargaining with the International-appointed trustees. Gee himself returned to his former position at BC Electric, where he had been on leave since 1946 but was terminated after only half a day of work due to the closed shop provisions contained in the very agreement he had helped negotiate. His firing sparked outrage, leading approximately 300 electrical workers to walk off the job in protest.

Gee fought hard to overturn the decision. He appealed internally through the IBEW process and eventually took his case all the way to the 1958 IBEW International Convention, hoping delegates would reverse the expulsion. They did not. He also turned to the Supreme Court, challenging both the trusteeship and his removal. Those efforts failed as well, with the courts largely siding with the union's constitutional authority to govern its own affairs. By the end of the 1950s, Gee had exhausted every avenue available to him and remained permanently expelled from the IBEW and unable to work in his trade.

Ironically, the man who had helped the International remove George Gee would eventually find himself on the receiving end of a similar situation a decade later.

After Gee's removal, Art O'Keeffe steadily built his own support within Local 213 and eventually became Business Manager himself in 1960. O'Keeffe developed a reputation as a militant and fiercely independent trade unionist who increasingly clashed not only with employers but also with the International Office.

That conflict exploded during the 1966 Lenkurt Electric Strike in Burnaby.

The strike began over wage inequities involving women supervisors but quickly escalated into one of the most militant labour disputes in British Columbia during the 1960s. Court injunctions were issued against picketing and strike activity, but O'Keeffe openly backed the workers and defied the injunction. Jack Ross (the IBEW International representative) and Angus MacDonald (the President of Local 213) secretly brokered a settlement with Lenkurt management, completely bypassing O'Keeffe.



Art O'Keeffe, 1967

Under that deal, returning workers would completely forfeit their accumulated seniority rights. Strikers would have to reapply for their own jobs as new hires. Lenkurt management retained total control over which workers they would take back, leaving no protection against retaliation. O'Keeffe refused to implement or endorse the deal. When the agreement was put to the striking rank-and-file workers, they voted it down by an enormous margin, viewing it as an outright betrayal by their American-based International leadership.

Jack Ross, who had secretly negotiated the terrible terms with Lenkurt management, walked into the office to physically occupy it and demand that O'Keeffe pack his bags. O'Keeffe, known for his uncompromising temper and unyielding loyalty to the rank-and-file, did not back down. When Ross ordered him out of the building and attempted to assume control of the local's assets, O'Keeffe blocked Ross, resulting in a heated, nose-to-nose shouting match over who truly represented the workers. As Ross pushed forward, O'Keeffe snapped and punched Jack Ross squarely in the face.

President Angus MacDonald, who had betrayed the workers by signing off on Ross's secret deal, was cornered by an angry mob. Workers physically lifted him off his feet, carried him through the gauntlet of shouting members, and threw him out into the street. When International executives tried to call the police or use legal leverage to eject O'Keeffe from the building, the rank-and-file formed a human wall around him. They physically carried O'Keeffe back into his main office, barricaded the doors, and stood guard to ensure the International could not lock him out. Jack Ross and the remaining International representatives had to flee the building under threats of further physical violence.

The International responded harshly. Canadian Vice President Bill Ladyman suspended O'Keeffe from membership, removed him as Business Manager of Local 213, and placed the Local into trusteeship once again. The irony was impossible to miss, as the same mechanism used against George Gee, which led to O'Keeffe's rise to power, was now being used against him.

In many ways, the aftermath of the Lenkurt strike finally allowed the International to accomplish what it had wanted to do since the Gee era: break apart the enormous jurisdiction of Local 213.

Following the turmoil of the 1950s and 1960s, Local 213 was stripped of both its utility and manufactur-

ing jurisdictions. In 1967, the International chartered Local 258 to represent BC Hydro workers throughout the province, while Local 264 was established to represent manufacturing workers. Local 213 would continue primarily as a construction local.

