



HOTLINE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
PUBLICATION OF
LOCAL 258 IBEW
DECEMBER, 2016

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, BRITISH COLUMBIA

“Skilled Trades Training in BC needs more government support”

Could this be an election issue next May? BC Fed Convention delegates hear from Apprenticeship & Skilled Trades Working Group

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THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS

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

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

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COVER PHOTO:



At the BC Hydro Trades Training Centre in October at Surrey, the Apprentice Year 3 JLA class: Darren Van Leeuwen, Alex Mckinty, Drew Vitcoe, Darren Daye, Jeffrey Crane, Adam Zroback, Darcy Ricard, Bryan Allen, Matt Wolfe, Dallas Norwood, Morgan Player, Eric Andreas, Max Shears and Craig Vandokumburg. (Please note: names are not in order of appearance.)

VIEWPOINT from your Business Manager Doug McKay

As your union's Business Manager, I share with you that our calendars here at the office continue to be full to the brim every day with meetings, events and work on your behalf and on behalf of our entire membership across this province. For myself, our work is a reminder that it is an honour and a privilege to represent you in your workplaces and help provide the best union representation possible for you. With these busy times, and as we head into the Christmas season and the start of a new year, it's always worth taking a moment to reflect on our achievements and clarify and plan for what lies ahead.

This next year is a milestone for us at Local 258 as we acknowledge 50 years as a chartered Local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Together, we have certainly achieved many accomplishments over the years by growing our union in numbers and in strength, in our collective efforts to make life better for each and every one of us.

Together with our delegation, I had the honour of attending our International Convention in St. Louis in September where we celebrated our union's 125th anniversary of our founding in 1891 in that very city. It was heartwarming to revisit the courage and conviction of those first gentlemen who recognized the only strength we have as workers in being able to make things better is to speak with one voice, to gather together in a legally recognized organization and fight for improvements in our working lives – from making sure safety is a priority so we can come home at the end of the day, to better wages where we can feed our families and contribute to our communities, to employer provided benefit packages that enhance our every day existence.

It is from those strong principles our union has grown to be one of the largest and strongest labour organizations in the world. With this advantage and with our historical commitment to each other, we have been able to lift ourselves out of a weak position where each of us fought alone to the strength and success of acting together to make so many important achievements.

From our international gathering of our IBEW brothers and sisters to being part of this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention, the 56th gathering of delegates and representatives of working people in this province, it's clear the fight to keep what we as union members have achieved carries on, in addition to the new battles that we as working people are challenged with each and every day.

Every time I attend one of these gatherings, I am reminded of the strength and determination of those who went before us and am inspired to ensure those important achievements are not lost. Those who fought to bring us the 8-hour work day and 37.5 hour work week, the weekend, paid vacations and holiday time, ending child labour, overtime pay, workers compensation, employment



Brother Doug McKay addressed delegates from the microphone at the 39th IBEW Convention in St. Louis this year.

insurance, pensions so we can retire in dignity, universal health care, maternity and parental leave and the right to strike, to name a few of the workplace rights that, unfortunately, many have forgotten those in Canada's labour movement have fought for.

We did not make these important gains because our employers just rolled over and said, OK, that's all right and yes let's do it! No, they were fought for – some with the spilling of blood – by those who stepped up and took the fight to those who can make the changes that can improve our lives as workers. With the swift stroke of a pen, our political lawmakers can have an enormous effect on each of our lives and the conditions we work in.

That's why it's important for each of us to pay attention and show our support for those lawmakers and politicians that we feel are supporting us as workers when we head to the polls next May for our provincial election. Traditionally, our labour movement has worked to build a relationship with politicians who have supported many initiatives that our group has pushed for that improve our working lives, and, at the end of the day, it's important that each of us takes into consideration what we have to gain and what we have to lose.

We can't forget the high value we offer to our employers as members of the IBEW. We are the first union that stepped up to recognize that our members, as a workforce, have a lot to offer and through our commitment to our Code of Excellence program, where we provide valued and skilled professional work in exchange for wages, benefits and workplace protections, we deserve to be a major consideration and part of the conversation.

But all of that is moot if there are no jobs to go to.

Thank you all for working safely, playing safely and placing safety as a priority in your workplaces and your lives.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 🇨🇦



We've Got Mail!

Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you for the recognition for years of service pin and retirement gifts I received on my last day's work at Abbotsford BC Hydro.

In my 40 or so years I can appreciate the countless act of kindness and service our IBEW leaders and members give while representing our members! We members always take but do not always recognize properly the work done for us everyday by the union front lines on a daily basis.

I have been side by side on picket lines through Christmas and lost three jobs standing up to management while holding up safety and union principles. The cost of our hard earned improvements to standards and working conditions would be lost or eroded if it were not for all of us standing strongly together as brothers and sisters.

The union has always been the bus we ride together in to go to work. I paid my fair share and I just want to say thanks for a nice safe ride! Time to hit the golf course!

In solidarity,

Brother Bruce Masse

To Brothers & Sisters of Local 258,

Thank you so much for the 60th year pin and also the membership certificate. I really appreciated it.

Brother Roy Anderson

Gabriola, BC

To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the BC High School Rodeo Association, and I would like to thank Local 258 IBEW kindly for the donation to our association. It will go to good use and will help a lot.

Special thanks to my Grandpa Gerald Pope for putting me in contact with Local 258 IBEW to get this donation.

Sincerely,

Christen McAleney

Dear Local 258 IBEW workers,

Your donation re the BC Hydro Golf Tournament will greatly help our SPCA shelter.

Sincerely,

Pat Wheeler

for East Kootenay SPCA

Dear Local 258,

I cannot thank the Executive Board enough for the Tom Forkin Scholarship. I have heavily relied on awards like this to put myself through university, and the IBEW has been a significant source of funding in that regard. I appreciate the continued faith put into my abilities and I promise to put these funds to good use. I am also thankful for how well this union has taken care of my father during his time at BC Hydro, which has made him very happy over the last several years.

To briefly share some of my academic background and career goals, I am in the final year of a B.Sc. in behaviour neuroscience at Simon Fraser University. This year will entail me conducting an Honours project on the subject of circadian rhythms (daily fluctuations in our behaviour and physiology). This field is particularly important to shift workers and those who often travel across time zones. I hope to carry this education into a medical degree, where I can assist in better health provision for this large and important population.

In my spare time, I am the president and instructor of my school's salsa dancing club as well as a badminton coach at my former high school. I also enjoy a fair number of hobbies, including hiking, running, tennis, and most recently, curling.

Again, thank you so much for this award and the opportunity it allows me.

Sincerely,

Scott Greenwood

Dear Local 258 IBEW,

I am writing to express my thankfulness after receiving a gift basket from my shop steward Greg Peachey.

I have been off work and not in the best spirits so when Greg phoned and then stopped by shortly after with a gift it made my week.

Thank you very much and I am so glad that this is how we treat our members. My ailment is not that serious and it's good too know that people were still thinking of me.

Sincerely,

Ryan Grant

Qualicum District

Dear Doug McKay and Tony Brand,
On behalf of our Rokstad Power IBEW employees and management staff, I would like to say thank you to Local 258 IBEW for supporting us financially as well as giving us the IBEW 258 t-shirts to exchange on trade night. I must say the shirts were the biggest hit at the Meet & Greet and Trade Night exchange.

We had a great time at the event and proudly wore the IBEW 258 t-shirts.

Our IBEW 258 members represented the Union and Rokstad Power in a professional manner at all times, not only during the rodeo events, but also during all the activities surrounding the rodeo. We have acknowledged them internally and thank them for their participation and representation.

Thank you again to the IBEW Local 258 for all your support to make the trip a success.

Sincerely,

Local 258 members: Mark Grant, Kyle Elkie, Steve McKenna, Ryan Sanders, Adam Klazinga, Max Shears, Jay Skjeie, Colby Cooper and Chris Elkie.

From management: Marnie Braund, Kerra Filgate, Scott O'Laney, Tobi Allen, Chris Poulos and Dave Schaller.



Dear Local 258 IBEW and Tony Brand, president,
Thanks so much for supporting the Labour Appreciation Dinner and United Way.

In solidarity,
Nikki Hill,

Director, CLC Labour Participation,
United Way of the Lower Mainland

Legion

BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON
COMMAND

Dear Local 258 IBEW,

Thank you very much for your pledge of support of The BC/Yukon Royal Canadian Legion's Military Service Recognition Book Project. This annual publication recognizes the Veterans and Service Personnel of BC and the Yukon who have so honourably served our country. This keepsake book helps us to remember their selfless contributions. Your vital and generous contribution makes it possible to print 10,000 copies of the book free of charge to distribute to communities throughout BC and the Yukon.

The Royal Canadian Legion plays an active role in communities throughout BC and the Yukon. There's barely a citizen within our Command whose life isn't touched by the Royal Canadian Legion. Often times the public isn't aware of the extent of our work.

Again, we thank you for your sponsorship and support of this very important project. Consider The Legion for your charitable giving, volunteerism opportunities and even for a great place to meet new friends if you join as a member of your friendly local branch!

Sincerely,

Jane Anderson

Marketing and Public Relations Chair

Visit the Royal Canadian Legion, BC/Yukon Command on the internet at www.legionbcyukon.ca

Dear IBEW Local 258,

The Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports (VASS) is grateful to acknowledge the receipt of your financial donation to support our 2016 VASS Cup Award.

VASS is a volunteer organization that provides quality ski and snowboard programs for students of all ages and a variety of disabilities at Grouse, Seymour and Cypress Mountains.

Regards,

Ryan Wilcox

VASS Treasurer

Read more mail next page...

Many thanks to Local 258 IBEW from the 5th Annual Nanaimo Line Fishing Derby!

Hello IBEW Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you for your generous donation towards our 5th Annual Nanaimo Line Trout Fishing Derby held June 17 & 18 at Windy Point Campgrounds on 1st Nanaimo Lake.

We are very pleased to report that this year's Derby was a great success. The weather was a mixture of sun and rain and the cooler temperatures offered up some great fishing. Brother Jason Slotte brought his family and the overall Derby winner was from his camp. Jenna Odynsky caught an awesome Cutthroat Trout from shore to clinch the Overall title and "Troublesome Teen" category this year. Way to go Jenna!

I can report that my boat caught and released a little over 30 fish a day, had three double headers successfully landing both fish and my son Eric took home a prize in the "Crazy Kids" category. This is not his first win in this category!

Brother Blair Murphy and his daughter Hadley Murphy had some great boating and fishing with Hadley winning the "Youngest to Catch a Fish" category. And Brother Jim "Cutthroat" Simpson, who happens to be a past overall winner, managed to capture the "Awesome Adult" category with a beautiful rainbow trout.

The Trout Derby continues to grow in popularity each year and it's really great to see our union brothers and sisters with their families enjoying such a great social event. The awards ceremony and Potluck Dinner hosted by Brother Jason Slotte is the highlight of the weekend and we were fortunate that the sun was out for this.

I would like to sincerely say thank you to all the IBEW 258 members and their families that stuck it out in the rain and made this a huge fun event. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Brother Brian Gueldenstern



All the winners! Back row, from left, Brother Jason Slotte, Brother Brian Gueldenstern. Front row, from left, Brother Jim "Cutthroat" Simpson, Jenna Odynsky, Hadley Murphy and Eric Gueldenstern.



Brother Graeme Black holding up the rewards of a great day fishing!



"Crazy Kids" having a great day in the rain. From left, Eric Gueldenstern and Ryan Bastion.

