

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

# LOCAL 258 IBEW

# HOTLINE

Your Union News Magazine

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DECEMBER 2023



## In this issue:

- ⚡ Business Office Establishes Shop Steward Council
- ⚡ BC Hydro Safety Rodeo Returns
- ⚡ The History of Helicopter Premiums
- ⚡ 2023 Nanaimo Line Campout & Fishing Derby



# The Gatzke Gazette

By Cody Gatzke, Local 258 IBEW Business Manager/Financial Secretary



Scan the QR code with your cell phone's camera to have Cody's contact info added directly to your contacts!

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It has been almost a year and a half since I was sworn into office, and much has happened in that span of time. Members who are employed by BC Hydro ratified their collective agreement; our team successfully negotiated a Master Traffic Control Agreement; we re-negotiated both the Asplundh and Davey Tree agreements; we transitioned the management of our website and the production of this magazine away from a contractor and brought it in-house; our Local has entered the digital realm by embracing social media; our website has been simplified and is much easier to navigate; training for our Shop Stewards has been developed; we have gone through a rebranding, we joined Clean Energy BC for access to IPPs, and so much more.

Much of my time has been spent learning the nuances of my position and the operations of our Local Union. One of the first orders of business was to attend a two-week New Business Manager course. I extended this training to a few of my Assistant Business Managers and our new President as well. In addition, I arranged for our Officers and Executive Board to attend the Local Union Leadership Training in Langley. This training is developed by IBEW Canada and is tailored for Local Union Officers. The training explains each official's roles and responsibilities, our bylaws, the IBEW constitution, and the IBEW Basic Laws and Policies. It emphasizes the importance of engagement between the Executive Board and our membership and the labour movement. Perhaps the most important function of our Executive Board is oversight. Our new Executive Board in conjunction with my office, identified a few outstanding issues that required our attention.

In 2019, Local 258 moved into a new building, and GST was due on the sale price at that time. The payment of the GST had been overlooked which resulted in an outstanding balance and interest incurred on the tax owed. Upon this discovery, the decision was made to self-disclose this error to CRA. In doing so, we reduced the interest and penalty we would have been liable for. Our new auditing firm and legal team have also identified an issue pertaining to who the titles of our vehicles are registered to. Currently, the vehicles are registered to our Holding Society, which is the entity that owns our office in Langley. It's been advised that we should register our vehicles in the name of the Local Union, not the Holding Society. As we replace our vehicles, we will change which entity the vehicles are registered to. We haven't changed the registration yet, as ICBC deems a sale to have occurred when a title changes and requires sales tax to be paid. Another issue that I have been dealing with relates to employment contracts. Some of our employees were hired with an employment contract, which in and of itself isn't an unusual practice. However, these contracts were not disclosed to the Executive Board at the time of hire, nor were they disclosed to me when the transfer of office occurred. Upon discovering this, I tracked down copies of the contracts and thankfully, most of them are consistent and typical. One contract that wasn't typical however, was a former employee who had a front-loaded severance clause. This employee earned one extra week of severance per year on top of the front-



loaded severance. There was no cap on the amount of weeks earned, meaning this liability compounded each year. This is no longer an issue however, as earlier this spring, this employee's employment ceased and we no longer hold the liability of an ever-increasing severance amount. There are a few things to take away from this situation. The first goes back to the Executive Board and oversight. The second takeaway is to better define the terms of employment in our bylaws. One of my campaign issues was a modernization of our Local Union. Bylaw amendments are needed to facilitate a modernization of our Local Union along with increasing transparency to our rank and file members.

Our Bylaws were retyped in their entirety in August of 1990. Local 258 has not conducted a comprehensive review since then. Over the past year, I have reviewed the pattern bylaws for Local Unions provided by the International Office, along with reviewing actual bylaws from other Local Unions. I identified a number of items for consideration. Some of the items are of housekeeping nature, while others will require a substantial change in how the Local Union operates. Examples include clauses that describe our vehicle allowance, per diem amounts, and employment terms. Other notable things we are looking at include introducing a requirement for the membership to ratify their collective agreements and a defense fund that can be used for lawsuits, labour disputes, etc. It is important for you to remember that any proposed changes to our Bylaws must be voted on by our members.

Transparency is a priority of mine. Much effort has been made to improve the transparency between the Union office and the Union members. For example, I have made our Local Union Bylaws available on our website, along with our Holding Society Bylaws and Constitution. I also now require our Dispatcher to send a monthly report to the Executive Board that describes how many people were dispatched in each sector and/or trade group, along with an indication if they were name requested or not. This report includes the total number of members who are currently unemployed and sitting on our books. Minutes can be found on our website.

Speaking of Dispatch, I examined the Dispatch policy and noticed it hadn't been updated for some time. I updated it mainly to reflect the changes that BC Hydro's Regionally Optimized Contract (ROC) has had on our line contractors. I also created three Books. Book I is for our members who are seeking work in our jurisdiction. Book II is for members of other IBEW Locals who are seeking work within our jurisdiction, and Book III is for Local 258 members who are working outside of our jurisdiction. The policy is on our website.