The labour relations landscape was also undergoing significant change. At the time, labour law consisted of fragmented and often convoluted legislation, with broad authority resting in the hands of the Minister of Labour and disputes frequently enforced through the courts. That changed in 1973 when the government of Premier Dave Barrett introduced the first comprehensive Labour Code in Canadian history and established the Labour Relations Board. The new framework fundamentally changed labour relations in British Columbia by creating a more structured system for resolving disputes and improving industrial stability. The legislation received broad support, with even opposition parties voting in favour of its adoption.

Prior to 1967, BC Hydro workers had been represented through several different locals and under Utility System Council No. 27. With the creation of 258, BC Hydro employees across the province were brought together under one province-wide utility local. More than twenty years later, in 1990, Local 264 merged into Local 258, bringing the manufacturing jurisdiction back to the utility local after decades apart.

Meanwhile, O'Keeffe himself paid a heavy price for the Lenkurt dispute. He was convicted for contempt related to violating court injunctions and served roughly four months in Oakalla Prison. He was also essentially expelled (via a forty-year suspension) from the IBEW.



Art O'Keeffe (third from the left) with the three others (Paddy Neale, Tom Clarke, and Jeffrey Power) who were jailed after the Lenkurt strike, when they were allowed home for Christmas in 1966.

Unlike Gee, however, O'Keeffe eventually managed to fight his way back. He appealed his discipline through the IBEW constitutional process and, at the 1970 IBEW International Convention in Seattle, successfully won reinstatement into the Union. Afterwards he returned to work as a BC Hydro lineman with Local 258.

In 1979, O'Keeffe challenged longtime Local 258 Business Manager Doug Cronk and defeated him. Art served as Business Manager from 1979 to 1982.

His tenure came during one of the toughest periods in our Local's history. The modern BC Utilities Commission framework emerged during this period, reshaping utility regulation in British Columbia. At the same time, BC Hydro underwent major restructuring. The utility's bus division was separated and eventually became BC Transit, which marked the first major break-up of BC Hydro itself.

Then came the devastating layoffs of 1982.

During O'Keeffe's tenure, Local 258's membership declined dramatically from about 3,900 members to just 1,700. It marked the first time in BC Hydro's history that regular employees were laid off and signalled a permanent shift in the utility's operating model, moving away from self-performing much of its work toward increased reliance on private sector contractors.

This action exposed the risks of relying too heavily on a single employer. As BC Hydro increasingly contracted work out, diversification became a necessity rather than a choice. That reality would shape the priorities of the Business Managers who followed Art O'Keeffe (Bob Peel and Gerry Bramhill), both of whom pushed to expand Local 258's membership base beyond BC Hydro and into new sectors of the electrical industry.

George Gee and Art O'Keeffe played pivotal roles in shaping the history that ultimately led to the creation and evolution of Local 258. Their stories remain both controversial and fascinating because, despite once standing on opposite sides of an internal union power struggle, their paths ended up looking remarkably similar. Both rose to lead Local 213. Both found themselves in conflict with the International Office. Both were ultimately removed from office and disciplined. And despite the controversy that surrounded each of them, both left lasting marks on the history of the IBEW in British Columbia, proving that history is often more complicated than heroes and villains. ⚡



Sister Lianne Bunting, Unit 2 Chair, swearing in Brother Jordan Flynn in Dawson Creek.



Sister Lianne Bunting (left), Unit 2 Chair, swearing in new members. Left to right: Brother Matt Earle, Sister Zoe Soltys, Brother Ted Thomson, and Brother Royce Stark.



Sister Abby Beauchamp receiving her Certificate of Completion for her Electrical Apprenticeship with BC Hydro from Brother Ryan Miller. Photo taken by Brother Tim Hills.



Congratulations to Brother Wes Liebault on achieving his Red Seal! Left to right: Brothers Eric Robichaud, Wes Liebault, and Ted Pennell.



Brother Tony Van Nice receiving his 30-year service pin from Business Manager Cody Gatzke.



