



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
SPRING, 2010

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Labour's Call for Pension Reform

*Is Canada's pension system at risk?
Read what Labour has to say.*



IBEW members keep the lights on and the power flowing!



HOTLINE Spring 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Viewpoint from your Business Manager Doug McKay ..page 3

We've Got Mail!..... pgs. 4 & 5

Labour Proposals for the Future of Canadian Pensions pgs. 6-7

A Week at the CLC Harrison Winter School..... pgs. 8-9

Call for Annual Forkin Scholarship Applicationspage 10

Progress Report from BC Citizens for Public Powerpage 11

SPECIAL! BCCPP TWO-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT PULLOUT SUPPLEMENT

Hearts & Minds.....page 13

In Memoriam 2009.....page 14

Ruminations of a Retireepage 15

EITI - Our Industry Training Leaderpage 17

Local 258 Photo Opportunity pgs. 20-22

From the Back Corner by Michelle Laurie.....page 23



THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

HOTLINE is the official newsletter magazine published for the members of Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in British Columbia, Canada.

Address all correspondence to:
IBEW Local 258
7535 Sixth Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

Phone: 604-520-3305 Fax: 604-522-3371
Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305
Dispatch Office: 604-524-3547

Letters to the editor are welcome but may be edited for brevity and clarity. Articles may be reprinted with credit included. Please contact editor for permission to reprint graphics or photographs. Contact the editor at hotline@shaw.ca.

Visit IBEW Local 258's website at www.ibew258.bc.ca
or contact us via e-mail at info@ibew258.bc.ca.

Editor, Layout & Design: Michelle Boudreau, Leopard Print Communications Inc.



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

Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers:

Executive Board Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Michelle Laurie

Vice-President: Tony Brand

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Unit #1 Chair: Klaus Kraft

Unit #2 Chair: Gerry Pope

Unit #3 Chair: Leon Arishenkoff

Unit #4 Chair: Tom Greenwell

Unit #5 Chair: Cathy Tagseth

Unit #6 Chair: Karen Porter

Local 258 IBEW Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht, Dan Klassen, Susan Longva, Don McNabb

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

Local 258 IBEW Administrative & Office Staff: Janice Krieger, Lesli McBratney, Judith Haugen, Geri Watson

Local 258 IBEW Legal Counsel: Rebecca Murdock

Cover photos:

A selection of Local 258 IBEW retirees from the past few years.



A night time view of the Vancouver skyline from Stanley Park taken during the 2010 Winter Olympics.

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

IBEW members working at BC Hydro and the BC Transmission Corporation have shown the world the quality and skill of their work showcased during the Olympic Games as they ensured the lights were on and the power kept running for the 17-day event. Many of you performed over and above your regular call-of-duty and we are all very proud of all of your efforts and hard work both before and during the games as the world was watching.

The skill and competency of our members in delivering the job is not something new – our members always rise to the challenge in this professional trade and consistently meet, and often exceed, the high standards and demands placed upon them.

But now that the Olympic Games are over, many members of our Local are facing the challenge of “games” of a different sort – bargaining for a new collective agreement. The bill for one of the biggest parties we have ever held is now coming in – and, evidently, its time to pay. Our BC Hydro members are being faced with a mountain of problems bigger than the lack of snow on Cypress with the current government mandating “there will no money for compensation increases in the 2010 round of collective bargaining”.

With the budget being tabled in Victoria in early March, BC Hydro rate payers – that’s me and you and all British Columbians – are being told we are going to be hit with a 9 percent rate increase this year and additional increases in the next two years that will see our costs for electricity skyrocket – yet at the same time, there is no money in the pot for any type of wage and/or benefit increases for the workers who keep the lights on in this province.

After seeing modest increases in the last round of bargaining let’s not forget about the contract of 2002, when Gordon Campbell and the BC Liberal government imposed a three-year wage freeze on our members working at BC Hydro.

The Vancouver Games boasted of being “clean” games and it’s too bad this government doesn’t have the same commitment to this province’s public sector workers. Through their appointed bargaining agent, the Public Sector Employers Council (PSEC), the BC Liberals have managed to effectively skirt around our right to freely bargain directly with our employer by “allowing” us to negotiate “trade-offs” through PSEC – to negotiate the benefits we historically achieved at the bargaining table with BC Hydro in exchange for possible compensation increases. We have nothing to trade – we have fought long and hard to get what we have and are not interested in trading it away.

This Local is not alone in our battle to achieve a fair collective agreement. I recently attended the IBEW Western Canada Utility Conference in Victoria, BC, where we heard from IBEW Locals



from across western Canada about the challenges they’re facing with their employers in the electrical utility industry. Members of Local 2034 in Manitoba undertook strike action last year before obtaining improvements to their collective agreement, and it appears our 1600 brothers & sisters working at SaskPower in Saskatchewan are facing difficulties in negotiating a fair collective agreement as well.

In today’s tough political climate and with the economy still in the crapper, we have to take a realistic look at the most effective strategies we can use to get a fair contract with reasonable improvements. We are seriously reviewing all options at this time and will be in touch with our BC Hydro members as this fight continues.

Another fight facing all British Columbians coming this summer will be the Harmonized Sales Tax, expected to add another \$2100 – yes that’s twenty-one hundred – onto the bill for running the average household in BC. Despite the BC Liberal’s promise they would NOT implement the HST in the last election, we are now being faced with this unfair tax that is nothing more than a shift from business onto the backs of BC consumers. In their apparent desperation to gain support for this wildly unpopular tax, we now have the BC Government claiming it will be used to help pay for healthcare! How stupid do they think we are? And don’t forget – the next increase for the Carbon Tax will come into effect on July 1st as well – seeing more money come out of the pocket-books of BC drivers and those who heat their homes with oil.

This union will continue to fight for respect for the job we do every day. We will continue to stand up for the right to freely bargain a fair collective agreement and protect what we have achieved and you can be assured, with your help, we will remain focused on improving the quality of life for our members and your families, for now and in the future. 🇺🇸



Dear Doug, Michelle and Staff,
Having arrived home yesterday from the CLC Harrison Winter School after taking BC Labour Law (no, Rebecca, your job is not threatened), I can say the course is very valuable for putting together a case to present to the Board or even in arguing points with employers. One learns where to source information and the reasons behind decisions that have been handed down.

The invaluable friendships that have been created and sharing of experiences and ideas helps going forward when dealing with employer/employee problems. Thank you for allowing me to experience this again. Last time I was at the school was 1988.

Fraternally,
Ron Norgaard

Hi Michelle and Local 258,
Thanks for the opportunity to attend Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs. I had the opportunity to learn about management systems and structures and build on that knowledge to develop stronger strategies.

We also learned how to develop effective union responses to various management systems by using communication, listening and conflict resolution skills to deal with difficult union/management situations, as well as an understanding of how group dynamics work in decision making processes.

This course will help me to design messaging strategies for membership to communicate labour relation issues effectively.
In solidarity,
Arun Chand,
Burrard Generating Station



Dear Local 258,
Many thanks for the opportunity to attend the CLC Winter School in Harrison this year. The week long Shop Steward course I took was very educational and the in-depth program combined with the great instructors are helping me as a Shop Steward in my workplace.

Awesome people, beautiful setting and they kept us very busy!
In solidarity
Drene Silva, LaneTec Traffic Control

Dear Local 258,

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

Thank you sincerely,
Friends of Hudson's Hope

Dear Michelle Laurie and Local 258,
I would like to thank you for your donation of \$200 we received in December, 2009.

The Miss Revelstoke Ambassador Program is a non-profit organization with a volunteer committee that provides young women with the opportunity to set and achieve goals, build personal confidence and develop the professional skills that are essential in their pursuit for excellence. We are not a "beauty" pageant; we are an ambassador program mentoring leadership.

Every year we have six to twelve young ladies between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one vying for one of the three Ambassador positions: Miss Revelstoke, Revelstoke Princess and Revelstoke Runner-Up. For one year the Ambassador Team will travel to communities within British Columbia as youth Ambassadors promoting and representing the City of Revelstoke.

We chaperone all events they are required to attend.

We are working very hard to help raise funds for this program, primarily for bursaries, promoting further education, and our travel expenses. In doing so, we are asking members and businesses of our community if they would partner with us and donate or contribute to this program; volunteer your time, a cash donation, a contribution to the bursary account or sponsor an award.

We are in the process of finalizing our Proclamation and Coronation events which will be held on April 9th and 10th, 2010. So please put those dates in your calendar and we look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
Lenne Anderson, President
Miss Revelstoke Ambassador Program

Dear Sister Michelle, Members of the Executive Council and Fellow Brothers and Sisters of IBEW 258:

Once again I want to thank you for making it possible for me to attend the 2010 CLC Winter School. Last year's training provided me with invaluable information in regards to the rights and responsibilities of a Shop Steward and this enabled me to become a far more effective advocate and representative for my crew. I also realized what a powerful and comforting thing a union can be when it's members realize that we are the union and it takes all of us involved to keep us from the "tender mercies" of our employers and others who would try to crush us.