Get the scoop on what's going with contract negotiations and other important union business

You pay union dues. You get a say in what goes on with your union. Come and find out what your union is doing. Have a voice. Attend your upcoming union meetings:

Unit 1 - North Coast

Smithers: Feb. 6 @ 5 pm, Curling Centre

Terrace: Feb. 7, 2017; Apr. 11 @ 7 pm, Best Western

Prince Rupert: Feb. 8 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Masset: Feb 9 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Unit 2 - Central Interior

Prince George: Jan. 11 @ 7 pm, Coast Inn

Fort St. John: Feb. 15 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Dawson Creek: Feb. 16 @ 7 pm, George Dawson Inn

Quesnel: Mar. 14 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Williams Lake: Mar. 15 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Unit 3 - Southern Interior

Bridge River: Jan. 10 @ 5:30 pm, BCH Lunch Room

Kamloops: Jan. 11 @ 7 pm, IBEW 993 Hall

Vernon: Jan. 12; Mar. 16 @ 7 pm, Army & Navy Club

Mica Creek: Jan. 17; Mar. 21 @ 6 pm, Mica Creek Curling Rink

Revelstoke: Jan. 20; Mar. 22 @ 4:15 pm, BCH Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room

Castlegar: Feb. 7; Apr. 11 @ 7 pm, Super 8 Motel

Cranbrook: Feb. 8; Apr. 12 @ 4:30 pm, Labour Temple

Invermere: Feb. 9; Apr. 13 @ 4:30 pm, BCH Line Room

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island

Port Alberni: Jan. 10 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Ganges: Jan. 11 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Courtenay: Feb. 7 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Campbell River: Feb. 7 @ 7 pm, Maritime Labour Heritage Centre

Qualicum Beach: Feb. 8 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Nanaimo: Mar. 14 @ 4:30 pm, Royal Canadian Legion #256

Victoria: Mar. 15 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Port Hardy: Apr. 11 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room

Duncan: Apr. 12 @ 4:00 pm, BCH Line Room



Unit 5 - Lower Mainland

Burnaby: Jan. 12; Feb. 9; Mar. 16; Apr. 6 @ 5 pm, Local 258 IBEW Union Hall

Powell River: Feb. 14 @ 4:30 pm, Town Centre Hotel

Sechelt: Feb. 15 @ 5 pm, Driftwood Inn

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley

Langley: Jan. 10; Feb. 7; Mar. 14; Apr. 11 @ 7 pm, Best Western PLUS Hotel

Chilliwack: Feb. 8; Apr. 12 @ 7 pm, Best Western Rainbow Country Inn

Sign up to the Local 258 IBEW website to get reminders and important news about your union meetings!
www.ibew258.bc.ca

Local 258 IBEW Dispatch Services

Local 258 IBEW offers a Dispatch service for members who are unemployed and are eligible to work (via their trade qualifications) with BC Hydro and the union's signatory outside line contractors.

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

To be eligible for Dispatch, please note the following:

It is up to each Local 258 IBEW member to register with Dispatch as soon as you are unemployed. Do not delay, as this will affect your standing on the list. Members are called out to work based on a combination of criteria, including trade qualification, union seniority and date of when you registered with Dispatch.

Procedure for placement on the Local 258 Dispatch List:

1. Your membership in Local 258 IBEW must be current - you must be an Active Member with membership dues paid and up-to-date.
2. It is helpful if you submit a resume including your qualifications and work history, copies of trades qualifications and/or tickets you have. If you are a Journeyman, you must have an Interprovincial

Red Seal for applicable trades only.

3. We must have your current contact information, including phone number and full mailing address. Please update your contact information on a regular basis if there are changes, as this impacts our ability to provide you with work opportunities.
4. You must provide copies of your current regular and/or special drivers license.

Please send all of the above required documents - resume, current contact information, copies of trade certificates and drivers licenses PLUS A CHEQUE FOR \$65.50 - via regular mail to IBEW Local 258, ATTENTION: DISPATCH, 7535 6th Street, Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2. If you live in the lower mainland area, you can personally deliver these documents directly to the Dispatch office at the union's headquarters.

For Dispatch Inquiries, please contact Brother Jim McKay at the Local 258 Dispatch office at 604-524-3547, or call toll free 1-877-520-3305 and ask for Dispatch.

Or email dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca

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

Delegates gathered in St. Louis, home of the founding members of our union

39th International Convention of the IBEW



Local 258 IBEW delegates at the 39th International IBEW Convention in St. Louis. From left: Brother Don McNabb, Brother Tom Greenwell, Brother Doug McKay, Brother Jim Greenwell, Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Brother Gerald Pope, Brother Klaus Kraft, Brother Greg Fanning, Brother Mike McMinn and Brother Tony Brand.



Thousands of IBEW members travelled to St. Louis, Missouri, in September to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding our union and to participate as delegates at the 39th International Convention of the union, setting the course for the future.

Pre-convention events started Thursday with the IBEW Day of Service that saw more than 400 IBEW volunteers pitching in to give back to the community of St. Louis by donating their time to work on 26 projects around the city.

The day also featured a well-attended meeting of the IBEW Women's Caucus where delegates shared strategies on inclusion with an emphasis on growing successful opportunities for women in our union and welcoming full participation.

The RENEW/NextGen Caucus, Political Caucus and the Electrical Workers' Minority Caucus meetings were attended by hundreds of IBEW rank and file members, delegates, guests and International officers including Stephenson and International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia.

Wielding lineman's pliers, dozens of IBEW leaders from the USA and Canada cut the ribbon to officially open the Henry Miller Museum that was more than two years in the making after

extensive renovations, led by members from St. Louis Local 1, to the former boardinghouse building where the IBEW was born.

Other highlights included the Electrical Industry Expo, which prominently featured an extensive collection of artifacts and photos from the IBEW Museum in Washington, D.C.

Saturday saw delegates and guests gathering to meet one another and enjoy food, fun and music with a welcoming picnic in downtown St. Louis and an evening concert featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees The Steve Miller Band.

Opening ceremonies took place the morning of Monday, September 19th followed by the election of the union's leadership team. Brother Lonnie R. Stephenson, who has been serving as International President since Ed Hill retired last year, was acclaimed as the IBEW's 17th International President. Brother Sam Chilia was returned as International Secretary-Treasurer and Brother Christopher Erikson from Local 3 in New York was acclaimed as the Chair of the International Executive Council. All will serve for a five-year term.

Congratulations are also in order for Brother Bill Daniels who was also returned by acclamation as International Vice President for the First District (Canada) and Brother Ross Galbraith from Local 37 in New Brunswick who was returned by acclamation to represent the Eighth District (Canada) on the IBEW International Executive Council.



IBEW President Lonnie Stephenson spoke to delegates in a keynote address at 39th International Convention.

In his keynote speech made after being elected International President, Lonnie Stephenson, said decisions made during the previous two International Conventions to devote additional resources to organizing allowed the IBEW to emerge from the 2008 economic collapse as one of the strongest labour unions in North America, and though the economy has improved doesn't mean it's time to slow those efforts.

"Unless we double down on our commitment to organizing here at this convention, unless we commit even more resources and time to membership development, all those gains we've made will be gone sooner than you think.

"When you're on the right road, that's not the time to put on the brakes," he added.

The IBEW has added 133,000 "A" members and 120,000 "BA" members since 2011, Stephenson said. But it lost 250,000 members due to deaths, dropped members and retirements.

Stephenson encouraged delegates to fully support RENEW/NextGen and the Electrical Workers Minority and women's caucuses to "break down barriers and open the doors of opportunity for new members.

"If we don't look like today's workforce, if we aren't out organizing every community, color and gender, we'll face major challenges," Stephenson said to a round of applause from the nearly 2,000 delegates.

A highlight of Convention was the renewal of a commitment by delegates for the 10-year-old IBEW's Code of Excellence program. Using the acronym SPARQ, the updated training program reflects the union's core values of Safety, Professionalism, Accountability, effective Relationships and Quality. Rolling out as the IBEW Code of Excellence "2.0", the customized training program reflects the union's collective pledge of hard work and integrity on the job focusing members being able to provide quality work in a safe and professional environment, with implementation going through Local Union business managers and with goals set by each Local.

After a busy five days of intense debates and lively discussions, camaraderie and setting the path for the next five years, the 5-day convention closed with adjournment on Friday, September 23rd.

The next International Convention of the IBEW will take place in 2021. 

Increases to pension benefits fund and per capita approved

Several amendments to the IBEW Constitution were approved at the 39th International Convention. Accordingly, effective January 1, 2017, there will be an increase of two dollars (\$2.00)/month for the IBEW Pension Benefit Fund (PBF) contribution, which applies to "A" members only.

There will be no change in the per capita that is paid to the General Fund, and therefore, the rate for all "BA" members shall remain the same for 2017.

The following rates will apply to the international office portion of all monthly dues payments starting January 2017:

"A" Members - Effective January 1st 2017:

(Pension Benefit Fund contribution increase only):

Per Capita: \$18.00;

Pension Fund: \$18.00, for a total of \$36.00.

"A" Members - Effective January 1st 2018:

Per Capita increase to \$19.00;

Pension Fund: \$18.00, for a total of \$37.00.

"A" Members - Effective January 1st 2019:

Per Capita: \$19.00;

Pension Fund: \$19.00, for a total of \$38.00.

"A" Members - Effective January 1st 2020:

Per Capita increase to: \$20.00;

Pension Fund: \$19.00, for a total of \$39.00.

"BA" Members - Effective January 1st 2017: (no increase):

Per Capita: \$18.00;

Pension Fund: not applicable; for a total of \$18.00.

"BA" Members - Effective January 1st 2018:

Per Capita increase to: \$19.00;

Pension Fund: not applicable; for a total of \$19.00.

"BA" Members - Effective January 1st 2019: (no increase):

Per Capita: \$19.00;

Pension Fund: not applicable; for a total of \$19.00.

"BA" Members - Effective January 1st 2020:

Per Capita increase to: \$20.00;

Pension Fund: not applicable; for a total of \$20.00.

IBEW Canada Political Action

Mixed messages from the federal Liberal government: Pensions YES and Pensions NO

Bill C-26 to expand the Canada Pension Plan approved by House of Commons, heads to the Senate

Leaders of the fight to expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) that will benefit workers in their retirement, Canada's unions are celebrating the adoption by the House of Commons in Ottawa of Bill C-26 – An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act and the Income Tax Act – in late November.

Canada's labour movement has been making expansion of the CPP a major priority for years and have engaged politicians of all stripes in Ottawa to support improvements that will benefit workers and provide improved retirement security.

Changes to the CPP required the agreement of the provinces to move forward and British Columbia, although agreeing in principle when provincial leaders met in June in Vancouver, didn't formally sign on until October. Trudeau pledged last year during the federal election campaign to bolster the CPP.

Fewer than 40 percent of Canadian workers have access to a pension plan at work. In the private sector, that number drops to less than 25 percent, and for workers under 29, to just 13 percent;

An important benefit of the CPP is that it follows workers from job to job, keeps up with the cost of living, and pays out benefits for life, regardless of how the stock market performs.

Fewer employers are offering workplace pensions these days and even if you have a workplace pension plan or alternate savings, you're still vulnerable to financial insecurity in retirement.

Today's young workers will benefit the most from an expanded CPP, making this legislation especially important in a world where good, secure jobs are so hard to come by, making saving almost impossible.

The Bill isn't perfect though and Hassan Yussuff, president of the Canadian Labour Congress has welcomed the government's acknowledgment that amendments are needed to ensure that no Canadians, particularly women and persons with disabilities, are excluded from the benefits outlined in Bill C-26.