Brother Nico Geelhoed receiving his 40-year service pin from Business Manager Cody Gatzke.



Brother Bill Dawson receiving his 50-year service pin from Assistant Business Manager Tatton Zanardo.



Unit 4 Chair Lloyd Clark (second from right) presents Brothers Brett Hollybow, Roger Dawson, and Scott Wells with their 20-year service pins, and Brother Marlow Hart (right) with his 10-year service pin.



Surrey Trouble Technicians gather to celebrate the retirements of Ron Funk and Mike Forster (centre).



Brothers Jay Arbuckle, Jamie Lowe, and Jordan Geddert after their final game in the BC Hydro Annual Hockey Tournament, where they played for the Training Surge team.



BC Hydro's newest Apprentice Electricians. Left to right: Seth Bafaro, Bosco Chan, Jack McMinn, Nathanael Leppky, Dylan Gould, Maxwell Jeffery, Neve Hamilton, and Ereka McIvor.



Brother Jordan Geddert, Co-Chair of the Local 258 Veterans Committee presenting a \$5,000 cheque to the Honour House Society, with proceeds raised by the Veteran Committee's annual raffle.



Brother Torben Larsen of the Local 258 Veterans Committee attending the Naval Base Trade Show in Esquimalt.



Brother Dean Kotaras, Organizer (front centre), with the BC Hydro crew working at the Bridge River Generating Station.



Brothers Ryan McKay, Sub-foreman PLT, Jacob Scheu, Apprentice PLT, and Lionel Fraser, PLT, of the Sechelt Line Crew setting up to perform a crossarm change in Gibsons, BC.



Left to right: Brothers Brad Masse, Blair Murphy, and Dale Fulton shortly before removing a giant inflatable Godzilla that got tangled in a car dealership's service wires after a major windstorm on Vancouver Island in December 2025.

In Memoriam

In memory of brothers and sisters of Local 258 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Roy Beaumont

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in November 2018*

Kenneth Reid

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in November 2025*

Roland Scott

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in February 2026*

Nicholas Shugalo

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in July 2019*

Jeff Richardson

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in November 2025*

Nickolas Jost

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in March 2026*

Gerald Livesey

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in December 2019*

Walter Skrinnikoff

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in November 2025*

Philip Bernier

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in April 2026*

Donald McStay

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in January 2020*

Donald Callewaert

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in December 2025*

Frank Donaghy

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in April 2026*

Larry Kootnikoff

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in May 2021*

Peter Grabowski

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in December 2025*

Dalton Murray

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in March 2026*

Roy O'Hara

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in August 2022*

Gordon Edwards

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in January 2026*

Arnie Martin

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in April 2026*

John Paul

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in August 2025*

Brian Egan

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in January 2026*

Ernest Sittlinger

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in April 2026*

David Norris

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in November 2025*

Fulton Folland

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in January 2026*

Robert Wilson

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in April 2026*

Bent Pedersen

*Retired IO Pensioner
Passed in November 2025*

David Devitt

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in February 2026*

Ronald Cooper

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner
Passed in May 2026*

Update: BC Hydro Electrician Assessment Settlement

By Brother Jag Aujla, *Senior Assistant Business Manager*

In the August 2025 edition of the Hotline, we reported on an arbitration decision regarding BC Hydro's introduction of a written and practical assessment that Full-Time Temporary (FTT) Electricians were required to pass before being considered for Full-Time Regular (FTR) Electrician positions in Stations Field Operations (SFO).

At the time, the arbitrator confirmed that BC Hydro could establish "must-have" qualifications and use an assessment to evaluate applicants prior to entering the Merit, Efficiency, and Seniority (MES) process. However, the arbitrator also ruled that BC Hydro's policy preventing employees from applying to FTR postings for 12 months after failing the assessment was arbitrary, unreasonable, and inconsistent with the collective agreement.

Following that decision, the Union still continued to pursue the grievance regarding the content, structure, and application of the assessment itself, as well as the impact it had on our members. I am pleased to report that the parties have recently reached a settlement agreement that addresses many of the Union's concerns and establishes clearer, more fair rules moving forward.