This year's training was a much deeper look at the importance of the Shop Steward as the eyes, ears and voice of the union in our respective headquarters.

We learned some of the evolution of benchmark labour law and how it applies to our situations today. We gained an incredible range of knowledge in regards to how today's environment and issues affect today's unions. We were also able to develop relationships with sisters and brothers from across Canada, from a broad range of industries and businesses and had a great time doing it!

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to using my new skills in whatever situation I find myself.

In Solidarity
Carolyn Lawrence
GMS

Dear Susan Longva, ABM, and IBEW,
Please extend thanks again to the IBEW Local 258 for the grant you gave us to launch our Scrabble fundraiser on behalf of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Your members will be pleased to know that the Royal City Gogos raised more than \$38,000 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation in pledges and there is more money to follow from the silent auction and funds raised on the floor of the event. The money will be used in community projects in fifteen sub Saharan countries. There, with resources from Canadians, Africans are responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic with resolve and, in project after project, they are rebuilding lives and restoring hope.

With our sincere gratitude for your receptivity and support,
Janine Reid,
Coordinator, Royal City Gogos

THANK YOU!

For your generous donation to our annual Fireworks display. We could not do this without your support.

Sincerely
The Hudson's Hope Fire Department



Brothers & Sisters,
Thank you for the jacket, ball cap, pocket knife and plaque for my retirement, they are greatly appreciated. It was a privilege to belong to 258 and to hold various positions in the union.

Fraternally,
Royce Angus



Local 258 and Michelle Laurie,
Thank you for your generous donation to my son's hockey team. It is very much appreciated. The money went towards the Christmas hockey tournament.
Dave Herrington,
FVO Operator

Dear Local 258,
This letter is in appreciation of having our local Union sending me to the CLC Winter School for the course Critical Incident Stress. I have benefitted by having a better understanding on how to work with traumatized people in a group or individual settings, how to set a Defusing/Debriefing team, and learning how to work with people affected by the severity of the reactions to a traumatic event within the union or in my community.

These tools will help strengthen Labour's presence in the community and show that union people really do care.
In solidarity,
Fred Ruttan



Labour's Proposals for the Future of Canadian Pensions

The global economy is in its deepest downturn since the 1930s.

Many Canadians are fearful that they may retire without adequate pensions or even fall into poverty.

Hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs have been lost, and the pensions of millions of Canadians have been put at risk by the financial meltdown and a wave of employer bankruptcies.

Without question, recent events have exposed major faults at the heart of our pension system. Our public pension system – Old Age Security (OAS) and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) plus the Canada Pension Plan – provides a secure income in retirement, but the maximum value of public pensions falls well short of replacing the 50% to 70% of pre-retirement income needed to maintain decent living standards. Compared to many other advanced industrial countries, our public pension system is very underdeveloped.

The private part of our pension system, which was meant to make up the big difference between public pensions and adequate retirement incomes, is in deep trouble. Only about one in five workers in the private sector now belong to an employer pension plan. Very few non-union workers, with the exception of managers and professionals, are covered by an employer plan. Many of the plans which do exist are on shaky financial ground because of low interest rates and the recent collapse of stock markets. Some workers covered by pension plans find that there is no effective backstop when plans get into financial trouble.

While most employer plans still provide a defined benefit, there has been a shift to defined contribution plans that resemble RRSPs in terms of high risks, high costs, and very uncertain outcomes.

RRSPs were sold as the solution to our pension woes. Yet the average older worker approaching retirement today has saved enough to buy a monthly pension of only about \$250 per month. (The median RRSP value of a worker aged 55 to 65 was just \$60,000 in 2005. Half of RRSP holders have less than this amount.) RRSPs have failed to counter the decline of defined benefit pension plan coverage because many people do not save enough, because administrative fees and costs are very high, and because financial returns are highly variable and uncertain.

Despite improvements in recent decades, a disturbing number of vulnerable seniors – single women, First Nations, recent immigrants, and those with disabilities – still live in poverty.

The case for pension reform runs into strong opposition from the vested interests of the financial industry. However, the case for change is being increasingly heard by decision-makers. Many employers who sponsor pension plans recognize that the cost of supporting decent pensions through public rather than private arrangements would help level the competitive playing field between businesses and by reducing their costs of administering their private pension plans.

The Canadian Labour Congress proposals call for change, championing the same progressive values which changed our health care system with the advent of Medicare in the late 1960s. Today, we can make a similar choice for pensions, and create a system where no Canadian is left behind.

Our priorities for change call for a major shift from private to public pensions, and greater security for members of existing employer pension plans. The changes we propose would benefit all workers, providing greater security while making our pension system better fit the needs of a changing economy.

• **Security of pension benefits**

All Canadians are entitled to the pension they've earned, and government must provide a base floor of pension security;

• **Adequacy in pension income**

Regardless of personal circumstances, no senior (current or future) should live in poverty; public pensions including the Canada Pension Plan should replace an adequate portion of the average wage;

• **Fairness in pension outcomes**

One's skill at "playing the markets," misfortune to retire in a recession, or working for several employers shouldn't dramatically reduce pension income. We need fair pension outcomes for all Canadians, and measures to help those, like women, who do worse today.

Three key areas in which to improve Canadian pensions:

1. Double benefits for the Canada Pension Plan (CPP)

This would offer efficient, secure, and enhanced pension benefits to the 93% of Canadians who make CPP contributions, while also taking financial stress off workplace pensions moving forward. (The great majority of workplace plans are coordinated with CPP benefits, meaning that a defined benefit tops up the CPP pension benefit, with the employer plan making up the difference.)

We propose to phase in a doubling of the proportion of average earnings replaced by CPP from 25% to 50% over seven to ten years to \$1,635 per month, financed by a modest increase in worker and employer premiums which would be fair for lower paid workers.

2. Increase low income public pensions (GIS) by 15% so no senior lives in poverty

Our proposal would move all seniors above the poverty line. Moving forward, since an improved CPP will provide better pension benefits, tax subsidies to RRSPs could be reduced to finance an increase in Old Age Security benefits paid to all workers.

3. Protecting Canadian pensions through a federal system of pension insurance

An insurance "floor" should be set for defined benefit pension benefits (to a proposed maximum of \$2,500 per month) through a system funded by contributions from pension plan sponsors. This would be a federal system initially covering federally regulated pensions, but the federal government should enter into negotiations with the provinces to create a national system. The pension insurance system should also take on the task of administering abandoned pension plans from bankrupt employers with no prospects of recovery.

Pension insurance should be backstopped by a reserve fund financed through a small financial transfer tax on Canadian stock market transactions.

The labour movement believes that Canadians should not have to "fend for themselves" in retirement.

After a lifetime of work, making a positive contribution to our country's development, all Canadians deserve security and dignity in retirement.

The Canadian Labour Congress calls for a national summit of government, employers, labour and others to discuss and bring forward a concrete plan to rebuild and reform our pension system.

For more information, visit the CLC website at www.clc-cta.ca

Even those with jobs are wondering if and when they can ever retire.

A WEEK AT HARRISON WINTER SCHOOL

By Ron Norgaard, Local 258 IBEW member

The first piece of advice I have for those who have the opportunity attend the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School that takes place in Harrison Hot Springs is to arrive early if you want to take advantage of the door prizes offered to the students in the room where you register. Second, bring a bathing suit so you can unwind in the evening after the activities are over, though some time should also be set aside for study and research – yes, it is a school. Third, bring an appetite, as very nice meals are provided with consideration to special dietary needs if necessary.

I will add there are lots of fun things organized for the evenings, but pace yourself if you want to get full value of the gift the union has provided.

I was fortunate to attend the week-long class, Provincial Labour Law, and am happy to provide details of my experience.

Monday morning began with class starting at 0900 with introductions to instructors and each student gave a short bio. We received the course literature and outline of what we would be learning and by 0930 we had a brief presentation on the purpose of the course and how it would be delivered. Before lunch, we had brief presentations about the Human Rights Code, Duty to Accommodate and the Employment Standards Act.

After a break for lunch we did some role playing where we argued the pros and cons of a \$10 minimum wage (I hate taking the employer side as it leaves me feeling pretty sleazy!). We were then provided with the scripts we would be using for our main event for the week – a mock Labour Board hearing, scheduled for Thursday.

Instruction was given on how to source material on computers and through the legal volumes of case law. The after-

noon finished with Mr. Mike Fleming, Labour Relations Board (LRB) Associate Chair, giving us some history of how the Labour Code came about and some of the current problems facing the Board.

Tuesday's class started with Mr. Mark Clark from the LRB who provided written material and information on Procedure and Structures of the LRB, including the role of the Vice Chairs, Registrar, Special Investigating Officers (SIOs) and investigations that might be implemented. The instructors discussed bargaining rights, organizing, certification, voluntary recognition, unfair labour practices, decertification, QuickLaw and hearing preparation. The day closed with Deb Cameron, Mediation Division, giving instruction on collective bargaining procedures, mediation and the imposition of first collective agreements.