The vote in the House of Commons had all the Conservative MPs either voting against or not voting at all for these enhancements to the Canada Pension Plan, including Conservative leadership hopefuls Kelly Leitch and Maxime Bernier. 🗳️

Defined-benefit pension plans under threat from Trudeau Liberal government legislation

This past October, without any consultation or advance notice to the Canadian Labour Congress that represents more than three million unionized workers across the country, the Trudeau Liberal government's Finance Minister, Bill Morneau, quietly introduced Bill C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985. This Bill enables Crown corporations and federal private-sector employers to back out of defined-benefit (DB) pension commitments, to establish a target-benefit (TB) plan alongside and eventually replace current DB plans.

The Trudeau Liberal government has chosen to contradict their 2015 election promises to improve retirement security for millions of Canadians and now Canada's unions are organizing against Bill C-27.

IBEW First District Vice-President Brother Bill Daniels has written to every Local Union of the IBEW in Canada and said, "This legislation seriously undermines pension plans and essentially shifts all risk from the employer to the active and retired member. Currently this legislation will directly impact anyone working under federal labour jurisdiction in both the public and private sector."

Brother Daniels has indicated that Bill Morneau needs to hear that IBEW members will not support this Bill.

Currently, DB pensions provide stability and security to employees because employers are legally obliged to fund employees' earned benefits. Already earned benefits are legally protected. Bill C-27 removes employers' legal requirements to fund plan benefits, which means that benefits could be reduced going forward or even retroactively. Even people already retired could find their existing benefits affected, after paying in their entire working lives.

In 2014 Stephen Harper's Conservatives launched public consultations on a similar framework, but after overwhelmingly negative feedback from unions, retirees and other stakeholders, they scuttled the idea. And now, Minister Morneau needs to hear from us again and abandon this crazy idea. 🗳️

*Skilled Trades under attack in Ontario***Ontario Legislation Could ‘Make My Apprenticeship Useless’**

Toronto IBEW Local 353 Business Manager Steven Martin isn't just dismayed the Legislative Assembly of Ontario may pass a measure that could compromise public safety and harm the livelihood of trade unionists. He's equally upset that it's being pushed by the majority Liberal Party and Premier Kathleen Wynne, whom the IBEW once saw as political allies.

“We were quite hopeful the government would have taken it seriously when we told them this needed more study and told us, ‘We need to sit down and have a consultation with the trades on this,’” Martin said. “They didn't do that.”

At issue is Schedule 17 of Omnibus Budget Bill 70, which would give the government-run Ontario Labour Relations Board sweeping powers over compulsory and non-compulsory trades, taking them away from the industry-run Ontario College of Trades.

IBEW leaders and members fear it will undercut the value of apprenticeship. It also would take work away from IBEW members and others skilled in the trades because unlicensed workers likely would command lower wages.

“It will make my apprenticeship useless because anyone will be able to do my trade,” said Sam Lapierre, an apprentice at Ottawa Local 586, in an interview with the CBC.

A rally on Nov. 30 at Queen's Park in Toronto just outside the provincial legislative building drew about 4,500 people, many of them IBEW members, who learned about the it less than one week earlier. They carried signs that read “Wynne: Stop Attacking Skilled Trades” and “Public Safety Over Corporate Profits.”

“I was pleased to see the turnout considering the short notice,” First District Vice President William F. Daniels said. “It's something that came together fast and let's face it, the trades recognize that this is a real attack on our way of living.”

John Grimshaw, secretary/treasurer of the IBEW Construction Council of Ontario, said the College of Trades sends inspectors to job sites to assure licensed workers are doing the work in areas that require compulsory certification. If the worker or the contractor receives a citation, they can appeal it to the provincial courts.

Schedule 17 would send those decisions to the labour board instead and take the college out of it, Grimshaw said. It also would open areas for non-licensed workers to work in that previously required compulsory certification.

“This is not a labour-relations matter,” Grimshaw said. “It affects everybody. It's the integrity of the trades.”

Or, as Martin put it: “You don't hire a jack-of-all-trades guy to install a fire alarm in a public building. You hire someone that has been trained to do it. It's a public safety issue.”

“We [Local 353] spend 9,000 hours in our apprenticeship programs teaching our craft,” Martin added. “We are the largest

trainer of apprentices in Canada. The next step here by the government is to deregulate the trades and get rid of the apprenticeships.”

The IBEW and other trade unions knew such a proposal was possible after the release in November 2015 of the Dean Report, which recommended that when two or more trades are allowed to do the same work, employers can hire anyone to do it, not just compulsory certified trade workers.

What they didn't expect was Wynne and other Liberal politicians to attach it last month to the provincial budget bill, which is almost guaranteed to pass. Wynne would be required to call for provincial elections if her majority government failed to do so because it would be seen as a vote of no confidence in her.

Grimshaw and other union leaders say the proposal should be considered as part of a separate bill. Now, Liberal leaders are trying to ram it through with a vote on the budget bill on Dec. 8 and are allowing just one day of public comment.

“We didn't see this coming, that's for sure,” said Matt Wayland, the First District's political director. “You're talking about public safety and the livelihood of people who work in compulsory certified trades. It's troublesome they are limiting testimony to just one day.”

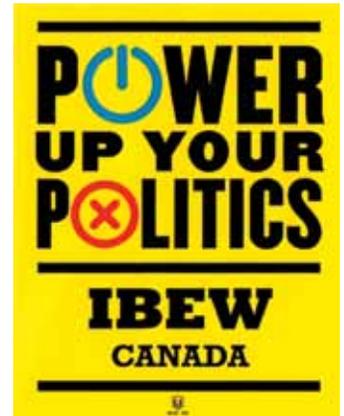
Wayland and other IBEW leaders are urging members and supporters to contact Liberal Party members and ask them to remove Schedule 17 from the budget bill.

The trade unions have traditionally been strong supporters of the Liberal Party, helping it regain its majority status in the 2014 provincial elections. But Local 353 has declined to offer financial support or attend Party events since the release of the Dean Report, Martin said.

“If this passes, it would be very difficult for us to support Liberal candidates,” Wayland said. “Our members would be mobilized. We would be doing our best to unseat them. Our members mobilized in the last election to put a lot of Liberal MPP's in the seats they have.”

A court challenge is expected if Schedule 17 passes as part of the budget bill. Martin expects Local 353 members to lose about one-third of their work.

“We need to tell this government that this is not the end,” Grimshaw said during the Nov. 30 rally. “It's the beginning and we're not taking this.” 



Union activists and delegates discuss and debate at the 56th convention of the BC Federation of Labour



Local 258 IBEW's delegation to this year's BC Federation of Labour Convention, from left, Brother Rod Russell; Sister Karen Porter, Unit 2 Vice Chair; Brother Ed McEwen; Brother Dave McMinn, Vice-President; and, Brother Doug McKay, Business Manager/Financial Secretary.

Over 1,000 union activists representing their unions from across the province spent five days at the end of November in the basement of Vancouver's Trade and Convention Centre as they listened to speakers, discussed important labour issues and debated resolutions that will ultimately guide the BC Federation of Labour over the next two years.

There was much to listen to as delegates heard from activists, politicians, community and labour leaders and discussed issues ranging from the changes needed at the Workers Compensation and Labour Relations Boards to the labour movement's involvement in social justice matters.

The Apprenticeship and Skilled Trades Working Group (ASTWG), chaired by Brother Laird Cronk, IBEW International Representative For BC, the Yukon and NWT, presented a comprehensive report that identified the fact that British Columbia is not producing enough journeypersons to meet the mid-to-long-term needs of our economy and described the work the Committee has engaged in over a number of years to identify and implement solutions to this problem. The report stated, "It is critical to put people to work in stable, well-paid jobs in order to create long-term, sustainable economic growth and opportunities for young and under-represented Canadians."

The report focused on apprenticeship programs and their benefits to employers, including being a supply of motivated and well-trained workers that enhance a company's competitive advantage, but also clearly pointed out the lack of initiative on the part of employers to sponsor apprentices, with BC employers being below the national average of 19% - yes, that's nineteen per cent!

In 2013, the ASTWG was successful in forcing a government commissioned independent review of the Industry Training Au-

thority (ITA) and in 2014 the final report adopted recommendations that have been poorly implemented, ignored or ineffective in growing and strengthening the apprenticeship system in BC.

Since then the ASTWG has continued to lobby government to reinforce that effective changes need to be made to BC's apprenticeship system that will attain real improvements, including the following key priorities:

- making apprenticeship quotas mandatory on publicly funded infrastructure projects;
- working together with BC's unions to helping create buy-in from the private sector employers;
- institute compulsory certification for skilled trades workers to motivate employers to indenture apprentices;
- increase BC's Crown corporations involvement and responsibility in apprenticeship and training programs;
- provide employer incentives;
- increase the provincial operating grant for post-secondary institutions that provide trades training in the apprenticeship system that has seen a drop in funding of 20% since 2001.

The Committee also put forward a number of resolutions that were supported by convention delegates including that the BC Fed will advocate that Site C contractors maximize apprenticeship training opportunities and that the BC Fed will lobby BC Hydro to sign project labour agreements with Bargaining Council of BC Building Trades Unions for all future contracts that are awarded for Site C.

The Committee's full report is available on your union's website when you log in and view Member Resources.

The convention delegation also heard reports about the work of the Fed's other committees over the past few years and, after debate, supported a number of resolutions that were put forward, including the following:

- the elimination of government funding of private schools;
- eliminating MSP premiums, described as a "regressive tax";
- to encourage and support the inclusion of strong anti-privatization language in bargaining collective agreements to protect public services and discourage privatization;
- to oppose secret international trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and to fight back against corporate control of our public services;
- with the anticipation of the federal legalization of marijuana to utilize the retail and distribution infrastructure that is already there for alcohol and extend it to non-medicinal marijuana;
- to support the changes that will enhance the Canada Pension Plan and vigorously defend defined benefit plans.

Delegates closed convention on Friday morning with singing the labour movement's resounding anthem, Solidarity Forever! 

Province invests \$210,000 in BC Hydro trades training for power line technicians



Year 3 Joint Line apprentices pose for a photo at a break from taking classes at BC Hydro's Trades Training Centre in Surrey this October.

The British Columbia government made an announcement in September they are investing \$210,000 into skills training that will fund 224 seats in the power line technician program at BC Hydro through to March, 2017.

"It's always good to see our tax dollars going to support skilled trades training to meet British Columbia's current and future needs," said Local 258 IBEW's Business Manager Doug McKay. "With all of the challenges in apprenticeships managed through the Industry Training Authority, let's hope this investment hits the mark for our men and women seeking careers as Red Seal PLTs."

From the government's news release:

BC Hydro's Trades Training Centre in Surrey opened in April 2013. The centre is a certified education institution that provides technical and trades training for both BC Hydro and non-BC Hydro trainees. It includes classrooms, lab spaces, workshops, a mock substation and training yards with overhead and underground lines.

BC Hydro uses a 3-D applications tool to allow power line technician apprentices to build, test, troubleshoot and simulate work on equipment, including voltage regulators and transformers. Apprentices can build transformer banks on a "virtual" distribution line, communicate to an instructor for feedback, and practice complex work procedures using the 3-D simulation in the classroom prior to applying their skills in the training yards. [\[4\]](#)

Power Line Technicians construct, maintain and repair the overhead and underground electrical power transmission and distribution systems that make up the electrical power grid. This involves putting up and maintaining electrical poles, towers and guy wires as well as installing or repairing the live-line wiring and other components required to connect power distribution and transmission networks.