Improvements to the Assessment Process

Through this settlement, the Union was successful in achieving several important improvements to how the assessment is designed and administered.

First, BC hydro has agreed that the rating score assigned to each exercise must correspond to a clear numerical value based on correct answers, demonstrated skills, or deductions for errors. The scoring criteria must also ensure candidates are not penalized more than once for the same error or issue, which was a concern with the original assessment.

The settlement also requires greater transparency regarding what candidates are actually being evaluated

on. Moving forward, candidates will now be notified that they should approach the assessment as if they are the work leader in the field and that they will be evaluated on a number of factors, including:

- » Their overall approach to the exercise
- » Whether the entire task is completed, including clean-up
- » Proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- » Workmanship and the cleanliness of their work-station
- » Note-taking and use of tools such as sticky notes

Clearer Standards for Subjective Evaluation

Another concern raised by the Union was the use of subjective criteria in the assessment process.

Under the settlement agreement, when BC Hydro evaluates members on subjective factors, they must now provide assessors with clear definitions and behavioural ranges outlining what constitutes strong performance and what behaviours may result in reduced or no marks. This requirement is intended to ensure that scoring is applied consistently and fairly across all members.

Assessors will also be required to maintain detailed notes explaining how each candidate was scored. These notes must be retained and will be provided to the Union upon request through the grievance process when necessary. As agreed upon by both parties, any and all notes provided will be held in confidence by the Union.

Changes to How Assessment Results are Used

The settlement also addresses how assessment results can be applied in the selection process.

Previously, BC Hydro had been applying assessment

results for 12 months following the assessment date. As noted in the earlier arbitration decision, this blanket approach was found to be arbitrary and inconsistent with the collective agreement.

Going forward, assessment results may only be applied to FTR SFO Electrician postings with a closing date within 60 days of the assessment date.

In addition, internal applicants who have already passed the assessment previously, have graduated from BC Hydro's Electrician Apprenticeship Program, or who already hold an FTR SFO Electrician position will not be required to take the assessment.

Development and Feedback for Members

The Union also pushed for improvements to the feedback and development process for members who do not pass the assessment.

The employer must now provide meaningful feedback to all internal applicants so they can understand where gaps in their capabilities may exist. Members will then work with their Field Manager to develop a personalized development plan based on the results of their assessment.

Importantly, BC Hydro must provide members with sufficient opportunity within the annual personal development plan cycle to complete that development plan.

Remedy for Affected Members

As part of the settlement, the Union was also successful in obtaining compensation for two members who lost opportunities as a result of BC Hydro's initial implementation of the assessment.

Moving Forward

While the Union continues to believe that access to bulletined positions must remain fair and consistent with the collective agreement, this settlement ensures that the assessment process is more transparent, more objective, and more accountable than what was initially introduced.

If any members have questions about the assessment process or how these changes may affect them, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

In solidarity,

Jag Aujla

Senior Assistant Business Manager ⚡

SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to these members on their years of service!

50 Years

Gordon Boyce
William Chapman
Ricky Cox
William Dawson
Ron Dojack
John Fuller
Keith Good
Frank Graham
Peter Grundy
Sidney Kingcott
Lennard Klick
Norman Konradson
David Lange
Jan Longauer
Edwin McEwen
John McMillan
Frank Muhic
Ralph Quibell
Nazim Rawji
Dwayne Robinson
Douglas Screeton
Mark Smith
Peter Smith
Warner Smith
Ted Stewart

55 Years

Allan Anderson

Terrance Chappell
James Dyke
Richard Green
Larry Hollybow
Samuel Iseli
William Littlejohn
Cyril Marney
David Pringle
Kenneth Redmond
Larry Ryan
David Thomas

60 Years

Philip Bernier
William Blow
Percy Bridges
David Brown
Roger Bruder
Stephen Harding
Patrick Hauck
Brain Herperger
Richard Jeffries
John Lajeunesse
Randall Lane
Kenneth Mackenzie
Garry Marshall
Eugene A. Sather
William Thorick
Boris Ziola

This list includes only members who reached a service milestone between January and July 2026. If you were initiated between August and December, you will be featured in the Winter 2026 edition of the Hotline!