Before we leave, the instructors advise us that we have enough information to
(cont'd on next page)

Georgetti calls on labour students to be the messengers in the fight for pension reform

The Canadian Labour Congress is expressing deep concerns that unless dramatic improvements are made to pension legislation, many workers will face poverty, uncertainty and humiliation in what should be their golden years.

Students attending the CLC Winter School in Harrison Hot Springs this year heard from CLC President Ken Georgetti as he called upon them to be the messengers in the fight for pension reform in Canada.

Students echoed Georgetti's cries of "shame" as he criticized Stephen Harper's shutting down of Parliament this winter as important issues remain unresolved during this economic recession that has found hundreds of thousands of Canadians without work and facing a bleak future.

He reminded participants of the strong history of the labour movement and reflected on those who came before us who fought to secure what we now take for granted: the 8-hour work day, the "weekend", unemployment insurance and health and safety laws.

But the fight continues as we battle to defend every benefit and social program we enjoy today and now take on the fight for pension reform.

Georgetti warned, "If we don't take action now we will no longer be able to promise that workers are able to retire with dignity, respect and security in their old age."

The CLC is making pension reform a national priority and is asking members of the labour movement for your help by spreading the word and talking with your MPs.


(cont'd from previous page)

start to put together our cases of argument for the mock LRB hearing. Yes, it was time to get to work. It does not matter what your role is – all must assist in research.

The next day, Wednesday, law was discussed with regards to strikes, lockouts, picketing and replacement workers. After morning coffee, Mr. David McPhillips, Arbitrator, talked about arbitration and how it works, what his parameters were and expedited arbitration. In the afternoon, we were instructed in what the unions' responsibilities were in providing fair representation. We also learned about advocacy skills, opening, closing, introducing evidence, hearing procedures, LRB Rules and Regulations and preparing for the hearing. This is the day when we had to make sure we had everything in order for our presentations tomorrow. Work, work, work.

Thursday – D-Day – started with the instructors giving us a brief dissertation on Successorship and common employer, enforcement procedures and appeals.

Mr. Wayne Mullins, SIO from the LRB, then conducted an informal hearing where both sides presented the issues. He listened, we identified common understandings that were removed from the hearing as, in most cases, this reduces the issues to the point where the real issues can be addressed. After lunch, Mr. Bruce Wilkins, Vice Chair, LRB, conducted a formal hearing complete with swearing in, witnesses and counsel. Two students acted as company representatives, three represented the union side and there were eight witnesses. Cross examination, arguments, counter arguments and closing summations, including remedies, were all heard and a decision was handed down by the Vice Chair. We then received a critique and guidance on where improvements could be made.

On Friday, our last day, we received our final evaluations and diplomas. The day ended with hugs, handshakes and well wishing for all the new friendships that were made during this intense week of labour education. 

Congratulations to all the IBEW 258 members who participated in labour education courses at the 2010 CLC Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS

Scott Peebles, Fred Ruttan

BASIC SHOP STEWARD

Ryan Chalmers, Drene Silva, Davin Zobel

SHOP STEWARD LEVEL 2

Carolyn Lawrence

UNION COUNSELLING LEVEL 2

Barry Kinsley

PROVINCIAL LABOUR LAW

Ron Norgaard

LABOUR COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Karen Porter

FACING MANAGEMENT

Arun Chand

HUMAN RIGHTS – ISSUES AND ADVOCACY

Barry Bell

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BASIC

Mike Hatada

DAN KLASSEN, ABM, LOCAL 258 IBEW facilitated the Basic Shop Steward course

MICHELLE LAURIE, PRESIDENT, LOCAL 258 IBEW facilitated the WCB Basic Advocacy & the Union Counselling Level 1 courses



Canadian Labour Congress

Congrès du travail du Canada

Call for submissions

Local 258 IBEW Tom Forkin Student Scholarship

Once again, it is time for Local 258 IBEW's annual Tom Forkin Memorial Scholarship essay contest. This Scholarship was created in 1991, in memory of our first Local President - Brother Tom Forkin, and is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258.

As you may know, we changed the format of the competition in 2009, asking applicants to define their relationship to the union and their community. We received excellent applications last year, and have determined that this model provides balanced opportunity for our members and their dependents, while adhering to the original intent of furthering the goals of unionism and education.




We are asking participants to explain their goals and define their relationship with the union and their community and labour activities. Applicants must complete the application form (available on the website or by contacting the union office) and submit it either by mail, or if possible, via e-mail to info@ibew258.bc.ca. If submitting via e-mail, "Tom Forkin Scholarship" must be included in the subject bar.

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

Applications can be mailed to:

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



All submissions must be received by 4:00 p.m. on April 16, 2010. The Executive Board shall assess all submissions, and will make a final and unalterable decision by May 14, 2010. Successful applicants will be notified immediately, but the scholarship funds will not be released until proof of enrollment is provided. 

Progress Report to IBEW 258 Members

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The long-standing allied relationship between BC Citizens for Public Power (BCCPP) and Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is well-known within the union and among members. Because of IBEW 258's leadership role in supporting BCCPP's work, we can take great pride in the organization's achievements and successes over the past seven years.

BCCPP is pleased to provide members of IBEW 258 with its Two Year Progress Report, summarizing the organization's activities and financial position for the fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The report also highlights key accomplishments over the past two years, along with strategic program plans moving forward.

Where we've been...



In 2009, BCCPP launched BC Guardians, an online forum for citizens working to expose and oppose the privatization of BC's electricity sector. We joined forces with allied groups on concurrent campaigns and presented at public meetings across the province. We engaged thousands of college/university students in dialogue about green public power by distributing educational materials on campuses throughout the Lower Mainland. We coordinated province-wide distribution of hundreds of public power lawn signs during the

provincial election campaign period. And, as part of our government lobbying initiatives, we distributed more than 70,000 information packages across the province, including a call to action letter of protest directed to BC's Ministers of Energy, Environment, the Premier, and MLAs.

Keeping the public/private power debate in the media spotlight has been one of our key priorities and our message has reached tens of thousands of British Columbians through print, broadcast, and online media province-wide. In 2008, BCCPP issued 8 media releases and received 84 media placements. In 2009, we issued 6 news releases and received 55 placements.

Hard work—and a burgeoning movement—have translated into real results and victories. Widespread and vocal community opposition has significantly thwarted development of several massive private power project proposals, including the Upper Pitt in the Lower Mainland, Glacier-Howser in the Kootenays, and Bute Inlet on the Sunshine Coast.

But make no mistake, the provincial government is more determined than ever to pursue its privatization agenda. Over \$27 billion in Energy Purchase Agreements has already been committed to private power producers. And this likely accounts for why the government overruled a decision by the BC Utilities Commission, which stated that BC Hydro's Long-Term Acquisition Plan to purchase excessive quantities of private power was "not in the public interest." More recently, efforts to discredit our growing movement include carefully crafted messaging by government public affairs teams, financing "astro-turf" groups, and wooing high-profile environmental activists to echo their position.

Where we're going...

Our program priorities for this year include the development and distribution of an instructional DVD on building social movements to protect public power; funds permitting, this project will include a promotional tour, with DVD screenings and presentations.

Also, in response to the provincial government's "greenwashing" of the public/private power issue, BCCPP has strengthened its alliances with BC's environmental movement—which largely opposes the government's energy policy and supports public power. In fact, in the coming months you can expect a significant increase in BCCPP's media and public profile as one of BC's most respected and eminent environmentalists—Rex Weyler—joins the public power campaign.

BCCPP's plans to scale up our lobbying initiatives include requesting meetings with Energy and Environment Ministers and Opposition Critics; responding to key newsworthy events with media releases, interviews, and Opinion/Editorial columns; and filing FOI requests under BC's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) where information associated with BC's energy policy has been deliberately withheld from the public.

We know you are mindful of the continued threats to BC's public services under the current government. You understand that this is a labour issue, a social issue, an economic issue, and an environmental issue. This is a critical time in our fight to save public power in BC. We urgently need to grow our constituency of individual supporters and are asking IBEW 258 members to consider deepening their commitment to the public power cause through an individual donation to BC Citizens for Public Power or—better yet—by joining our group of PUBLIC DEFENDERS and registering as a monthly donor. Thank you for considering this request.

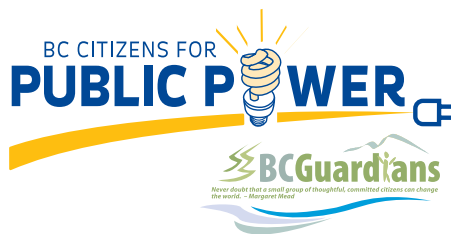
In solidarity,

Melissa Davis,
Executive Director,
BC Citizens for Public Power

Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258, IBEW
President, Board of Directors, BCCPP

**Supporting BCCPP is easy.
Simply complete the form on
the next page and return it,
along with your cheque or
credit card information, in
the postage paid envelope
provided.**





IBEW 258 supports the work of BC Citizens for Public Power... as a member, and a concerned citizen, so do I!