Power Line Technician is a nationally designated trade under the Inter-provincial Red Seal program. Power Line Technicians also inspect and test overhead and underground power lines and auxiliary equipment and install and maintain street lighting systems. Because of the nature of their work, they are often working at heights on poles and towers, either on a ladder or in a hydraulic bucket. In some cases, they are required to work in confined spaces like trenches or tunnels to install underground lines or equipment. Electric power companies, electrical contractors and public utilities are the primary employers. Some Power Line Technicians are highly mobile and their skills are in demand across Canada and in the United States.

From the Industry Training Authority website

Local 258 IBEW News

Power Earth getting ready for negotiations



The collective agreement for Local 258 IBEW members working at Power Earth Management based out of Langley expired in mid-November. Members recently got together with ABM Sister Nicole Biernaczyk and Membership Development Organizer Brother Rick Gerrard to discuss upcoming negotiations for a new collective agreement as we head into the new year.

Members working at Hobart and at Cam Tran ratify new collective agreements

At Hobart Food Equipment Group Canada on Annacis Island in Delta, members engaged in many difficult rounds of collective bargaining that took place over a number of months resulting in the rejection of a contract on April 21st, heading back to the bargaining table, and eventually getting a new three-year agreement.

“Members stood strong with these negotiations,” said the union’s Assistant Business Manager Nicole Biernaczyk. “They were determined – and they were successful – in achieving wage increases, an increase to meal cost reimbursement after two hours of overtime, increases in travelling allowance, and a bump in pension contributions by the employer, among other items.”

The new agreement was ratified by members on May 16 and is retroactive to April 1st of this year when the previous contract expired. The new agreement has been posted on your union’s website at www.ibew258.bc.ca.

Meanwhile, negotiations at Cam Tran in Chilliwack where Local 258 members manufacture equipment for the electric utility and associated industries resulted in the rejection of a proposed contract followed by further meetings with this employer that achieved a new three-year collective agreement that was ratified in July, retroactive to April and features a wage re-opener clause in each year of the agreement.

Sister Biernaczyk would like to thank Brother Jeff Ross and Sister Arlene Runka at Cam Tran and Brother Robin Radomski and Brother Eric Dzus at Hobart.

Schneider Electric closing – members lose their jobs

It was a sad day back in August when the union got the call, followed by written notification, that members working at Schneider Electric in Richmond were losing their jobs as the company had made the decision to reassign the work performed by our Local 258 members to their Alberta and Quebec operations.

“We were actually quite shocked to find out the plant was closing and all of our members were losing their jobs,” said ABM Sister Nicole Biernaczyk. “We know this is a profitable international company but they have made a change in the direction of their business and apparently this move is non-negotiable.”

The collective agreement with Schneider Electric, last negotiated in 2014, featured a severance package in case of termination due to plant closure. The union met with the employer after being notified the plant was closing and negotiated enhancements to the severance package.

Some members have moved on and already found other work with other members who have been long time employees with this company now considering retirement. All members were eligible for the enhanced severance package.

“This whole plant closure has been very disheartening as IBEW has represented workers at this facility in Richmond for many decades, coming in to Local 258, coming into this Local when we merged with Local 264 in 1989,” says Sister Biernaczyk.

Negotiations ongoing for a first collective agreement at ArborCare Tree Services

Negotiations to bring a first collective agreement to Local 258 IBEW members working at ArborCare Tree Services based out of Kamloops, BC, have been very tough, says Membership Development Organizer Brother Rick Gerrard.

“Our members working at this utility arborist company, who signed up with our union earlier this year in February, have shown incredible understanding, patience and have held their frustrations at bay as we work together to achieve a first collective agreement with this employer,” said Brother Gerrard.

The union has been taking all the necessary steps through the Labour Relations Board and are looking forward to a successful resolution to the current challenges with this employer.

“We all remain optimistic and thank the members for their patience and understanding,” said Brother Gerrard.

Many thanks to all members participating in this process. 

Local 258 Women's Committee meets with Union Sisters



From left: Sister Regan Yeadon, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Sister Cathy Tagseth and Sister Terri Lee Wyborn, at the IBEW BC Women's Committee meeting in Victoria.

Union Sisters of the IBEW in BC gathered in Victoria in October for a weekend discussing current and future issues facing working women.

Joining with Sister Nicole Biernaczyk, Chair of the Local 258 IBEW Women's Committee and First District (Canada) Representative for the IBEW International Women's Committee, were Sister Regan Yeadon, Sister Cathy Tagseth and Sister Terri Lee Wyborn.

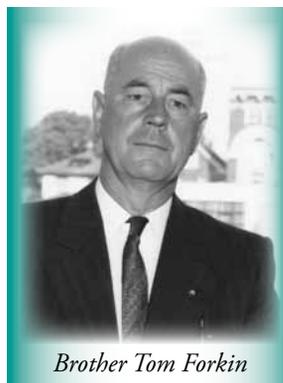
The weekend meeting featured educational workshops on health and safety issues focusing on women in their workplaces, facilitated by Sister Sheila Moir of the BC Fed Health and Safety Training Centre.



How to effectively lobby government to get your important issues heard was also a featured presentation with guest appearances from three female MLAs: Carole James, Maurine Karagianis and Lana Popham (see photo above).

The meeting was deemed a success by all attending from across the provinces and representing Local 993, Local 213, Local 230 and Local 1003 in addition to Local 258. 📧

Congratulations to the union's Forkin Scholarship winners



Brother Tom Forkin

Local 258 IBEW's annual Tom Forkin Scholarship, created in 1991 in memory of our first Local President Brother Tom Forkin, is open to members, or dependants of members, of Local 258 IBEW and awards up to three (3) individual Scholarships of \$1,000.00 each.

Applicants are asked to write an essay on a topic selected by the union's Executive Board, and this

year the question was: "Why is it important to acknowledge the Day of Mourning in your community?"

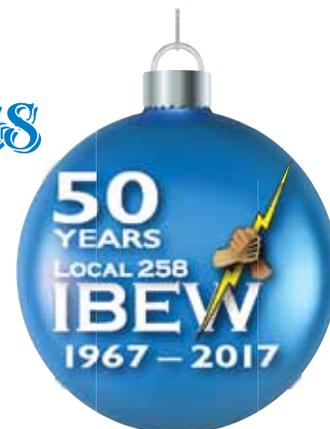
Congratulations are in order to the following successful applicants who were awarded their scholarships in July:

- Laura Faulkner, Vancouver Island; daughter of Local 258 IBEW member Brother Roger Dawson
- Thomas Alger, Surrey; son of Local 258 IBEW member Brother Don Alger
- Scott Greenwood, Surrey; son of Local 258 IBEW member Brother Brian Greenwood

Applicants must be registered, or plan to register in a full-time post-secondary program in 2016/2017 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.

Next year's scholarship application requirements and deadlines will be announced in your union member magazine, the Hotline, and will also be featured on your union website at www.ibew258.bc.ca – sign up today if you haven't already to get email news reminders of important news and events. 📧

SEASONS GREETINGS



WHERE WE WORK

Local 258 IBEW members have the benefit of negotiated collective agreements with their employers at over 100 workplaces throughout British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Our members provide excellence in their quality of work and adhere to strong safety practices as they work every day in the electric utility, powerline and outside construction, traffic control, manufacturing or utility arborist industries across British Columbia.

Members who are registered with the union's website can access the password protected Member Resources to view the collective agreement for your workplace under the heading "Contracts".



Line Contracting/ Outside Construction

Master Line Agreement:

- A - Powerline Contracting Ltd., Langley, BC
- Advanced Powerlines Ltd., Kelowna, BC
- Aerial Contractors Ltd., Salmon Arm, BC
- Allteck Line Contractors Ltd., Langley, BC
- Arctic Arrow Powerline Group, Surrey, BC
- B & K Electrical Systems, Abbotsford, BC
- B & T Line Equip Testers Ltd., Nanaimo, BC
- BT All Powerline Construction Ltd., Nanaimo, BC
- Bay Hill Contracting Ltd., Surrey, BC
- Capital Grid Services Corp., Langley, BC
- Central Island Powerline Ltd., Cobble Hill, BC
- Coast Powerline (2005) Ltd., Victoria, BC
- Eafab Electric, Langley, BC
- Garth's Electric Co. Ltd., 100 Mile House, BC
- Glenn Power Contractors Ltd., Salmon Arm, BC
- Gunson Power Corp., Langley, BC
- Highland Powerlines Ltd., Kamloops, BC
- Horizon Developments Ltd., Saanichton, BC
- Ibex Construction Ltd., Langley, BC
- J.M.N. Contracting Ltd., Qualicum Beach, BC
- Jaco Environmental Systems Inc., Red Deer, AB
- Jaco Powerlines Ltd., Cobble Hill, BC
- Key Largo Electric, Surrey, BC
- Little Mountain Bison Contracting Ltd.,
Prince George, BC
- Lumen City Lighting Company,
New Westminster, BC
- Maple Leaf Power Corporation, Burnaby, BC
- Martech Electrical Systems, Castlegar, BC
- McGregor Construction 2000 Ltd, Edmonton, AB
- Metro Power Construction, Inc., Aldergrove, BC
- Midlite Contractors, Fort McMurray, AB
- Midway Power Line Services Ltd., Sechelt, BC
- MPK Power Line Services Ltd., Rose Prairie, BC
- Northway Electric (1984) Ltd., Prince George, BC
- Pacific Electrical Installations, Abbotsford, BC
- Plowe Power Systems Ltd., Kamloops, BC
- Powergrid Electrical Services Ltd., Prince George, BC
- Power Up Line Contractors Inc., Maple Ridge, BC
- R S Line Construction, Langley, BC
- Rocky Mountain Power Line Maintenance Ltd.,
Prince George, BC
- Rokstad Power Corporation, Coquitlam, BC
- Skeena Power Systems, Prince George, BC
- Texcel Line Construction, Langley, BC
- Trans Power Construction (1999) Ltd., Delta, BC
- True Line Power and Consulting Ltd., Langley, BC
- Valard Construction, Edmonton, AB
- Valley Power Line Contracting Ltd., Surrey, BC
- Vancouver Island Powerline Ltd., Victoria, BC
- Western Pacific Enterprises Group, Coquitlam, BC

Traffic Control

- Ace Flagging, Port Alberni, BC
- Ace Traffic Control, Powell River, BC
- All-Clear Traffic Control, Roberts Creek, BC
- Central Interior Traffic Control 2004, Kaleden, BC
- Go Traffic Management, Burnaby, BC
- Island Traffic Services Ltd., Richmond, BC
- Lanetec/DC Traffic Control, Richmond, BC
- Power Flagging & Traffic Control Inc. - Northern
Division, Langley, BC
- PS Traffic Pro Services (2012) Inc., Burnaby, BC
- RS Line Construction Traffic Control Division,
Langley, BC
- Smoke Signals Flagging, Chilliwack, BC

- Streetwise Traffic Controllers, Chilliwack, BC
- Triumph Traffic Techs Inc., Abbotsford, BC
- 24/7 Traffic Control Ltd., Kelowna, BC
- Valley Traffic Systems Inc., Langley, BC
- Vancouver Island Powerline Ltd., Traffic Control Division, Victoria, BC
- Walk the Line Traffic Control, Madeira Park, BC
- West Coast Traffic Control Ltd., Duncan, BC

Electrical Manufacturing

- Allied Controls Ltd., Burnaby, BC
- Cam Tran Pacific Ltd., Chilliwack, BC
- Celco Controls Ltd., Port Coquitlam, BC
- Code Electric Products Ltd., Port Coquitlam, BC
- Code Manufacturing Ltd., Port Coquitlam, BC
- Eaton Industries (Canada), Delta, BC
- Harbourview Electric Ltd., Burnaby, BC
- Hobart Food Equipment Group, Delta, BC
- N.C.S. International Inc., Burnaby, BC
- Western System Controls Ltd., Kelowna, BC

Utility Arborist

- Asplundh Canada Inc., Aldergrove, BC
- Davey Tree Services Ltd., Nanaimo, BC

Utility & Others

- Andritz Hydro Canada Ltd., Richmond, BC
- BC Hydro - multiple locations throughout the province
- Bear's Tool Testing & Inspections Inc., Salmon Arm, BC
- Power Earth Management, Langley, BC

Working inside the penstock



Thanks to Brother Dave Mengerling, Unit 2 Recorder, for sending in the above photo in July 2016 that shows Brother Jeremy Halladay, left, and Brother Carlos Moraice working with the crews during a unit overhaul at the Peace Canyon Generating Station in Hudson's Hope. They are pictured here working inside the penstock in the draft tube located directly below the turbine runner. They were setting up scaffolding and platform material to enable non-destructive testing to be performed on the runner for assessment, a regular procedure that is done when the units are shut down for maintenance.