Welcome to our New Members!

Abdirisaq Aden	Gavin Cameron	Stephen Fiarchuk	Paul Howe
Steven Allen	Shanti Capobianco	Trisha Fiarchuk	Troy Howe
Randy Allers	Kenneth Carew	Bryan Fish	Noah Hunt
Alexander Ancheta	Angel Carpenter	Lucas Fletcher	Jesse Ihas
Kaden Andersen-Woode	Pranay Chand	Keefe Fortin	Anthony Ikponmwosa
George Andrich	Benjamin Cherkas	Cory Frank	Igbinovia
Cassandra Arrowsmith	Gabriel Cico	Justin Franklin	Herve Ishimwe
Ashish Ashish	Colin Clark	Levi Gallant	Magnus Ivarsson
Oleksandr Astafiev	Brandon Conlin	Jack Garant	Chukwuemeka Iwunwa
Mathew Baby	Jonah Conner	Cesar Garcia Ontiveros	Andrew Jackson
Raymond Bailey	Andrew Cook	Sergio Garcia	Aiden Jakubiec
Cody Bairos	Nicholas Cooper	Avari Gayger	Chelsea Jansen
Connor Barnes-Campbell	David Cope	Michell Ge	Tyler Jennens
Ali Bashir	Kennedy Crowston	Blair Gelhorn	AJ Jisri
Joseph Beaudoin	Joshua Cummins	Jaskirat Gill	Brandon Johnson
Patrick Bell	Dylan Curtis	Vijay Gill	Christian Johnson
Frank Bennett	Hasnain Czar	Eve Gillman	Jay Kanka
Arkan Berhe	Jamie Daigle	Tyler Gnitt	Amandeep Kaur
Mitch Berthelette	Zachary Dale	Lisa Godfrey	Harmeet Kaur
Carl Bertrand	Tamara Daley	Tanisha Godley	Prabhdeep Kaur
Christopher Best	Boden Davis	Boston Goertzen	Ramandeep Kaur
Joel Billetski	Frank Delaney	Travis Gold	Clayton Keithley
Hailey Bishop	Darion Delorme	Archie Gonzalez	Oliver Kerr
Jamie Blanchard	Naythan Demenciuk	Wilbert Graham	Timothy Kettner
Jeff Blanchette	Chance Derr	Amie Gravell	Benjamin King
Jesse Booker	Andrew Despres	Silas Groeneveld	Richard Klassen
Riley Bourcier	Dirk de Vos	Paula Gross	Eldon Kliachik
Jordan Boyd	Dilpreet Dhillon	Cole Gudmundson	Peter Klubi
Crystal Bradley	Giovanni Dilozenzo	Bon Guintu	Kris Knight
Kimberly Bradshaw	Maxwell Dishman	Timothy Gwennell	Colton Koncohrada
Kourtney Brager	Stuart Domarsky	Jeff Han	Christopher Kopp
Vikram Brar	Abbigale Doonanco	Jarrold Hansen	Adam Kozak
James Brassard	Michael John Doucet	Andrew Hanson	Duane Kozak
Clinton Brookes	Thomas Duncan	Daniel Harris	Logan Kroeker
Clayton Brown	Robert Dupuis	Jean-Bertrand Havyari-	Austin Kwasnica
Mackenzie Brown	Austin Dycer	mana	Kelvin Lafferty
Alysha Bryce	Cary Dykhuizen	Nick Hayes Watts	Jonas Lagimodiere
Keaunu Bryden	Charles Eagan	John Heathcote	Mitchell Lagimodiere
Rommel Buena	Erik Eck	Ivan Heron	Kathryn Lainchbury
Bunty Bunty	Brody Edwards	Jennifer Hickie	Jordan Lake
Braden Busch	Nathaniel Edwards	Colin Hilman	Anthony Lamanna
Luther Cabebe	Easton Elson	Marcelo Hinojosa	Rohan Lanaway
Cedric Cai	Terry Esopenko	Deion Hock	Cale Lappalainen
Jonathan Callan	Bradley Ewing	Darren Holness	Joey Larocque
Breck Cameron	Danelle Farrell	Lucas Howardson	Lucas Larocque