Please return completed form in the postage paid envelope provided.

ADVOCATES

- ☐ **YES! I'm an ADVOCATE** for BC Citizens for Public Power and have enclosed a donation in support of your work.

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/Province/Postal Code: _____

Gift amount: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ Other \$ _____

Method of payment: ☐ Cheque (*Payable to Citizens for Public Power Society*)

☐ ☐ ☐ Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Authorized signature: _____

PUBLIC DEFENDERS

- ☐ **YES! I'd like to become a PUBLIC DEFENDER** by supporting BC Citizens for Public Power through *monthly donations*.

Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) Agreement:

Donor profile: ☐ Individual ☐ Business

Please debit my bank account or charge my credit card: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

The debit will be processed on the 15th day of each month or the next business day

Method of payment: ☐ Cheque (*Please attach a cheque marked "VOID"*)

☐ ☐ ☐ Card #: _____ Expiry: _____

Authorized signature: _____

Donor Rights & Recourses: You may revoke your authorization at any time, subject to providing written notice to BCCPP at least ten (10) business days before the next scheduled monthly debit. You also have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, you have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this Agreement. To obtain sample cancellation forms or reimbursement claim forms, as well as information on your right to cancel a PAD Agreement and other recourse rights, contact your financial institution or visit www.cdnpay.ca.

Donor/Account Holder Information:

Name(s): _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/Province/Postal Code: _____

Account Holders' Signature(s)

Joint account holders require both signatures

Date

BC GUARDIANS

- ☐ **YES! I'd like to join the network of BC GUARDIANS** working to expose and oppose adverse environmental, social and economic impacts resulting from the privatization of BC's electricity sector.
- ☐ Please send me an Associate Registration form and additional information.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/Province/Postal Code: _____

Privacy: We occasionally exchange names/addresses with other non-profit groups to expand our constituency of support. If you do not want your contact information shared, please check here: ☐ Please remove my name from future mailings. ☐ BCCPP is a registered non-profit society but is not a designated charity; therefore we are **NOT** able to issue tax receipts for donations.

BC Citizens for Public Power
Office address: 604-207 West Hastings St. • Vancouver, BC • V6B 1H7
Mailing address: 600-916 West Broadway • Vancouver, BC • V5Z 1K7
Phone: 604.681.5939 • Fax: 604.681.2127
Email: donate@citizensforpublicpower.ca

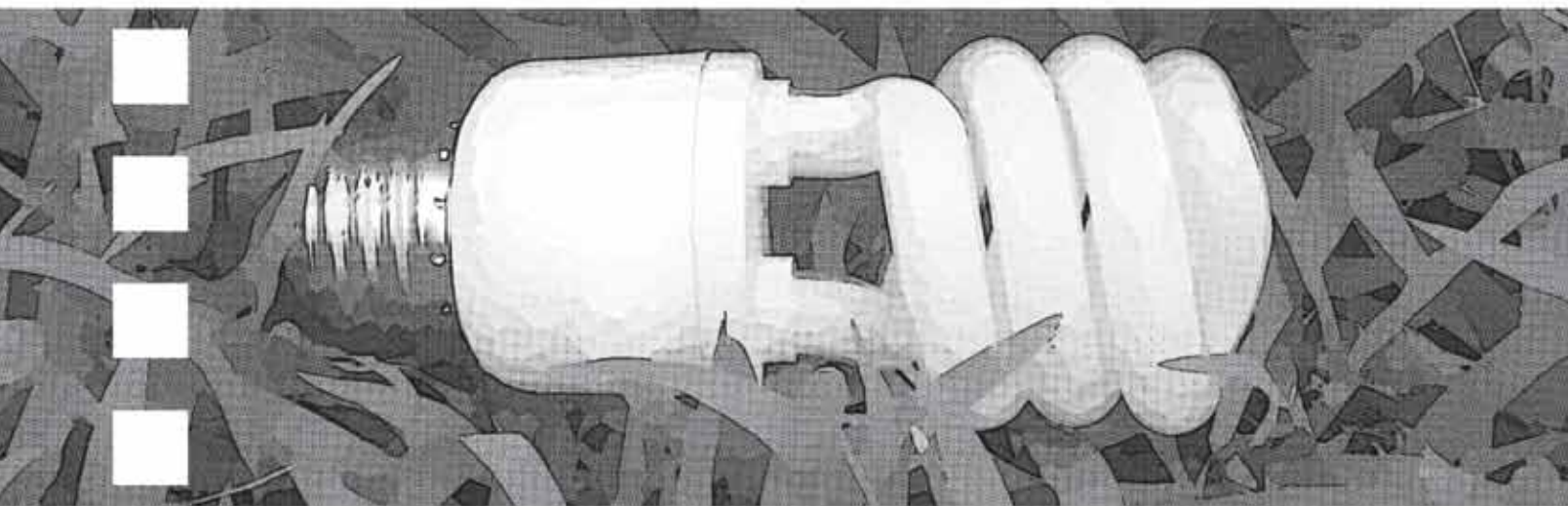


BC Citizens for Public Power

Two Year Progress Report
2008 & 2009

Table of Contents

- 1** **President's Report:** BCCPP – Reflecting on Two Energetic Years
- 2** **Treasurer's Report:** The Bottom Line
- 2** **Financial Statements:** For FYE 2008 & 2009
- 4** **Executive Director's Report:** Moving Forward – Energized for Change
- 5** **Board of Directors**
- 5** **BCCPP Mission/Vision/Mandate/Values**



Office Address: 207 West Hastings Street • Suite #604 • Vancouver, BC • V6B 1H7

Mailing Address: BC Citizens for Public Power • 600 - 916 West Broadway • Vancouver, BC • V5Z 9Z9

Phone: 604.681.5939 • **Fax:** 604.681.2127 • **Email:** info@citizensforpublicpower.ca

Website: www.citizensforpublicpower.ca



Website: www.bcguardians.ca • **Email:** contact@bcguardians.ca

**(BC Guardians is a project of the BC Citizens for Public Power Society)*

President's Report: BCCPP – Reflecting on Two Energetic Years

Throughout 2008 and 2009, the movement to protect public power and BC's natural resources exploded: attracting a diverse array of supporters from labour unions, academics, lawyers, First Nations leaders, social justice and environmental activists, and thousands of concerned citizens.

This period was marked by increased activity in terms of BCCPP's education, advocacy, and mobilization efforts, including a redesign and re-launch of our website www.citizensforpublicpower.ca; development and distribution of educational materials; presentations and participation at public meetings; lobbying provincial politicians; and regional media coverage.

In October 2008, BCCPP coordinated a hugely successful two-day provincial conference in Vancouver. MORE POWER TO YOU brought together 160 participants and respected speakers from every area of the province. In response to feedback from the conference, BCCPP expanded its role—serving as a central communications resource—assisting local groups and individuals in their community-based grassroots organizing efforts.

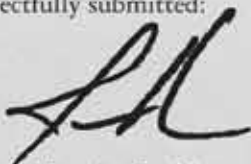
To meet the needs of our flourishing movement, we launched our BC Guardians campaign in January 2009. BC Guardians (www.bcguardians.ca) is an online forum for diverse groups and individuals working to expose and oppose the environmental, social, and economic impacts resulting from the privatization of BC's electricity sector.

Also in 2009, particularly prior to the provincial election, BCCPP focused its efforts on public awareness and campaign activities, government lobbying, and earned media. We collaborated with allied groups on campaigns and community information events; we engaged young voters in dialogue about green public power at colleges/universities; and we distributed hundreds of public power lawn signs. As part of our lobbying initiatives, we distributed more than 70,000 information packages, including a call to action letter of protest directed to BC's Ministers of Energy, Environment, the Premier, and MLAs. BCCPP also received 84 unique media placements in 2008 and over 60 in 2009. Factoring in news coverage garnered by allied groups, the public power message reached tens of thousands of British Columbians in hundreds of daily and community newspapers, radio programs, television news broadcasts, and electronic media during the pre-election months.

Our Staff and Board recently participated in a strategic planning process to establish financial, governance, and program priorities for the year ahead. We plan to diversify our revenue sources by expanding our network of existing supporters and granting agencies. Two new members joined BCCPP's Board last year and we intend to recruit another new member next year. We also established an Advisory Board, whose members have expertise in areas such as research, law, fundraising, communications, conservation, land use planning, and First Nations issues.

The snapshot of highlights in this report cannot capture the magnitude of this battle or the groundswell of public support to restore and save our public utility and protect our province's natural resources from privatization. We hope, however, it communicates our key achievements over the past two years and our continued determination to win this fight.