Celebrating Labour Day in the Fraser Valley



Local 258 IBEW had a display booth promoting our union again this year at the 6th Annual Labour Day Picnic put on by the Fraser Valley Labour Council at Mill Lake Park in Abbotsford. From left are Brother Jim Greenwell, Senior Assistant Business Manager, Sue Giesbrecht with her husband Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Assistant Business Manager and Brother Doug McKay, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary. Hundreds of union activists, members and their families attended the annual event, co-sponsored by the United Way of the Fraser Valley, where the kids had fun in the bouncy castle and with face painting and everyone enjoyed corn-on-the-cob, hot dogs, cold drinks and even cake!

LOCAL 258
IBEW

UNIT 1 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 1 - North Coast: The North Coast covers members living in the geographic area from Burns Lake to the west and north of Bella Coola, including Haida Gwaii. Unit 1 meetings take place in Smithers, Terrace, Prince Rupert, Masset and Queen Charlotte City. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

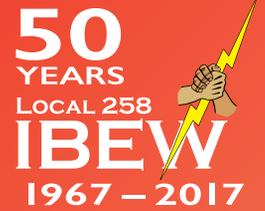
Your Unit 1 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Klaus Kraft Vice Chair: Brother Andy Andersen Recorder: Brother Chad Watrich

Executive Members: Brother Shane Zemenchik, Brother Zack Garland

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Don McNabb

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



MASSET Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room/Plant starting at 4:30 pm

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Thursday, June 15, 2017 (TBC)

Thursday, October 19, 2017

PRINCE RUPERT Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

QUEEN CHARLOTTE CITY Meeting takes place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm

Thursday, June 15, 2017 (TBC)

SMITHERS Meetings take place in the Curling Centre, 4216 Third Avenue, starting at 5:00 pm

Monday, February 6, 2017

Monday, June 12, 2017

Monday, October 16, 2017

TERRACE Meetings take place at the Best Western Inn starting at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7*, 2017

Tuesday, April 11*, 2017

Tuesday, June 13*, 2017

Tuesday, October 17*, 2017

Tuesday, December 5*, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 6th Street,

Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371

toll free: 1-877-520-3305 email: info@ibew258.bc.ca

www.ibew258.bc.ca



UNIT 2 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 2 - Central Interior: The Central Interior covers members living in the geographic area of Burns Lake and north of 100 Mile House, including Bella Coola. Unit 2 meetings take place in Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, Hudson's Hope, Fort Nelson, Quesnel, Williams Lake, Bella Coola and 100 Mile House. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 2 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Gerry Pope Vice Chair: Sister Karen Porter Recorder: Brother Dave Mengerling

Executive Members: Brother Travis Koehn, Sister Carolyn Furler

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Don McNabb

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



100 MILE HOUSE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, October 11*, 2017

BELLA COOLA Meetings take place at the Diesel Plant starting at 4:30 pm
Thursday, May 4, 2017 Thursday, October 5, 2017

DAWSON CREEK Meetings take place at the George Dawson Inn, 11705 8th Street, starting at 7:00 pm
Thursday, February 16, 2017 Thursday, December 7*, 2017

FORT NELSON Meetings take place at the Woodlands Inn, 3995 50 Ave. S, starting at 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 11, 2017 Thursday, September 14, 2017

FORT ST. JOHN Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, February 15*, 2017 Wednesday, May 10, 2017 Wednesday, September 13, 2017

HUDSON'S HOPE Meetings take place in Pearkes Centre, 10801 Dudley Drive, starting at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, May 9*, 2017 Thursday, October 12, 2017

PRINCE GEORGE Meetings take place at the Coast Inn of the North, 770 Brunswick St., starting at 7:00 pm
Wednesday, January 11*, 2017 Wednesday, April 12*, 2017 Tuesday, June 6*, 2017
Tuesday, September 12*, 2017 Tuesday, November 7*, 2017

QUESNEL Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Tuesday, October 10, 2017

WILLIAMS LAKE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:30 pm
Wednesday, March 15*, 2017 Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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toll free: 1-877-520-3305 email: info@ibew258.bc.ca

www.ibew258.bc.ca

UNIT 3 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 3 - Southern Interior: The Southern Interior geographic area covers members living in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, east from Bridge River and south of Prince George, including the Kootenays. Unit 3 meetings take place in Bridge River, Kamloops, Vernon, Revelstoke, Mica, Castlegar, Trail, Cranbrook and Invermere. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 3 Executive Members:

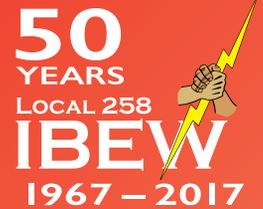
Chair: Brother Trevor Williams Vice Chair: Brother Dean Kotaras

Recorder: Brother David Berard

Executive Members: Brother Jeremy O'Laney, Brother Dave Wells

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Greg Fanning

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



BRIDGE RIVER Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Lunch Room B2 starting at 5:30 pm.

Tuesday, January 10*, 2017

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

CASTLEGAR Meetings take place at the Super 8, 651 18th St., starting at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 7*, 2017

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Tuesday, October 10*, 2017

CRANBROOK Meetings take place at the Labour Temple, 105 9th Ave., starting at 4:30 pm. Phone: 250-426-4871.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Wednesday, April 12*, 2017

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

INVERMERE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm. Phone: 250-368-3355.

Thursday, February 9, 2017

Thursday, April 13, 2017

Thursday, June 8*, 2017

Thursday, October 12, 2017

KAMLOOPS Meetings take place in the IBEW 993 Hall, 873 Desmond St., starting at 7:00 pm. Phone: 250-376-8755.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Wednesday, May 10*, 2017

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Wednesday, December 6*, 2017

MICA CREEK Meeting location to be announced.

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Tuesday, November 14*, 2017

REVELSTOKE Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Revelstoke Dam Generator Floor Lunch Room starting at 4:15 pm.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Wednesday, May 17, 2017

Wednesday, September 20*, 2017

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

VERNON Meetings take place in the Army & Navy Club starting at 7:00 pm. Phone: 250-542-3277.

Thursday, January 12, 2017

Thursday, March 16*, 2017

Thursday, May 11, 2017

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Thursday, November 9, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

LOCAL 258, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

7535 6th Street,

Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

phone: 604-520-3305 fax: 604-522-3371

toll free: 1-877-520-3305 email: info@ibew258.bc.ca

www.ibew258.bc.ca



UNIT 4 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 4 - Vancouver Island: This geographic area covers members living on Vancouver Island. Unit 4 meetings take place in Victoria, Ganges, Duncan, Qualicum, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Port Hardy, Courtenay and Campbell River. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 4 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Tom Greenwell Vice Chair: Brother Brian Gueldenstern Recorder: Brother Mike Pereszlenyi

Executive Members: Brother Zane Gauthier, Brother Baptist Crompvoets

Assistant Business Manager: Brother Dan Klassen

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



CAMPBELL RIVER Meetings take place at the Maritime Heritage Centre starting at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

COURTENAY Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, February 7*, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Tuesday, November 7*, 2017

DUNCAN Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm. Phone: 250-748-2722.

Wednesday, April 12*, 2017

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at VIT

GANGES Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 11, 2017

Wednesday, May 10*, 2017

Tuesday, October 10*, 2017

NANAIMO Meetings take place at the Legion #256, starting at 4:30 pm. Contact phone number: 250-754-8128.

Tuesday, March 14*, 2017

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Tuesday, December 12*, 2017

PORT ALBERNI Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 10*, 2017

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Wednesday, September 13*, 2017

PORT HARDY Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

QUALICUM BEACH Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

VICTORIA Meetings take place in the BC Hydro Line Room starting at 4:00 pm.

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Wednesday, June 7*, 2017

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

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Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

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UNIT 5 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 5 - Greater Vancouver: The Greater Vancouver geographical area covers members living on the Sunshine Coast and in the Lower Mainland north of the Fraser River to Powell River and east to the Pitt River. Unit 5 meetings take place in Burnaby, Sechelt and Powell River. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

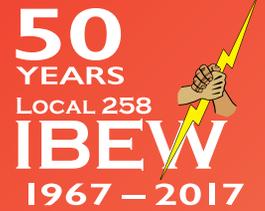
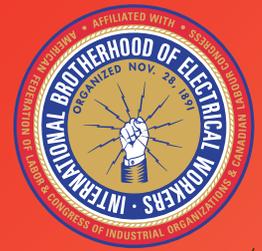
Your Unit 5 Executive Members:

Chair: Sister Cathy Tagseth Vice Chair: Brother Jesse Adams Recorder: Brother Burke Lundy

Executive Members: Sister Lisa Cardarelli, Brother Mark Davison

Assistant Business Managers: Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



BURNABY Meetings take place in the Local 258 IBEW Union Hall, 7535 6th Street, starting at 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 12*, 2017

Thursday, Feb. 9*, 2017

Thursday, March 16*, 2017

Thursday, April 6*, 2017

Thursday, May 11*, 2017

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Thursday, August 10*, 2017

Thursday, September 14*, 2017

Thursday, October 12, 2017

Thursday, November 9*, 2017

Thursday, December 7*, 2017

POWELL RIVER Meetings take place at the Powell River Town Centre Hotel (formerly the Coast) starting at 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

Tuesday, October 18, 2017

SECHELT Meetings take place at the Driftwood Inn, 5454 Trail Avenue, starting at 5:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Wednesday, June 21*, 2017

Thursday, October 19*, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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UNIT 6 Union Meetings 2017

Unit 6 - Fraser Valley: The Fraser Valley geographic area covers members living in the Fraser Valley and the Lower Mainland south of the Fraser River and east from Pitt Meadows to Hope. Unit 6 meetings take place in Langley and Chilliwack. If you are working out of town when your regularly scheduled union meeting takes place, please be aware you can attend ANY Local 258 IBEW union meeting that is taking place across the province.

Your Unit 6 Executive Members:

Chair: Brother Chris Carter Vice Chair: Brother Rob Munro Recorder: Brother Walter Goodwin

Executive Members: Brother Tim Mitchell, Brother Justin Gerard

Assistant Business Managers: Brother Dan Giesbrecht, Sister Nicole Biernaczyk

* Denotes Official Meeting where the business of the union takes place.