December 2025 - May 2026



Kenneth Law
 Darien Lebold
 Cole Lidlow
 Mon Carlo Ligaya
 Garrey Lim
 Jamie Lindee
 Julius Lingard
 Samson Lishman
 Breanna Liu
 Darcy Lockhart
 Kevin Love
 Hudson Lucas
 Hudson MacAdam
 Craig Macarthur
 Elizabeth Macdonald
 Sun Mackenzie
 Joel Mai
 Kalen Mair
 Paul Maloney
 Abdullqani Mamo
 Russel March
 David Marr
 Danial Martens
 Cameron Martin
 Cole Masterson
 Charles Masuskapoe
 Clinton Mather
 Ahoora Matinpour
 Chloe McCaffery
 Annabelle McNabb
 Michael McTeer
 Aidan McWhinney
 Levi Meinen
 Kelly Mellafont
 Mclean Methven
 Isatou Minteh
 Jaden Moffat-Rew
 Waseem Mohammed
 Robin Moore
 Brent Morin
 Keiran Morneau
 Simone Morris
 Alicka Morris-Dieter
 Paige Morrison
 Trevor Myers

Ryan Nelson
 John Nesbitt
 Katie Neuburger
 Joel Nyboe
 Patrick O'Brien
 Jordan O'Hara
 Morgan O'Keeffe
 Cameron Oliver
 Emilyn Orpiano
 Tyler Ostoforoff
 Valentino Pampoza
 April Panchyshyn
 Tegan Payne
 Matthew Peddie
 Daylan Peech
 Thomas Pfammatter
 Chantelle Phillips
 Kai Piaseczny
 Oliver Piggin
 Sharlie Pratt
 Cole Quechuck
 Digvijay Rana
 Daniel Ree
 Tyler Reichert
 Dawn Reimer
 Kyle Remming
 Heather Richardson
 Marcus Ritchie
 Warren Robinson
 Josh Rodriguez
 Steven Rodriguez
 Pierre Romailier
 Cory Rottluff
 Luke Rumpel
 Jeff Rushton
 Danita Samson
 Jasraj Sandhu
 Karanbir Sandhu
 Allan Sarchuk
 Justis Sauter
 Kiley Schaeffer
 Sonya Schepkowski
 Kyle Schleining
 Patrick Schwartz
 Nicholas Scott

Ryan Secord
 Kaisa Sergeant
 Paul Shantz
 Daksh Sharma
 Vivek Sharma
 Mohammad Sharukh
 Rowan Sholberg
 Harmun Sidhu
 Cash Simon
 Adrian Simor
 Shawn Simpson
 Gurjot Singh
 Karanjeet Singh
 Manpreet Singh
 Rupinder Singh
 Sahibjot Singh
 Sangat Singh
 Sukhjinder Singh
 Vikramjit Singh
 Gagan Singla
 Aaron Sippel
 Connor Sitter
 Rylan Slaughter
 Brett Smeltzer
 Jesse Smith
 Leland Smith
 Kiandra Smith Noskye
 Stefanos Sofokleous
 Rowan Soltis
 Tyler Spencer
 Mark Steiner
 Seth Stortz
 Jake Stuart
 Jesse Stymiest
 Reto Suter
 Sebastian Tait
 Bhupinder Takhar
 Graham Tassie
 Sebastian Tejada
 Marcel Tesar
 Nicole Thompson
 Kyle Thomson
 Kyra Tianen
 Matthew Tiessen
 Brad Townsend