Respectfully submitted:



Michelle Laurie, President,
BC Citizens for Public Power
January, 2010

Treasurer's Report: The Bottom Line

The consolidated financial statements in this *Two Year Progress Report* have been prepared by BC Citizens for Public Power management in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. While the integrity and objectivity of the data in these statements is management's responsibility, a system of internal controls provides reasonable assurance as to the reliability of financial information.

BCCPP is a registered non-profit organization (NPO) under the Societies Act of British Columbia, and is funded exclusively through donations from supportive groups and private citizens. Because of BCCPP's advocacy activities, the organization does not qualify for charitable status and cannot issue tax receipts for donations.

As Secretary-Treasurer of the BCCPP, I offer some clarifying remarks regarding these consolidated financial statements. Firstly, as with most small NPOs, the largest proportion of expenses falls under Administration or general operations: staff wages, consulting fees, rent, utilities, supplies, and

miscellaneous administrative costs. This is necessarily the case for an operation as small as BCCPP, since the organization employs only a single full-time staff person to carry out the bulk of our activities, including: public education/campaigning, PR/media relations, government lobbying, fundraising, and administration. Consulting fees are paid on an as-needed basis for database management, website programming/maintenance, research/grant writing, graphic design, bookkeeping, and other specialized work.

BCCPP's Outreach and Communication expenses are also noteworthy; these costs include production and distribution of print and online educational resources such as brochures, booklets, fact sheets, mailers, and electronic newsletters.

Expenses associated with the BC Guardians campaign, launched in January 2009, are reflected under the 2009 FYE. The bulk of these costs were recovered through donations from campaign registrants/Associates.

Financial Statements

Citizens for Public Power Society

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

For the year(s) ended April 30,

REVENUES

	2009	2008
Donations	241,418	191,220
Other	-	2
Total Revenues	241,418	191,221

EXPENDITURES

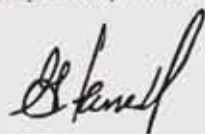
BC Utilities Commission	-	-
Class Action	-	-
BC Guardians (as of May 01-08)	13,708	-
Outreach & Communication	71,734	78,907
Government Lobby	936	-
Media	3,790	2,416
Public Meetings & Community Events	40,929	2,588
Research	2,540	2,239
Website	951	6,630
Administration	114,898	90,385
Total Expenditures	249,487	183,165
Excess of Revenues (Expenditures) for the year	(8,069)	8,056
Net assets, beginning of year, as previously reported	39,476	31,420
Adjustments to accounts payable at May 01-2003	-	-
Net assets, beginning of year, as restated	39,476	31,420
Net assets (deficiency), end of year	31,407	39,476

Finally, the organization incurred significant costs in the 2009 fiscal year for Public Meetings and Community Events. These expenses are associated both with BCCPP's MORE POWER TO YOU provincial conference as well as numerous public information meetings and presentations that we conducted across the province during the year.

The Board of Directors oversees management's responsibilities for financial reporting through its Treasurer and the Finance & Fundraising sub-Committee, which consists of three Directors who are independent and not involved in the daily operations of the society. The Board meets monthly with BCCPP management to review and discuss the organization's financial reports.

In my opinion, these consolidated financial statements present fairly the cash flows and financial position of BC Citizens for Public Power Society as at April 30th 2008 and 2009.

Respectfully submitted:



Gwenne Farrell,
Treasurer, BC Citizens for Public Power
January, 2010

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2009	2008
ASSETS		
Cash	144,229	25,811
Capital Assets [Net]	1,932	2,704
Accounts Receivable	9,141	22,014
Pre Paid Expenses	218	220
Total Assets	155,520	50,749
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Accounts Payable and Accruals	123,136	10,785
Total Liabilities	123,136	10,785
NET ASSETS (DEFICIENCY)		
Invested in Capital Assets	806	806
Unrestricted	31,578	39,158
Total Net Assets (Deficiency)	32,384	39,964
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	155,520	50,749



Michelle Laurie, President
BC Citizens for Public Power



Gwenne Farrell, Treasurer
BC Citizens for Public Power

BCCPP's Five Year Progress Report, covering the period 2002 – 2007, is available on our website at:
<www.citizensforpublicpower.ca/node/209>

Executive Director's Report: Moving Forward – Energized for Change

More than seven years after BC Citizens for Public Power was established, the battle to save our province's electricity sector from privatization rages on.

These are trying times. In spite of widespread public disapproval—and even a ruling by the BC Utilities Commission that the province's private power acquisition plan is “not in the public interest”—the provincial government remains bound and determined to implement its *Energy Plan*.

There is a great deal of money at stake. Long-term Energy Purchase Agreements between BC Hydro and private power producers are presently valued at more than \$31 billion and, according to a recent report commissioned by the Independent Power Producers of BC (IPPBC), are expected to increase by an additional \$26 billion by 2020.

Nothing is being left to chance. It seems more than coincidental that, in late October, the IPPBC unexpectedly announced a new Executive Director and then, shortly thereafter, BC Hydro abruptly removed its CEO. At the same time, public affairs teams have been aggressively challenging opposing views and attempting to shift public opinion through carefully crafted media messaging. And “astro-turf” groups are contributing to the confusion by touting the benefits of “green energy” as though such technology was exclusive to the private sector.

It is more important than ever for BC Citizens for Public Power to escalate our education, mobilization, and advocacy efforts to save public power in BC.

BCCPP is eager to build on its accomplishments by developing and expanding our public awareness/education, media, and lobbying activities. Our program priorities for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year include the following:

- ⇒ Expand BC Guardians network (www.bcguardians.ca)
- ⇒ Commission original research on new and emerging issues in BC's public/private power debate
- ⇒ Develop educational brochures
- ⇒ Develop/implement youth education project
- ⇒ Coordinate 2nd MORE POWER TO YOU conference or provincial think tank/strategizing meeting
- ⇒ Increase earned media exposure
- ⇒ Review/revise BCCPP's energy policy
- ⇒ Prepare/submit FOI requests
- ⇒ Develop/launch instructional DVD on building social movements to protect public power
- ⇒ Lobby Provincial and Municipal Governments and Opposition

As the original grassroots, provincial non-profit association established to protect public power in British Columbia, BCCPP is most suitably positioned to maintain and nurture the alliance between labour unions, citizens groups, academics, environmental organizations, First Nations, and other concerned citizens in this growing movement. With support from our funders and individual contributors, we will continue to collaborate with allied groups to stop the privatization of BC's electricity sector and to ensure that our public utility can remain a world leader in conservation initiatives and green energy solutions, while reinvesting revenues into vital social services and programs to benefit the people of this province.



Respectfully submitted:
Melissa Davis, Executive Director,
BC Citizens for Public Power
January 2010

Board of Directors

Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009:

Executive

- ✦ **President: Michelle Laurie** – President, Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers *
- ✦ **Vice-President: Gwen Barlee** – Policy Director, Western Canada Wilderness Committee*
- ✦ **Secretary/Treasurer: Gwenne Farrell** – Vice-President, Canadian Office of Professional Employees (COPE) 378*

Directors:

- ✦ **John Calvert** – Author & Associate Professor, Simon Fraser University*
- ✦ **Charles Dobson** – Author/Activist & Instructor, Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design*
- ✦ **Rudy Lawrence** – Retired, Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations*
- ✦ **Geoff Meggs** – Communications Consultant & Councillor, City of Vancouver*
- ✦ **Jerri New** – Honourary National President, Canadian Office of Professional Employees*
- ✦ **Blair Redlin** – Researcher, Canadian Union of Public Employees (BC Regional office)*

Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008:

Executive

- ✦ **President: Michelle Laurie** President, Local 258, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers *
- ✦ **Vice-President: Gwen Barlee** – Policy Director, Western Canada Wilderness Committee*
- ✦ **Secretary/Treasurer: Gwenne Farrell** – Vice-President, Canadian Office of Professional Employees (COPE) 378*

Directors:

- ✦ **John Calvert** – Author & Associate Professor, Simon Fraser University*
- ✦ **Geoff Meggs** – Communications Consultant
- ✦ **Jerri New** – Honourary National President, Canadian Office of Professional Employees*
- ✦ **Blair Redlin** – Researcher, Canadian Union of Public Employees (BC Regional office)*

Photographs and brief biographical statements for all Board Members are available on our website at: <www.citizensforpublicpower.ca/about_us/board_of_directors>

** Professional associations listed for reference purposes only.*

Mission, Vision, Mandate & Values

BC Citizens for Public Power (est. 2002) is a citizens-driven, provincial, non-profit organization that is funded by donations from individuals and groups.

Mission:

BC Citizens for Public Power works to ensure that BC's electricity system is publicly owned, regulated, and operated by and for the citizens of British Columbia through mobilization, education, and advocacy.

Vision:

BC Citizens for Public Power is a leader in the movement to build the legacy of public power for future generations.