CHILLIWACK Meetings take place at the Best Western Inn, 43971 Industrial Way starting at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, February 8*, 2017

Wednesday, April 12*, 2017

Wednesday, June 7*, 2017

Wednesday, October 11*, 2017

Wednesday, December 13*, 2017

LANGLEY Meetings take place at the Best Western Plus Langley, 5978 Glover Rd., starting at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, January 10*, 2017

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Tuesday, March 14*, 2017

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Tuesday, May 9*, 2017

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Tuesday, September 12*, 2017

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Tuesday, November 7*, 2017

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Your Local 258 IBEW Elected Members:

Business Manager/Financial Secretary: Doug McKay

President: Tony Brand

Vice-President: Dave McMinn

Treasurer: Larry Byhre

Recording Secretary: Dale Haines

Your Local 258 IBEW Representatives:

Senior Assistant Business Manager: Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers: Greg Fanning, Dan Giesbrecht,

Dan Klassen, Don McNabb, Nicole Biernaczyk

Organizer/Membership Development: Rick Gerrard

Local 258 IBEW Dispatcher: Jim McKay

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Local 258 IBEW/BC Hydro

23rd Annual Golf Tournament

Raising funds for the MS Society of Canada

Our supporters and golfers gathered again this year to raise much needed funds to help the MS Society of Canada (BC & Yukon Division) provide services and support to people with multiple sclerosis and their families. This year's tournament that took place on Monday September 19th helped bring our 20 year total contribution over the \$100,000 milestone!

With a cheque for \$15,000 going to this worthy charitable organization that helps so many, the union's Golf Committee, led by ABM Brother Dan Klassen with the help of Brother Mark Davison, is grateful for the growing sponsorships that help fund this initiative.

"Our sponsors continue to show their generosity and we are extremely thankful for their contributions," says Klassen, "And we sold out this year with our participants who withstood most of the bad weather that unfortunately caused us to call it a day after nine holes when the rain and hail took over."

Many thanks to the unionized staff (Unite Here Local 40 in banquets and CUPE Local 498 who work on the grounds) at the Pitt Meadows Golf Club. And a huge thank you to all of our volunteers who also helped organize this important fundraising event and to everyone who participated. ⚡

Additional photos can be viewed at www.ibew258.bc.ca.





Many thanks to our generous sponsors – we couldn't do it without you!



Additional Sponsors: Allteck; Asplundh; Best Western Plus Hotel Coquitlam; Cavan Advertising; Chateau Granville; Coast Victoria Harbourside; Community Savings; Davey Tree; Electrical Contractors Association of BC; Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel, Burnaby; Hotel Grand Pacific, Victoria; IBEW 993; Inn at the Quay; Leopard Print Communications; Mohr Good Ideas; Rokstad, Tridor, Valley Power Line Contracting.

With sincere appreciation and gratitude to our super volunteers from the Power Pioneers and the MS Society!



IBEW Local 258 members compete at 33rd annual Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas



Members of Local 258 IBEW at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas in October 2016: the BC Hydro team on the left and the team from Rokstad on the right.

Members of Local 258 IBEW working as journeyman and apprentice Power Line Technicians (PLTs) travelled to Kansas this Fall to compete in the 33rd Annual International Lineman's Rodeo that took place from October 12th to 15th where over 200 teams from electric utility companies (both public and private) and more than 300 apprentices gathered from across the United States and Canada for this international competition.

Teams and apprentices were sponsored by their signatory employers, BC Hydro and private line contractor Rokstad, with support from Local 258 IBEW, and competed in journeyman team events with apprentices competing in individual events that included a written test.

A Safety & Training Conference was held in conjunction with the Rodeo that also featured an Expo, a Friday night barbecue and a Saturday night awards dinner banquet.

Local 258 IBEW supported all our members in this annual competition with also providing custom t-shirts for each competitor including t-shirts for trading with other competitors.





Journeyman Team Results:

With a total of 206 teams competing, the BC Hydro and Rokstad Journeyman Teams placed the following:

Journeyman Best of the Best

78/206: BC Hydro – Brother Steve Lang, Brother Chris Smith, Brother Ritchie Lang

128/206: Rokstad – Brother Colby Cooper, Brother Ryan Sanders, Brother Jay Skjeie

152/206: BC Hydro – Brother Sheldon Canning, Brother Darryn Smith, Brother Bob Kilian

166/206: BC Hydro – Brother Dave Wells, Brother Jeff Stites, Brother Brad Masse

179/206: Rokstad – Brother Mark Grant, Brother Steve McKenna, Brother Kyle Elkie

Journeyman Pole Climb

71/206: Rokstad – Cooper, Sanders, Skjeie

88/206: BC Hydro – Lang, Smith, Lang

97/206: BC Hydro – Canning, Smith, Kilian

192/206: BC Hydro – Wells, Stites, Masse

197/206: Rokstad – Grant, McKenna, Elkie

Journeyman Hurtman Rescue

113/206: BC Hydro – Lang, Smith, Lang

115/206: BC Hydro – Wells, Stites, Masse

125/206: Rokstad – Grant, McKenna, Elkie

153/206: BC Hydro – Canning, Smith, Kilian

183/206: Rokstad – Cooper, Sanders, Skjeie

Journeyman Mystery Event #1

59/206: BC Hydro – Wells, Stites, Masse

81/206: Rokstad – Cooper, Sanders, Skjeie

113/206: Rokstad – Grant, McKenna, Elkie

119/206: BC Hydro – Lang, Smith, Lang

162/206: BC Hydro – Canning, Smith, Kilian

Journeyman Mystery Event #2

39/206: BC Hydro – Wells, Stites, Masse

50/206: BC Hydro – Lang, Smith, Lang

81/206: Rokstad – Grant, McKenna, Elkie

165/206: Rokstad – Cooper, Sanders, Skjeie

170/206: BC Hydro – Canning, Smith, Kilian

Apprentice Results:

With a total of 284 apprentices competing, the BC Hydro and Rokstad Apprentices placed the following:

Apprentice Best of the Best

80/284: BC Hydro – Brother Josh Graham

131/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

143/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

246/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

Apprentice Pole Climb:

70/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

154/284: BC Hydro – Brother Josh Graham

188/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

277/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

Apprentice Written Test:

124/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

116/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

160/284: BC Hydro – Brother Josh Graham

176/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

Apprentice Hurtman Rescue:

120/284: BC Hydro - Brother Josh Graham

125/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

153/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

211/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

Apprentice Mystery Event #1:

139/284: BC Hydro - Brother Josh Graham

151/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

207/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

266/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

Apprentice Mystery Event #2:

12/284: BC Hydro – Brother Josh Graham

158/284: Rokstad – Brother Max Shears

168/284: BC Hydro – Brother Iain Roby

226/284: Rokstad – Brother Adam Klazinga

Joining the BC Hydro competitors were Brother Colin Petersen, Brother Walt Greely and Brother Barry Organ, organizers for the PLTs who competed at this year's BC Hydro Safety Rodeo. Attending from Rokstad were PLT Team Lead Brother Chris Elkie and Scott O'Laney. 🇨🇦

Local 258 IBEW supporting our members

Seeking success at the 2018 Paralympics

In September 2008, Brother Curt Minard suffered a workplace accident while working as a PLT at BC Hydro that resulted in third degree burns and nerve damage to his right hand, burns to his back and right leg, and such severe burns and damage to his left hand that he had to undergo amputation surgery. Always an avid sports enthusiast, he thought his ability to continue playing any sport at a recreational level was over.

But time proved him wrong, and in 2012, after years of intensive therapy and rehabilitation, and with the support of so many including his union Local 258 IBEW, he found himself playing on the National Canadian Amputee Ice Hockey team and competing in the World Tournament Championships in Tampere, Finland where the team brought home gold! (see Hotline Fall 2012)

Now, Brother Minard has returned to work in a different capacity at BC Hydro as a Foreman PLT w/ Training and Development. He also started his own company, Limitless Communications LTD, where he does motivational speaking and recently launched his own clothing apparel line. And now, he has set his sights on a new goal – competing at the 2018 Paralympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, in the sport of para-snowboard.

“There’s nothing that stops us from achieving greatness because we have a disability,” says Brother Minard in his bio on the paralympic.org website.

Curt is no stranger to snowboarding with his enthusiasm for the sport going back ten years to 2006, before his workplace accident. After his success with the Canada Amputee Ice Hockey team, he began thinking he might be interested in higher-level competition in the sport of snowboard. He contacted the Canadian para-snowboard program, and after initial success in some competitions where he won 3 Golden podiums out of 6 IPC sanctioned events, he is now focused on his “Road to Success Paralympic Dream”.

Curt recently travelled to the World Cup competition on the indoor slopes at SnowWorld Landgraaf, Netherlands, followed by para-snowboard training north of the Arctic Circle in Finland. Additional competitions are scheduled throughout Europe and Asia in the new year, with the Big White 2017 World Para-Snowboard Championships taking place from February 1st to 8th, 2017, just outside of Kelowna. 🇨🇦



Brother Curt Minard, with his Local 258 IBEW branded snowboard and pants, at the para-snowboard competitions in the Netherlands.



“I would like to thank my union and my union brothers and sisters for your ongoing support,” says Brother Minard. “Local 258 IBEW has always been there for me and I can’t tell you how much of a positive impact that support has had for me – it inspires me to do the best I can.”

Curt can be found on his Facebook page: “Curt Minard’s Road to Success Paralympic Dream” where he is updating his progress and events, including fundraisers.

RUMINATIONS OF A RETIREE

By Ken McEwen

Retired Local 258 IBEW member

Congratulations Ken on submitting your 50th Ruminations column for the Hotline!

As some Latin guy, I think his name was Virgil, said, “Tempus fugit”. Translated into Canadian it kind of means, “Time flies” or something like that. Well, time has certainly been flying here. I was notified way last week that I should do something about a Hotline column. Now the old tempus has fugit and I’d better get to it. So here goes.

Given the time of year we are, as usual, in sunny southern California. Last night and this morning was a pretty good example of what the wintertime attraction to this area is. We had our first rain event. The event commenced after we had retired for the night and ended before I got out of bed this morning. Catherine Dear and Indio (the dog) start the day earlier than I do and so saw the tail end of the event. By the time I greeted the day the sun was shining and the puddles were drying. That is quite different from our northern home where it can cloud up in October and rain until April. Here when it rains there is an expectation that it will quit at some point and return to dry.

Anyway, I’ve been kind of ruminating on stuff and there is a temptation to hold forth on the recently completed USAmerican election. I have decided not to write anything about that as I am sure everyone is pretty much tired of hearing and reading about it. Here in the land of the free and the home of the brave the TV stations have been full of election stuff for the last two years. Saying, “Thank goodness the election is over” has no meaning as the TV stations are now full of pundits regurgitating and dissecting the results and why they happened and/or why they shouldn’t have happened and what may or may not happen now. In my view that’s kind of like spending a lot of time rehashing the recent rain event. There’s not much anybody can do about it. It rained. Things got wet. There is one aspect of USAmerican elections that is really confusing to Canadians and that is how one candidate can gather the most votes and yet the other candidate wins the election.

When we return to The Great White North I am sure the TV stations there will be full of our provincial elections and all the grand things the politicians will do for us, our province, our country and even the planet. Early indications are that the Site C dam will be a major talking point in that election. Initial ruminating indicates that the opponents to Site C are touting alternative power generation such as solar farms and wind farms. However, opponents to solar farms say they are wasteful of land, immolate birds and disrupt the migratory path of sundry other creatures. Wind farms, of which there are plenty here, also have critics who say they are an ugly blight on the landscape, are wasteful of land

and result in sliced and diced birds trying to fly through them so don’t build them in our backyard. So, with fossil fuel and pipelines being politically incorrect and deleterious to our environment, hydro-electric power destroying hectares of arable land, solar farms frying birds and wind farms being equally hazardous to our feathered friends where oh where will we get the energy once the whole world has converted to electric vehicles? I guess to ensure happiness to everyone we’ll just have to say no to everything.