Rachel Trithardt
 Kwok Tse
 Matthew Turi
 Paul Turner
 Jonah Unrau
 Kawaljot Uppal
 Annalou Verzosa
 Eloisa Verzosa
 Gabriel Verzosa
 Ma Theresa Verzosa
 Marcel Villeneuve
 Thomas Volk
 Bryce Wach
 Justin Waite
 Daniel Walczak
 Joel Walker
 Melissa Walkley
 Dustin Wallace
 Robert Wassink
 Robert Weatherbee
 Cohen Weaver
 Landon Wegner
 Crystal West
 Gordon Westergaard
 Justen Westin
 Kevin Whitehouse
 Shelby Whittaker
 Justin Wiffen
 Cecil Williams
 Dave Williams
 John Williams
 Carter Wilson
 Ryeleigh Wilson
 Scott Wilson
 Dylan Witmer
 Timothy Wolfe
 Jordan Wong
 Colby Yost
 Daniel Young
 Tao Zhong
 Shawn Zimmerman
 David Zraly

Take Advantage of Your TFSA!

No matter what you're saving for, a group tax-free savings account (TFSA) can help you get there. A TFSA allows you to save after-tax money without paying tax on investment income. To learn more about the program, visit this website: manulifeplan.ca/17654IBEW258.

Benefits of a TFSA include:

- » No tax on investment income or withdrawals.
- » A great way to save money for retirement or short-term needs.
- » The same competitive management fees you enjoy with your other Manulife group plans.
- » Easy contributions through lump-sum payments.
- » Manage all your group plans through your on-line member account.

How much can you contribute to a TFSA?

Each year since its introduction in 2009, new contribution room is added for eligible Canadian residents over 18 years of age. Unused TFSA contribution room is not lost and rolls over from one year into the next year. To find your contribution room, you can call CRA at 800-959-8281 or log into My Account at cra-arc.gc.ca/myaccount.

How to contribute to your TFSA?

- » Via mobile app: once signed into your Group Retirement Account, select Action > Lump Sum Contribution > select TFSA and the amount to contribute > Bank Details. Review the details and submit.
- » Via online secure site: once signed into your Group Retirement Account, select My Account > Contributions > Lump Sum Contribution > select TFSA and the amount to contribute > Bank Details. Review the details and submit.

If there is no bank account on record, return to the totals page and select your name > Banking Info to add a bank account. It can take 2 business days for your account totals and history to update after your contribution is processed.

Need help?

A Manulife representative can be reached by phone at 1-888-727-7766, Monday to Friday, between 8am and 8pm ET. ⚡

Join the Power Pioneers!

The BC Hydro Power Pioneers are a fun, active, not-for-profit society that connects BC Hydro and affiliated retirees, employees, and their spouses. Our members enjoy staying active, building friendships, and giving back to their communities through social events, volunteer opportunities, and shared experiences. Most recently, members helped raise funds for BC Children's Hospital during the BC Hydro Hockey Tournament—a rewarding event enjoyed by all who participated.



Left to right, Penny McLeod, Nancy Adams, Ben Dobranowski, Linda Strobl, Katrina Bugge, and Mona Quan.

Power Pioneers offers a welcoming way to stay connected with former colleagues, meet new people, and discover meaningful opportunities to learn, volunteer, and participate in community initiatives. We are always pleased to welcome new members and fresh ideas.

Membership connects you through 13 regional branches across BC and gives you access to valuable membership benefits, including provincial and local branch newsletters, retirements, memorials, pension and benefit updates, and even exclusive group travel opportunities. Our next adventure is an Eastern Canada cruise planned for September 2027. And, coming soon will be the much-loved classifieds section that keeps our community connected.