Mandate:

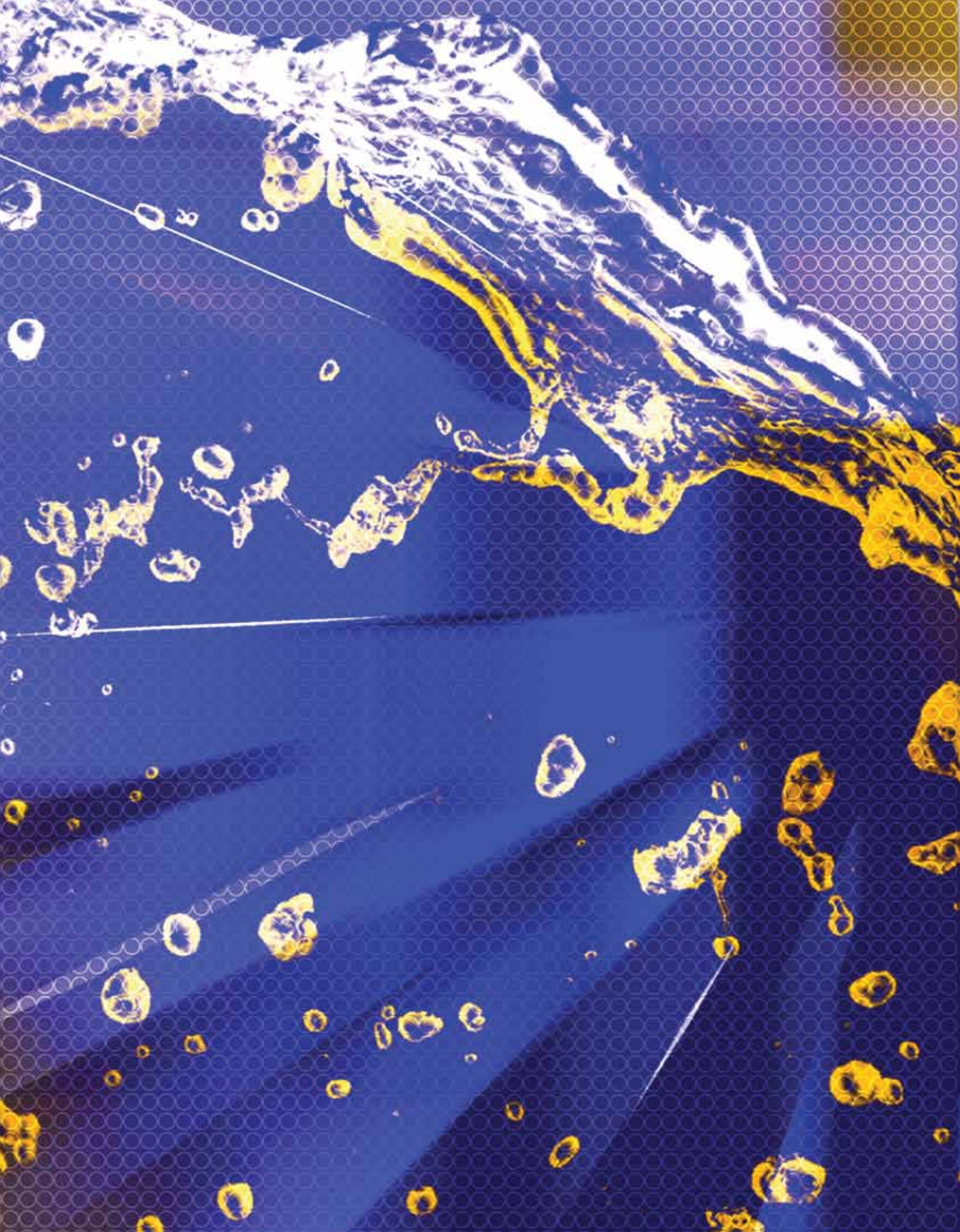
- ⇒ Promote and advocate for a publicly owned and integrated system of power production, transmission, and distribution that provides BC residents with affordable, clean, reliable, and renewable energy
- ⇒ Encourage energy conservation and alternative energy sources by public agencies
- ⇒ Ensure that all levels of government are aware of the benefits of public power
- ⇒ Inform BC residents about the implications surrounding the deregulation, privatization, and break-up of BC Hydro
- ⇒ Mobilize business, consumer, and community groups to represent and express the interests of British Columbians in decisions regarding BC Hydro

Values:

ENGAGEMENT: We share a commitment to the vision and mission and are active and dedicated participants in the public power cause.

INTEGRITY: We speak and act with honesty, accuracy, and respect.

PUBLIC GOOD: We put the interests of citizens, communities, and the environment first in all our work.



PROBLEMS AT HOME OR AT WORK? NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE?



Trained union counsellors are now available to help you with issues that may be affecting your well-being, home life and/or work performance.

To arrange a completely confidential phone call to talk with someone who can help, call IBEW Local 258 at 604-520-3305 (Lower Mainland), or Toll Free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours.

Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.

IF WE CAN'T HELP YOU, WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN.

In Memoriam

In memory of brothers and sisters of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 258, who passed away in 2009.

Leon Arsenault
Robert Bellamy
Frank Bilinski
Beverly Bording
Michael S. Brown
Gil Callihoo
Antonio Carano
Richard J. Caspell
John (Jack) Chupa
Mario Colosimo
Leonard W. Dash
Martin J. Daniel
Bon W. Dawyduk
Richard A. Doig
William Edgar
Douglas L. Eigeard
Peter Federink
George Ferdinands
Gordon French
Kenneth Gillanders
John Gilker
Bruce E. Goldbaum
William Graham
Romeo Hardero
John Hewison
Donald A. Hiebert
Leonard M. Hoskins
Alan Holt
Erwin Hoffman
Roy Hutchinson
Peter Karoway
Jackie Kellington
Bernard Lens
Gilbert S. Loyie
John S. MacLean
Charles J. Madigan
Charles Madsen
Bruno Marcotte
Harold Marcus
Randy B. Marini
Alex Mazur

Kenneth Messenger **passed away in late 2008*

Ronald Millar

Jacob Molendyk
Arnold Montgomery
Charles Nairne
Terry S. Nazaruk
Albert Neufeld
Lloyd R. Norris
Terry Norris
Jack Olson
Joseph Ostranski
Lee G. Pasemko
Harold Pedersen
William (Billy) Pinkenburg
Marv Phillips
Wilhelm Poehlmann
Morris R. Roland **passed away in late 2008*
Robert Sampson
Mattheaus H. Frank Sarton
Edward Sauder
William Shaw
Gilbert Shaw-MacLaren
John Shortreed **passed away in late 2008*
Kenneth Singleton
Elmer Smith
Oral (Red) Somerville
Duncan Stewart
Clifford Stedman
Maurice E.D. Stokes
Larry Strachan
Arnold Sutherland
Fred Taylor
Elizabeth (Lisa) Thomas
Ross C. Thomas
Robert G. Verhoeve, Sr.
Huibertus Wageningen
Phillip Wallace
Theodore A. Wear
Arthur G. Webster
Maxwell E. Westley
J. Greig Wilkie
Clarence (Gerry) Wills
Ernest Grant Young
Norton W. Youngs



RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 member

Today is Monday. I know that because yesterday's newspaper contained the big crossword puzzle and the coloured comics. Retirees require some reference point to determine the days of the week because we don't have to get up in the morning to go to work. However, a couple of days after the big crossword puzzle and the coloured comics appear, determining the day of the week becomes a problem again as Retirees tend to lose count of the passing days. Today was really supposed to be Sunday but that day somehow slipped away and so here we are on Monday. Sometime last week I received notification that this column was due and expected on Tuesday. I determined to be ahead of the deadline this time and complete the task on Sunday.


There are some good reasons that Sunday became Monday. On Saturday I bought a detailing kit for the camper. The kit contains all kinds of super good car care products that I am anxious to make use of. Washing, polishing and waxing the camper is almost as therapeutic as hosing the driveway and patio and generally provides quality ruminating time. So anyway, on Sunday, after checking out the big crossword puzzle and the coloured comics I was torn between my resolve to complete this column and my desire to play with the new detailing kit. While wrestling with these weighty issues I looked out the window and noticed a gathering of neighbours in our cul-de-sac. As it was still fairly early in the day I thought there would be no harm in joining the gathering and perhaps one of the attendees could help me decide which course of action to follow. Following some time consuming discussion on a variety of subjects and while I was still undecided I noted another gathering of neighbours just outside our cul-de-sac. This gathering was busily supervising the replacement of skirting on a park model trailer. I wandered over to offer my assistance in the supervising procedure. After a reasonable period of supervision another neighbour came by, returning from a ride on his newly acquired Harley. The rider had just detailed his Harley and it was gleaming. Discussion ensued. That discussion moved playing with my new kit ahead of writing this column by several points. Returning home from the work site I paused at another neighbour's where we talked a bit about arthritis. When I did get home, still somewhat undecided, I thought that a cup of coffee would assist immeasurably in the decision making process. Once the coffee was finished I looked at the clock and noted that in a couple of hours it would be time to take Sesame (the dog) for her afternoon walk. It therefore seemed to me that there was really no point in embarking on any new projects so late in the day. Given that the first maxim in the Retiree's Manual states, "There is always tomorrow" I decided to table both courses of action until another day. And that is how Sunday became Monday.