Speaking of vehicles, when escaping the rain this year we drove straight down the I-5 for the most part. We did that because Catherine Dear had a commitment to get here pretty soon and so we took the shortest quickest route. While piloting the camper and monitoring traffic it struck me that cars on the freeway are like wolves. They travel in packs that number anywhere from six to twenty. See, with the camper on cruise control at a speed just under the posted limit, there are times when the traffic ahead and in the rear-view mirrors are just small images on the horizon. Then all of a sudden a pack will close in from behind, overtake and fade into the distance ahead. Again we will be semi lonely for a few miles until another pack repeats the process. I have pondered, mused and ruminated on this phenomenon at some length and it remains a mystery to me. Perhaps it is just that freeway drivers are social animals and take comfort and support from being with others of their kind. I much prefer driving the smaller roads where the passing of vehicles in either direction is somewhat of a rarity and drivers only bunch up through the occasional small town or at rest areas. It is about 2500 kilometres (1500 miles) from there to here and in the past I have been able to achieve that with less than 300 kilometres (185 miles) of freeway driving.

I just noticed that this Ruminations document is numbered 50. Having a zero on the end like that should make it a milestone of sorts. 50 seems to be kind of a magical number. People that have been married for 50 years have parties and some even get all kinds of presents. Although I was 50 years old once and I don’t remember anybody making a big hoopla about it. So, if you’ve been around long enough to have suffered through the previous 49 of these ramblings and are getting kind of tired of them please let the editor know. Perhaps you would like to see something else in this space with a younger perspective and not so much old guy blathering. I am willing to continue and would be only mildly distressed if made redundant. I will leave the decision up to you.

Please continue to work and play safely because as tempus fugit retirement draws nigh. 🚗

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

Keep in touch with your union and register on the website today

As a current dues paying member in good standing, you are eligible to sign up at www.ibew258.bc.ca to access the Member Resources password-protected section of your union website.

Here you will find information that is exclusive for members, featuring current collective agreements, important news and event updates and useful downloadable forms for things like work related training assistance, wage reimbursement and expenses related to union business.

Details of your when and where your union meetings take place are posted on the Unit Meeting calendar, available to members through the pull down menu on the calendar when you are logged in.

To register on the website, visit www.ibew258.bc.ca and complete the sign-up process by clicking on "Click here to sign up" in the member Login box on the upper right area of the front page if you are accessing the site from a desktop computer, and if you are on your smart phone or using a tablet, simply hit the Menu to locate "Login" and complete the registration form. You will need your union member number, available on your IBEW union card. If you can't recall your union member number or can't find your card, you can retrieve your number by calling the Local 258 office at 604-520-3305, toll-free 1-877-520-3305, or send an email to info@ibew258.bc.ca.

By including your personal cell phone number and email address on the on-line registration form, your union will be able to communicate to you directly, notifying you of important news



and events via your smart phone and/or email. Receiving text messages is optional, but recommended.

Please note, the registration process can take up to 48 hours to approve as staff confirms your membership. If your membership is not current you will be notified by email your website registration has been rejected.

When you have registered, please keep your email address current as access to the password protected Member Resources section may be denied if your email bounces back.

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas about the website, please contact your union website administrator at: communications@ibew258.bc.ca. 



UNION SAVINGS

As a member of Local 258 IBEW, you now have access to deep discounts and savings through programs offered by Union Savings, Canada's only not-for-profit, union run members benefit program.

At no cost to you, Union Savings has negotiated high quality savings and discounts for you and your family on a wide range of benefits including car rental discounts, travel discounts, mortgages, insurance policies, financial services and more.

Find out more by logging in to your union website at

www.ibew258.bc.ca



Joint Health & Safety Committee Basic & Advanced

- Incident Investigations • Chemical Hazards
- Strains, Aches & Pains
- Prevention of Violence in the Workplace
- Understanding & Preventing Stress
- Ergonomics for Drivers & Operators

Providing province-wide education for Joint Health & Safety Committees

View the course schedule and descriptions at

www.healthandsafetybc.ca

UNION NOTICE BOARD

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

WE NEED YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS

If you have recently moved (within the past six months), please make sure your union, Local 258 IBEW, has your new mailing address so we can mail **YOUR 2016 UNION DUES TAX RECEIPT**. **Please note: your employer is NOT responsible for forwarding your new mailing address**, so please let your union know where you are. Call the office at 604-520-3305, toll free at 1-877-520-3305, fax us at 604-522-3371, e-mail us at info@ibew258.bc.ca, or complete the Address Change Form on-line in the Member Resources section of the website (registration required).

Attention: Local 258 IBEW *A* members

This is a reminder to all *A* members to update your beneficiary information for your International Pension when there is a change in your personal status. Please contact the office in Burnaby for further information or if you have any questions. Phone: 604-520-3305 Toll Free: 1-877-520-3305

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

The Hotline knows many of you have an interest in photography and sometimes take photos at your workplaces. We also know there are some of you who are very creative. Please share your photos and creative works — and your stories too — with your union's member magazine, The Hotline! Send your items via e-mail to communications@ibew258.bc.ca, or mail to: Local 258 IBEW, Attention: The Hotline
7535 Sixth Street
Burnaby, BC V3N 3M2

PROBLEMS AT

HOME OR

AT WORK?

NEED TO TALK

WITH SOMEONE?

To arrange a completely confidential phone call with a trained union counsellor to talk with someone who can help, call Local 258 IBEW at 604-520-3305, or toll free at 1-877-520-3305, during regular business hours. Or call Dan at 604-312-5929 anytime.

Unemployed? Looking elsewhere for work?

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

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

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

For a complete list of IBEW Locals, visit

<http://www.ibew.org/Tools/Local-Union-Directory>

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

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

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



From the Archives...

The inaugural issue of "THE ELECTRICAL WORKER", the official publication of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (before Canada joined to create the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), was published in January, 1893. Here are some excerpts that are as timely today as they were sincerely written 123 years ago.

Good Words from our Grand President

One year has passed since the organization of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. From a small beginning we have passed many of the older organizations, and our growth seems almost phenomenal. Our membership at the organization of the Brotherhood was scarcely 300, while today we have an organization extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf to the Canadian border, with Locals in all the principal cities.

The members of the Brotherhood can justly feel proud of their work during the first year. In a number of cities the hours of work have been reduced from ten to eight, and wages have been increased from 10 to 50 per cent. As it is the duty of each member to assist a brother member and explain all difficult points to him, the organization is one vast school where all are scholars and teachers in turn, and as a result the work done has been much better and has given more satisfaction both to the employers and the public. We all know how it was a few years ago. Each workman was jealous of the other, and instead of assisting one another, they would invariably work against each other, no one caring how the work was done and each blaming the other when anything went wrong, which was an everyday occurrence. During the past year, the Brotherhood was unable to supply the demand for men, while there were a number of electrical workers looking for work all the time. This can be easily explained. Article II, section 1 of our constitution reads: "To maintain a higher standard of skill, to encourage the formation of schools of instruction in Local Unions for teaching the practical application of electricity and for trade education generally, to cultivate feelings of friendship among the men of our craft, to settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration, to assist each other in sickness and distress, to secure employment, to reduce the hours of daily labour, to secure adequate pay for our work, and by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social condition of all our members." With such laudable objects in view, can it be wondered that our organization has met with such fervor everywhere, or that our members can so easily find work while other men are idle.

During the past we have had very few difficulties with our employers, and they were all settled satisfactorily to both parties.

Now, fellow-workmen, having the honor of being again elected your Grand President, I take this opportunity of calling upon you to assist me in the future as you have in the past. There is still a great deal for us to do, but by perseverance we will accomplish the objects we were organized for.

The electrical companies at present understand that it is for



their benefit, as well as our own, that we should work hand in hand. They now see through the efforts of our organization they can procure more skilled workmen, and it will be for their benefit to pay us accordingly.

In conformity with our constitution I would now urge all Locals the necessity of opening a reading room or library as soon as possible, and have a regular course of instruction in the practical application of electricity. Also at the regular meetings when the 18th order of business is called – discussions on practical electrical subjects – that the president insist upon every member saying something, no matter how little, and in a short time you will find it necessary to limit their time. Just get them once started, and they will read and study up some subject, and say probably only a few words in an awkward manner, but they have started to read and think, and express their thoughts, and they see a whole new world open up to them. They have commenced to think.

In conclusion, allow me to say that I have tried to do my duty in the past, and will endeavor to do so in the future, hoping, with your kind assistance, we may more than double our membership during the present year. Trusting that each member will do all in his power to further the interests of our organization, and wishing you all a happy New Year, I am, fraternally, yours,

Henry Miller

Salutatory

THE ELECTRICAL WORKER.

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AS THE ELECTRICAL WORKER reaches the men who
do the work, and recommend or order the material, its
value as an advertising medium can be readily appreciated.

St. Louis, Mo., January, 1893.

Advertising Rates on Application.

The ELECTRICAL WORKER needs no apology for its appearance. While at first it may seem that the field is already covered by the large number of able electrical papers that are published, yet the ELECTRICAL WORKER has a field exclusively its own. The electrical journals of today appear to be published for the benefit of the college professor and the college-bred electrical engineer. The great rank and file of electrical workers are considered as scarcely worthy of notice. The editors seem to think that the man who cannot solve all the problems in Euclid had no right to read an electrical paper. There are thousands of electrical workers in the United States who scarcely ever read an electrical journal on account of the formidable array of algebraic equations that bristle on every page.

At the convention of the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers recently held in Chicago it was decided to publish a journal devoted to the interests of the electrical workers and the electrical industry, unharmed by trusts or cliques. The ELECTRICAL WORKER, edited and published by men who have devoted the best years of their lives in the hazardous work of their craft, who understand the needs and requirements of the electrical workers, will be a fearless champion of their rights and ever watchful of their interests.

With this brief notice we make our bow to the public, and hope that in their criticism they will consider the difference between climbing a pole and wielding an editorial pen.

National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America



The Chronicle of Time had almost closed his volume on the Nineteenth Century — a century which will go down the ages as the transition period from the ancient to the modern, from the old order of things to the new. He had recorded in glowing colors the discoveries and progress of this age — how a struggling infant had grown to be a giant and given its name to the century — the age of electricity. But, ere he finishes the last of his chapter, let him pause to chronicle the birth of another infant, which, like its prototype, is destined to be an important factor in the moral, social and intellectual progress of the world — the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of America.

Let us see what apology it can offer for its existence.

While the electrical industry is new — the oldest branch so young that the President of the largest electrical company in the world was a grown man, a country doctor riding around on a pair of pill-bags before there was a telegraph line in existence; the telephone and electric lights were scarcely mentioned in the school books of the youngest of our members, and the electric railroads and the application of power are things of yesterday; yet from a humble beginning it has grown to such proportion that today there are probably more persons employed in it than any other industry except steam transportation.

With the introduction of this new and subtle force— harmless when handled properly, but more terrible than the thunderbolts of Jove in the hands of unskilled men — one would naturally suppose that the men who have to deal with it would be well paid for their work. But alas, the men who have carried the telegraph lines from ocean to ocean, who wove the web of telephone wires in every city and town, who erected the light that transforms

night into day, who constructed the machines and instruments by which this has been accomplished, who risk their lives daily that the community may have light, news, easy communication and protection, have been reduced year by year from their rightful position among skilled mechanics, until today, both in wages and social standing they are lower than any other trade requiring no greater amount of skill or manual effort, while the trade is overrun with unskilled men, and in consequence the danger to life and public safety is constantly increasing.