To learn more about our activities, projects, and community support initiatives, visit powerpioneers.com. You can join by clicking the “Join Up” button on the homepage, or contact Lorilee Koltai (604-623-3768 or lorilee.koltai@bchydro.com) or Maureen Lachnit (604-307-7045 or mlachnit22@gmail.com). ⚡

UNION NOTICE BOARD



Membership Guide Now Available!

Everything you need to know about the services and benefits offered by your Union, including a detailed FAQ, all in one book!

Including information about our:

- » Union dues
- » Bargaining processes
- » Dispatch program
- » Structure & governance
- » Code of Excellence
- » Membership benefits

A digital copy is available on the Local 258 website under Members > Resources & Forms > Member Forms & Resources.

All new members will receive a copy of the guide going forward. Current members who would like a copy should contact their ABM.

Call for Member Spotlight Features!

Are you a Local 258 member who owns a business or has a side hustle?

If so, then we want YOU to be the next feature in the Member Spotlight section of the Hotline Magazine!

A feature on the Member Spotlight page includes an opportunity to advertise your product/business/venture to the 4500+ members, non-members, and organizations who receive the Hotline magazine.

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to fill out a quick form if you're interested, and we'll contact you if you're the right fit!



Check out our website and social media!

Stay up to date on the most current events! Local 258 IBEW is on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn, to make it as easy as possible to keep up with all your local Union's activities.

Scan the QR code below to check out our website, social media pages, and other important links. See you online!



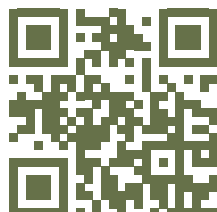
@258ibew



Local 258 IBEW



Local 258 IBEW



In Memory of Michelle Boudreau

Michelle Boudreau served Local Union 258 for 21 years as Press Secretary and Editor of the Hotline magazine. Ms. Boudreau was the Local's photographer, managed the Local 258 website, organized events, and most notably, produced over 50 issues of the Hotline.

The staff and officers at Local 258 offer our condolences and wish Michelle's friends and family the best.

Michelle Patrice Boudreau

July 28, 1958 - February 8, 2026

Between the Lines

Message from Kevin Duchak, *Local 258 IBEW President*

As I write this message, I recognize that this will be my final article for the Hotline as President of our Union, as my term comes to an end. The past four years have gone by incredibly quickly. Looking back, I am proud of what we accomplished together and am grateful for this opportunity to have served the membership.

From the beginning of my term, I believed that our Union could keep evolving while staying grounded in the principles that built it. As Chair of the Executive Board alongside the six dedicated Unit Chairs, we focused on making responsible decisions that strengthened our Union and delivered real value to members.



Kevin Duchak

Local 258 IBEW President

Phone	604-520-3305
Toll-Free	1-877-520-3305
Cell	604-910-0438
Email	kduchak@ibew258.bc.ca

One of our key priorities was financial responsibility. Through careful planning and responsible cost management, we reduced expenses and strengthened the Union's finances. Over the past four years, these savings contributed to a 44% increase in our financial reserves, creating the capacity to establish a Defence Fund. This important step will help support our members in future negotiations and provide greater preparedness should a labour dispute ever arise.

Early in my term, we modernized our logo and worked to improve the design and quality of the promotional gear shared with members. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it has been rewarding to see members proudly representing our union.

Communication was another area that we committed to improving. We enhanced our website, introduced social media to better connect with members, and linked our meeting calendar to QR codes to ensure updates and information are easier to access than ever before.

I also had the privilege of serving on the last two bargaining committees with BC Hydro, both of which achieved positive outcomes for our members. Being part of those negotiations reinforced the importance of solidarity, preparation, and strong representation.

It has always been a priority of mine to give back to the Union for everything it helped provide for me and my family throughout my career. Serving as your President has been both an honour and a privilege. I have enjoyed these past four years and thank you for the trust and support you have shown me along the way.

In solidarity,

Kevin Duchak

Kevin Duchak

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
SUITE #140-8029 199 STREET,
LANGLEY, BC V2Y 0E2

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