I have been somewhat busy with unaccustomed chores for the last six weeks. Catherine Dear did something nasty to her back and was unable to move for a period of time. The situation is mostly resolved and Catherine Dear is on the mend. My proficiency in making the bed, washing the dishes, preparing the meals, doing the laundry and vacuuming the floors has increased immensely. I even enjoy an intimate relationship with the local grocery store. At first I was somewhat lost and it took a while to find where certain items were hidden. Being to some extent a creature of habit I ensured that I always dealt with the same check-out clerk who was a great help to my finding the necessary commodities. There is a degree of self-satisfaction in solving the mysteries of the grocery store. I also learned to check the expiry dates on milk cartons and mayonnaise jars. I even found my way around the local drug store to purchase medication for Catherine Dear. Notwithstanding my new found expertise I am quite prepared to relinquish performance of these duties to Catherine Dear as she becomes physically able.

Recently, while washing dishes, (dish washing is not quite as facilitating to rumination as is driveway hosing or camper cleaning) I got to ruminating about several things. One of those things is the phenomenon that while most people wash dishes in hot water they clean their teeth with cold water. To confirm this I asked some people about their teeth cleaning regimen and was told that cold water is the norm. That would seem to defy logic. I mean, if hot water is best for cleaning the dishes that hold the food why would hot water not be best for cleaning the teeth that chew the food? I've always used hot water to clean my teeth, not because of any cleaning consideration but because hot water just feels better in my mouth. Now that I've thought about this for a while I've concluded that I will continue to wash my teeth with hot water and reap the benefits of comfort and improved cleaning capability.

Aside from Catherine Dear's infirmity and a few trips to the dog doctor with Sesame it has been an uneventful season in the desert. There have been more rain events than normal and the desert is turning green. There is still snow on the local mountaintops and the casinos continue to offer a two for one special at their dinner buffets. Life is good in sunny southern California.

This is an election year for Local 258. I encourage all members to take an active interest in our Local Union, attend meetings and above all, vote for the candidates of your choice. Remember, together we can.

That's it for this time. Please continue to work and play safely because, even though you may not know what day of the week it is, retirement is good. 

Your website: www.ibew258.bc.ca



Visit your Local 258 IBEW website, located at www.ibew258.bc.ca on the internet, to find current updates on union issues.

Your union website features information about the Local and also includes a number of links for important union information, including downloadable pdf files of your member magazine, The Hotline.

You will also find a number of resources for members such as a Membership Application Form, Unit Meeting Schedules and Applications for Training Assistance.

We hope you enjoy the website and look forward to receiving any suggestions on how we can improve your website, including information that you would like to see on the site. Contact the union's president, Michelle Laurie, at mlaurie@ibew258.bc.ca with your suggestions.

Attention all Local 258 IBEW *A* members

This is a reminder to all *A* members to update your beneficiary information for your International Pension when there is a change in your personal status.

Please contact Janice at the Union office in Burnaby for further information or if you have any questions.

Phone: 604-520-3305

Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

HAVE YOU MOVED?

If you have recently moved, make sure your local union office has your new mailing address.

Contact Local 258 IBEW and let us know your new address so we can make sure you continue to receive news alerts, The Hotline newsletter and be notified of current events.

Your employer is not responsible for forwarding your new mailing address in a timely fashion, so please let your union know where you are.

Call the office at 604-520-3305, fax us at 604-522-3371, or e-mail us at info@ibew258.bc.ca

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

The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. We also know there are some of you are very creative. We would like you to share your photos and creative works — and your stories too — with your union's member magazine, The Hotline!

You are welcome to send in photos from your workplace, and if you have a bit of writing ability, we are also interested in any stories, poems or articles you have written about a work-related issue. Cartoons and drawings are also welcome.

Send your items via e-mail to hotline@shaw.ca, or mail to:
Local 258 IBEW
Attention, The Hotline
7535 Sixth Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

EITI – OUR INDUSTRY TRAINING LEADER



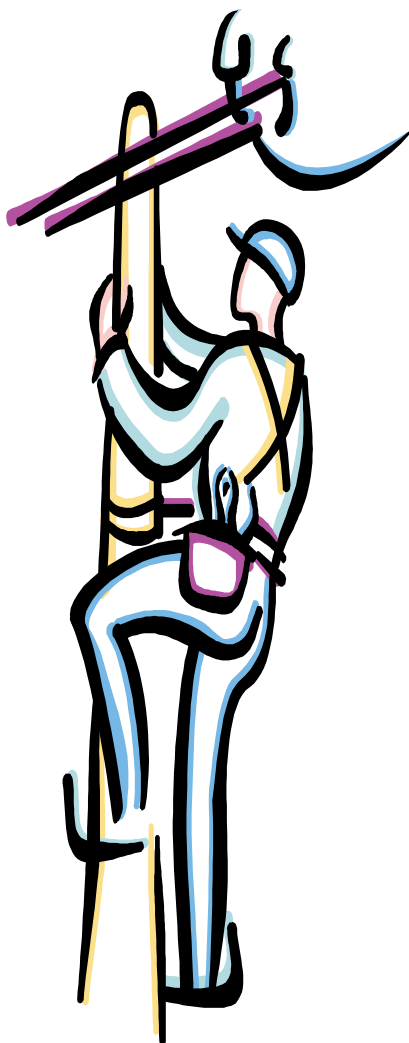
EITI (Electrical Industry Training Institute), the electrical utility worker training facility located in Surrey BC and owned by IBEW Local 258, has been busy expanding their services. By using the internet to highlight their role as a successful business resource and to bring awareness to training opportunities for workers, EITI is meeting the needs of today's electrical utility industry both locally and around the globe.

Since 1991, EITI has trained thousands of electrical utility industry personnel from apprenticeship to journeyman power line technicians to utility arborists, with a primary focus on safety. Instructors at EITI are highly skilled and in high demand – providing training at both the Surrey facility and teaching customized courses to meet client's needs at off-site locations.

EITI offers a number of varied training programs for both workers and management, including an Environmental Training Course that promotes environmental awareness, responsible stewardship and safe work methods for workers in the industrial community. As well, EITI can help companies meet their objectives through independent third-party assessment sessions, by offering Safety & Environmental Assessment and Evaluations, Worker Competency Assessments, Utility Operations Assessment and Environmental Assessment and Evaluations.

EITI offers a three year Power Line Technician Apprenticeship Program, designed for individuals already indentured as apprentices defined by the Industry Training Authority and employed by an electrical utility company in British Columbia. A Journeyman Upgrading program is also available.

EITI's largest training partner is BC Hydro, where they provide regular and continuous customized training services to workers involved in electrical generation.



Congratulations to IBEW Canada Scholarship Winners!

Thank you to everyone who submitted their names and essays for the 2010 IBEW Canada Scholarship Award.

A random draw was made at the First District Office and it is my pleasure to announce the following winners:

Lars Olson – Local Union 2067, Saskatoon, SK

Steven O'Brien – Local Union 894, Peterborough, ON

*** Megan McEwen – Local Union 258, Prince George, BC**

Andrew Robichaud – Local Union 37, Fredericton, NB

Jeffrey MacDonald – Local Union 1928, Glace Bay, NS

Congratulations to these five applicants and we, the First District Office and the other sponsors (Union Savings, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and MWG Apparel) wish you a successful year in your continued education!

As all applicants' essays are valued and well-written, we will be quoting excerpts from each submission weekly on our website homepage (www.ibew1st.org); so be sure to look for yours or your family members 'words of wisdom' about the IBEW or unions in general.

In solidarity,
Phil Flemming
International Vice President

www.ibew1st.org

** Megan McEwen is the daughter of
Unit 2 Vice Chair Ed Mc Ewen.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.EITI.BC.CA**

WIN A HARLEY!



Get your tickets now and have your
chance to win a
2010 Harley-Davidson
FL Road King® Classic motorcycle!

EARLY BIRD DRAW!

Win \$5000 in the
Early Bird Draw that takes place
May 20, 2010, at the
22nd Annual IBEW/MS
Charity Golf Tournament in
Kettleby, Ontario.

Winning ticket goes back in for the next draw.

Tickets \$100 each

CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUE ONLY

**Only 500 tickets
will be sold!**

For IBEW members only!

Contact Lesli at the union office today for your tickets!

The draw for the Harley-Davidson will take place as soon as all the tickets are sold,
or at the IBEW All Canada Progress Meeting in Saskatoon, SK, on August 25, 2010,
where a 2nd \$5000 cash prize will also be drawn.

Proceeds to assist in hosting the Canadian International Representatives' Reception at the 2011 IBEW International Convention in Vancouver, BC.