Only a few men in different cities seemed to realize where we were drifting to and set to work with a determination almost born of despair to stop the tide and place themselves and fellow-workers in that material, moral and social position the dignity of their trade entitled them to. A few local unions were started, the armature revolved and others saw the light until a dozen or more locals were organized. But it was soon evident that there should be one grand circuit from which each local could draw new life and energy, and thus establish a common bond of brotherhood among all electrical workers, and as a result, the wireman, the lineman, the inspector, the armature-winder and others met in convention, and thus was born the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The St. Louis Local issued a call for a convention to meet in St. Louis, November 21, 2891, and seven unions responded. The delegates present, though few in numbers, were resolute and determined and pledged themselves not to cease from their work until every city in the United States would be organized.

The following officers were elected for the first year:
Grand President – Henry Miller
First Grand Vice-President – E.C. Hartung
Second Grand Vice-President – F.J. Heizleman
Third Grand Vice-President – T.J. Frisnell
Grand Secretary-Treasurer – J.T. Kelly



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



Congratulations to Brother Kyle Graeme shown above with his certificate and hard hat at his top out celebration at the BC Hydro LMS line room in Surrey. Brother Graeme will be working as a journeyman lineman (PLT) out of Abbotsford.



Sister Donna Anthony, left, was awarded her 15 year union service pin by Assistant Business Manager Nicole Biernaczyk during a visit to the Local 258 IBEW office in Burnaby. Sister Anthony works at Valley Traffic as a Lane Closure Technician.



Brother Tom Greenwell, Unit 4 Chair, awarded Brother Alan Gaensbauer his 35 year union service pin at a recent union meeting. Brother Gaensbauer works at Nanaimo Construction as an electrician with BC Hydro. Thanks to Brother Tom Hockin who sent in the photo to the Hotline.



Brother John Pettigrew dropped in to the union office in Burnaby and received well wishes on his recent retirement – and a Local 258 IBEW watch – from union dispatcher Brother Jim McKay.



Unit 6 Chair Brother Chris Carter welcomed new union members Sister Sharon Dueck and Sister Michelle Lazar, to the Chilliwack meeting in October.



Congratulations are extended to Brother Dusty Henry shown above on the right with Brother Jae Haines, Shop Steward, on achieving his journeyman lineman (PLT) certificate. Brother Henry works at Glenn Power Contractors operating out of Salmon Arm, BC.



Welcome aboard to Brother Devon Robilliare, shown above on the right after being sworn in to the union by Unit 1 Chair Brother Klaus Kraft at the October meeting in Prince Rupert.



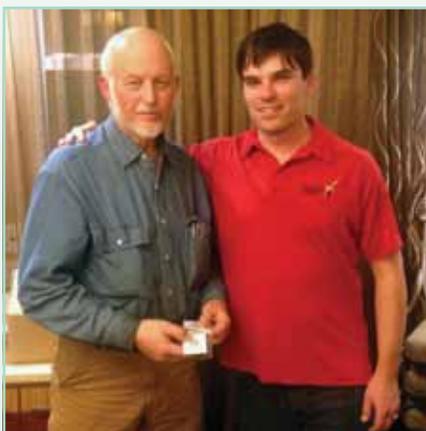
Pro-tem Unit 2 Chair Sister Carolyn Furler, left, swears in new members at the 100 Mile House meeting in October. From left: Brother Colby Braaten, Brother Wayne Bittner and Brother Cye Roth.



Unit 4 Chair Brother Tom Greenwell presents a five year union pin to Brother Kyle Burns at the September union in Port Hardy.



Congratulations to Brother Mohammed Mohammadi who works at Allied Controls on being presented his 15 year service pin by Local 258 IBEW ABM Sister Nicole Biernaczyk.



Brother Chris Carter, Unit 6 Chair, on the right above, awarded Brother Norm Konradson his 40 year union pin at the meeting in Langley in October.



Brother Tom Greenwell, Unit 4 Chair, swears in new member Sister Stephanie Fulcher, an apprentice electrician working at Nanaimo Construction with BC Hydro. Photo taken by Brother Tom Hockin.



Unit 5 Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth, right, was joined at the union meeting in Sechelt in October by members who were awarded their IBEW service pins. From left, Brother Brian Haugen, 45 years; Brother Dustin Seabrook, 10 years and Brother Ben Richardson, 10 years.



Senior Assistant Business Manager Brother Jim Greenwell congratulates Brother Helmer Mussell, a topped out Meter Technician Apprentice.



Brother Mario Baga was sworn in to the IBEW at the Unit 5 meeting in Burnaby in September by Vice Chair Brother Jesse Adams.



Acting Unit 2 Chair Sister Carolyn Furler, left, presented IBEW service pins to, from left, Sister Dawn Crocker, 10 years; Brother Shayne Martin, 5 years and Brother Rodger Bissat, 15 years, at the 100 Mile House meeting in October.



**PHOTO
OPPORTUNITY
LU 258**



Brother Steve Jens, left, is congratulated on his retirement and awarded a 50 year IBEW union member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Brother Trevor Williams.



Brother Darrel Miskovitch, right, was recently awarded his 15 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Brother Barry Reid retires and is shown above with ABM Dan Giesbrecht being presented with a retirement watch and goodies from the union at the Unit 5 meeting in Squamish in November.



Brother Garret Neary & Brother Kyle Palouillet were awarded their 5 year IBEW union member pins at the Unit 5 meeting in Squamish in November.



Welcome aboard Brother Russell Borowitz who was sworn in at the October union meeting in Burnaby by Unit 5 Chair Sister Cathy Tagseth.



Welcome to Brother Hassan Ayach who was initiated into the IBEW at the Unit 5 meeting in Squamish in November.



Brother Tom Stewart, left, apprentice PLT, is initiated into the IBEW at a Unit 3 meeting and is shown being congratulated by Brother Trevor Williams, Unit 3 Chair.



Brother Colin Petersen at the International Lineman's Rodeo Exhibition in Kansas (see story pages 26 - 27).



Brother Gerry Westendorp, right, received his Local 258 IBEW retirement watch after a 40-plus years career as a Utility Arborist with Asplundb. He is shown here at the Unit 6 meeting in November with, from left, Brother Tim Mitchell and ABM Dan Giesbrecht.



Recently retired Brother Tim McSorley, senior field storekeeper at the Edmonds Linerroom, was initiated to the IBEW November 15, 1954. ABM Dan Klassen, and his father, the late Harry Klassen (former Local 258 IBEW ABM), worked with Brother McSorley, as have four generations of Gerrards. Brother Klassen is shown above with Tim shortly before he retired. "Brother McSorley will be missed."



Brother Lloyd Dundas is awarded his 40 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at a recent union meeting.



Congratulations to Brother Jim Rheinhart, left, on being awarded his 60 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Brother Bob Krug, left, was awarded his 10 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at a recent union meeting.



Brother Brian Beuler, left, was awarded his 25 year IBEW member service pin by Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams at a recent union meeting.



Brother Ted Jorde, left, receives his retirement goodies from the union and a handshake from Unit 3 Chair Trevor Williams.



Brother Randy Klassen, right, was awarded his Local 258 IBEW retirement watch this past summer by ABM Dan Klassen after 42 years of union membership. Randy spent the majority of his career with PEI. And yes, they are cousins!



Another year of giving back to the community with Local 258 IBEW members from Rokstad and Valley Traffic helping with the set up at the St. Paul's Foundation Lights of Hope event in Vancouver. Thank you all so much for your participation!



Much thanks and appreciation to Local 258 IBEW members Brother Reg Martin and Brother Joey Bailey, shown above, who work at Asplundh and this year helped trim the trees for the set up at the St. Paul's Foundation Lights of Hope event in Vancouver.



Local 258 IBEW showed our support for the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society by sending a foursome of golfers to play in their annual fundraising golf tournament that helps feed hungry kids in Burnaby schools. The Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society has been a generous sponsor of our union's annual fundraising golf tournament and we are thankful for their support. From left are Brother Anthony Reid, Brother Walter Goodwin, Brother Rick Gerrard and Brother Justin Gerrard.



Thanks to Local 258 IBEW members who geared up to play in the charity fundraising tournament at Lone Wolf Golf Club in Taylor, BC, supporting the local Ronald McDonald House. From left are Brother Kevin McNabb, "Ronald McD", ABM Don McNabb, Brother Nigel Scott-Moncrieff and Brother Paul Newbold.



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Recently on a Saturday I was sitting having a coffee at my local corner store, when a guy walked in. I recognized him from my previous dealings with him when I worked at BC Hydro. He is employed by a large unnamed telecom company and was on duty that day. We got caught up on some pleasantries and as I usually do I asked how the company is treating him and the rest of the crews. He explained with a grimace that it was the first day of a new contract. I hadn't heard that they had been in negotiations, so was curious. His first piece of news was a shock, plain and simple and I can't really remember anything else he said. "All overtime would be paid at time and a half."

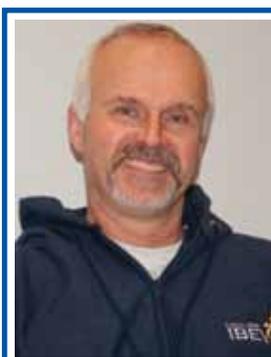
Pardon? Are you serious? In addition Sunday workers who were paid time and a half are now paid straight time. Really!! This is from a company that makes billions of dollars a year. You can be sure other major employers have taken note. The new contract was ratified with a large majority, he said because they are scared of their job security. I can understand people who work at 7-11 or McDonalds being unsure of their jobs, but a large profitable corporation? That scares me.

That news really stung as I am hearing more and more unions giving up hard fought benefits. This past summer Unifor gave up the right for defined benefit pension for newly hired auto workers. They did it to get investment in the auto plants and some level of guaranteed employee numbers, but it is opening a scary door that many other companies will try to pass through.

In addition the federal government recently introduced Bill C-27. Its title is "An Act to Amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985". This quietly introduced bill will allow employers to establish a target benefit (TB) plan alongside and eventually replace current the defined-benefit (DB) plan. It appears companies already have the ear of the Trudeau government. There was much work done by unions across this country to get rid of the anti-worker Conservatives and here we are under attack again.

Ironically on the other side of this story is the recently ratified contract between the nurses' union and its office staff. After 126 days of being locked out members of MoveUp approved a new contract after originally being asked to accept cuts to medical leave and other contract items. As union members we expect our dues to be used efficiently; however, this seems to go against all beliefs of the union movement in fair negotiated contracts.

So here we have some examples of the ongoing race to the bottom. As union members I believe that we all have a job to defend the wages and benefits we have and also just as important is not to abuse them.



From the Back Corner

Report from Tony Brand,
President, Local 258 IBEW

I recently attended along with nine other delegates from our Local the 39th International Convention of the IBEW in St. Louis. It is the 125th anniversary of the IBEW this year, so it was a very busy week. The over 2300 delegates dealt with a wide variety of business each day including the election of Lonnie Stephenson as International President and the re-election of International Secretary-Treasurer Salvatore "Sam" Chilia.

To represent Canada, Brother Bill Daniels was elected as International Vice President and Ross Galbraith as International Executive Council member. I know they will continue to be a strong voice for Canadian members in Washington.



Delegates to IBEW International Convention take time to sign the rafters in the Henry Miller House in St. Louis.

The IBEW's monument to its founding fathers; the Henry Miller House was finished in time for the convention. Henry Miller lived in this building 125 years ago when it was a boarding house and he, with others, formed the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in response to the high mortality rate of electrical workers. It was a very busy place, and many visitors, including myself, signed our names and

home Local numbers on the basement rafters.

As the year comes to a close I want to thank all the office staff, Business Manager, ABM's, and Unit Executive members for their dedication to our Local and above all the support they give me. To all of our members I hope 2016 was good to you and your family and that 2017 will be better, safe and prosperous. 🇺🇸