WCB Teleclaim service for injured workers

1•888•WORKERS

(1•888•967•5377 or #5377 on your Telus, Rogers or Bell cell phone)

Injured workers can now file their time-loss claims more quickly and easily with a new service through WorkSafeBC (the Workers Compensation Board of BC) known as Teleclaim.

Workers who are injured at work and miss time as a result can now report their injuries to WorkSafe BC by calling the Teleclaim Centre. By doing so, you will be connected with a WCB representative who completes an injury report on your behalf.

The Teleclaim representative will help explain the claims process in an average 30 minute discussion, and can help obtain services to assist with recovery and return to work.

Teleclaim is available to workplaces throughout BC, Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4 pm.

OTE for **ACTION** — AT VANCITY —



“Heather, Allen & Virginia are an amazing team that will keep Vancity progressive. We support The Action Team and urge you to vote for them.”

Joy MacPhail, Mike Harcourt and Larry Campbell

-  **FREEZE FEES** During tough economic times we need to make banking more affordable, while ensuring sound financial management.
-  **PROTECT COMMUNITY INVESTMENT** Vancity must remain a leader in supporting the arts, environment and community groups – by building our member's wealth, we're also enriching our communities.
-  **REBUILD TRUST** Restructuring and difficult financial markets have taken a major toll on both Vancity members and staff. We must modernize the tools and support that staff need to do their jobs well, and with satisfaction. Happy employees = better service.
-  **HASSLE-FREE LENDING** We must be a competitive lender that makes it easier, not harder to finance our members' dreams. Too often, members who should get mortgages go to banks. Women entrepreneurs and new Canadians deserve better service. We all do.

THE ACTION TEAM is a progressive coalition that has provided the Vancity Board with 20 years of exceptional leadership for social change, in our community and for the environment.

HEATHER TREMAIN is the Co-Chair of the Vancity Community Foundation, former board member of Tradeworks that provides job training in the Downtown Eastside. She is a local entrepreneur focused on green communities and affordable housing.

ALLEN GARR is a well-known journalist, who has a strong background in finance (trained as an accountant); former president of a non-profit, housing disabled people; an urban beekeeper; a Vancity member for 30 years.

VIRGINIA WEILER is currently Vice Chair of Vancity; a founding director of economic development for Ecotrust Canada with an MBA who has also worked in East Africa preparing large-scale financing to tackle the HIV/AIDS crisis.

HOW TO VOTE FOR ACTION

By Mail – Every Vancity member will get their ballot in the mail. Vote for the **three** Action Team candidates. You can find them on the ballot in the following order: **GARR #3, WEILER #7, TREMAIN #10.**

In Person – Vote at any Vancity Branch between March 19-27, 2010.

For more information visit: www.voteaction.ca



Welcome to new union members, from left, Stephan Vecsey, Ashton Olsen & Everett Smith with Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth at the September union meeting in Powell River.



Brother Ed Shuster, right, received his 25 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope in Fort St. John.



Welcome to new union member Ron Potesta with Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth at the September union meeting in Powell River.



Brother Dan Flynn, left, received his 15 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, in Fort St. John.



Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff, center, awarded Brother Bob Verhoeve and Brother Ron Spohr with retirement goodies on the occasion of their recent retirements.



Brother Bruce Orr was recently awarded his 30 year union service pin by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Congratulations to Brother Bill Dodds on 55 years as a member of the IBEW. He was recently presented with a plaque by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Brother Kevin McNabb, left, received a 10 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope in Fort St. John.



Congratulations to Brother Russ Wotten, right, on being awarded his 40 year service pin from ABM Don McNabb at the Prince George union meeting.



This time we'll get this photo caption correct! Brother Wayne McCarthy, on the left, and Brother Martin Conrad, on the right, were awarded their 35 year service pins from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope.



Congratulations to Brother Lindsay Partridge & Brother Harrold Davidson on their retirement. Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff awarded them with retirement goodies from the union, including jackets.



Retirement goodies were given to Brother Dave Clare & Brother Jim Stordahl by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Brother Dave Mathers received his package of retirement goodies from Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Brother Travis Koehn, right, received his 15 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, in Chetwynd.



Brother Tom Soloshy, right, received his 30 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, in Chetwynd.





Brother Gary Halliday was recently awarded his 35 year union service pin by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Retirement goodies were presented to Brother Tim Read, left, by Unit 3 Chair Leon Arishenkoff.



Sister Cathy Tagseth, Unit 5 Chair, welcomes Al Stokes on his initiation at the Sechelt union meeting in September.



Welcome to new union member Dave Hill at his initiation at the January Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby.



Brother Pat Desmet, right, received his 35 year service pin from Unit 2 Chair Gerald Pope, in Fort St. John.



Congratulations to Brother Glenn Bridal on receiving his PLT certificate.



Brother Bill Dawson was recently awarded his 35 year service pin.



Congratulations to Brother Chris Stanhope who won the watch at the union meeting draw in Burnaby in January. He is shown here with Unit 5 Chair Cathy Tagseth.

HOTLINE



THE HOTLINE IS PUBLISHED BY:

Local 258,
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,
7535 Sixth Street, Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2
Phone: 604-520-3305 Fax: 604-522-3371
info@ibew258.bc.ca www.ibew258.bc.ca

LOCAL 258 IBEW:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay
President: Michelle Laurie

HOTLINE Editor, Design & Layout:

Michelle Boudreau, Leopard Print Communications, CEP 525-G

PRINTED AT Mitchell Press, Burnaby, BC

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40110331



Oh Canada!!!

Wow, what a celebration! Kudos to all our brothers and sisters who worked on preparing the games sites and transportation venues, who managed the traffic and power during the games and to those who volunteered their time to ensure the success of our 2010 Olympics and Paralympics! The athletes were truly amazing – so focused on their singular goals, and so prepared. The national pride that was voiced loud and clear was, I think, a great thing – what a great way to start the decade! And yes, it IS our game (and, of course, because we are Canadian, we are sorry if that is offensive).

I have to admit, though, that I am having a very hard time justifying the huge cost to the taxpayer for these events while we continue to have the highest child poverty rate in the country and when we have an enormous and growing homeless problem in our cities and when we have the lowest minimum wage in the country.

With their latest budget, the provincial government is trying to convince us that the Harmonized Sales Tax (the HST) will support our health care system. Strange, since the HST actually brings in less revenue to the government than the current system with the PST and GST. Do you think they might be setting us up to watch them make more cuts to our health care system? Do they think we are fools?

Also announced in the budget are proposed rate increases for BC Hydro customers. The government says those increases are needed for capital expenditures, to build badly needed new transmission lines and to add generation to our existing facilities – all good, long term beneficial projects. What the government didn't want to talk about was that they need the rate increase for another reason: to pay the increased dividend government is demanding from BC Hydro next year – to cover some of the deficit and to help with the nearly quarter of a billion dollar security bill from

From the Back Corner

Report from
Michelle Laurie,
President, Local 258 IBEW



the Olympics (and that's only the provincial portion of the 900 million tab), not to mention all the other costs of the Games. I am actually all for taxation, I just want it to be direct and I want the government to be honest and transparent about how much we need to pay for the services we want – good education, health care, transportation, emergency and social services and provincial infrastructure, including our public utility.

As I write this article, we are still waiting for the federal budget to be announced – I'm keeping my fingers crossed that there will be some money in there to protect pensions and to increase the basic Canada Pension Plan so that we no longer have over a third of our seniors living below the poverty line. But I'm not holding my breath.

On a more positive note, I want to thank all of our brothers and sisters who took time out to take some labour training at this year's Canadian Labour Congress Winter School. By learning about the issues and the skills to effectively manage issues in the workplace, in the union and in the community, you become stronger activists and can ensure that Local 258 is respected in each of those environments, now and in the future. Congratulations on your successes and stay involved with your new skills! 🇨🇦





Retirement Security

Let's make it work *for everyone*

Pension plans and retirement savings have been hit hard by the economic crisis and the security of many Canadians is at risk. Some companies even want to cut defined benefit plans that employees paid into throughout their working lives.

People with RRSPs and other private pensions that invested heavily in stock and financial markets have seen their investments lose much of their value. We must expand public pensions and reduce our reliance on financial markets for economic security. Public pensions remain secure but they replace only a modest share of our previous work-related earnings.

Our priorities for change call for a major shift from private to public pensions and greater security for members of existing employer pension plans. The changes we propose would benefit all workers, providing greater security while making our pension system fit the needs of a changing economy.

Get the facts on our solutions!

The federal government must:

- **Double benefits for the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and the Quebec Pension Plan (QPP).**
- **Increase low income public pensions (GIS) so no senior lives in poverty.**
- **Protect Canadian pensions through a federal system of pension insurance.**

www.cic-ctc.ca

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE
CANADIAN ADDRESSES TO:
7535 SIXTH STREET,
BURNABY, BC V3N 3M2

PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40110331