Keeping on the topic of policy, it is clear to me that much work is needed on the policy front. Local 258 had two policies at the time of my arrival, the previously mentioned dispatch policy, and a vehicle allowance policy. The vehicle allowance policy has since been replaced and incorporated into the new expense and procedures policy, which again is available on the website. I have had some conflict in the office between employees, which highlighted the need for various workplace conduct policies to set expectations for my employees and to ensure compliance with occupational health & safety regulation. Several other policies that are currently in development include security, privacy, and conflict of interest policies. The province of BC adopted the Personal Information Protection Act in 2004, which governs how unions collect, use, and disclose the personal information of its members. Adopting our own privacy policy will provide our employees and officers with a framework for how to collect, retain, use, and disclose our members' data and information. It would also provide members with a right of access to their personal information. A security policy would spell out the rules, expectations, and overall approach that our Local Union would use to maintain the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of both its physical and electronic data. Just to be clear, I am not indicating that there are any systemic issues. I am simply stating that we have never had any formal policies. In order to modernize the Local, we will require a comprehensive review of our policies, bylaws, work methods, and procedures we use to conduct our day-to-day operations.

I would also like to address several safety incidents that have occurred since I have been in my role. Davey Tree Service had a member make contact with an energized conductor but fortunately, injuries were not severe. Arctic Arrow had an induction-related electrical contact, but once again our member was lucky to have been able to walk away. Central Utility Service saw two members receive back injuries due to being struck by a section of a tree that was being removed from a line. A member broke a leg after being hit by a pole that was moved by an excavator. One member of ours fell off of a pole and was lucky not to be severely injured, while another fell off of the back of a truck and sustained head injuries. Finally, BC Hydro had a serious electrical contact that resulted in serious injuries to one of our own. In each case, we are lucky that the injuries sustained were not worse. Please be vigilant and use the resources that are available to you. I'd like to remind everyone that safety is our number one priority and safety is the IBEW's founding principle.

In solidarity,



Cody Gatzke

# HOTLINE

## Your Union News Magazine

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

THE UNION OF HEARTS AND MINDS.

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

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Cody Gatzke - Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Kevin Duchak - President

Jim Greenwell - Vice-President

Larry Byhre - Treasurer

Karen Porter - Recording Secretary

Local 258 IBEW Executive Board Members:

Unit #1 Chair - Corey Higgins

Unit #2 Chair - Lianne Bunting

Unit #3 Chair - Dean Kotaras

Unit #4 Chair - Lloyd Clark

Unit #5 Chair - Mike McMinn

Unit #6 Chair - Jordan Flanagan

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Cover Photo: BC Hydro PLT team consisting of Brothers Brent Barnes, Pete Slotte and Tyson Norrish.

Photo Credit: Rod Baker

Local 258 IBEW Staff:

Senior Assistant Business Manager - Jim Greenwell

Assistant Business Managers - Greg Fanning, Dayna Gill, Marina Luporini, Don McNabb, Ken Mitchell, Rob Munro, Jag Aujla

Membership Development and Organizing - Dayna Gill, Ken Mitchell, Rob Munro

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Business Representative - Emily Organ

Administrative & Office Staff (members of MoveUp) - Tracey Tilsley, Shila Stewart, Helen Martell, Paula Bawa



Attention Local 258 IBEW members:

## BUSINESS OFFICE ESTABLISHES SHOP STEWARD COUNCIL

Local 258 IBEW Business Manager Cody Gatzke reports that a Shop Steward Council will be established in the new year. The purpose of this council is to advise the business office of what is happening in the field, along with keeping Stewards current with what the business office is working on. Additional duties and projects may be assigned, such as reviewing the BC Hydro Interpretations of our Collective Agreement. We anticipate that this council will meet a few times per year and intend to schedule all meetings for the calendar year each January. Best efforts will be made to have at least one Steward from each of the sectors listed to the right on the council. Appointments to this council will be made by the Business Manager after consultation with the Assistant Business Managers and Local Union President. Minutes from the council meetings will be posted on the website. If you are interested in joining, please contact your Assistant Business Manager.

### ARTICLE VIII OF THE LOCAL UNION BYLAWS

Sec 1. Stewards shall be appointed where needed by the Business Manager. They shall work under the direction of the Business Manager and be subject to his/her authority. The Business Manager may remove any Steward, as such, at anytime.

Sec. 2 Duties of the Steward shall be:

- (a) To have a copy of the IBEW Constitution, these bylaws and the working agreement with them at all times.
- (b) To see that Union membership is encouraged and all workers at their respective shop or jobs paid-up dues receipts or valid working cards of the Local Union.
- (c) To report any encroachment upon the jurisdiction of the Local Union.
- (d) To report to the Business Manager any violation of the bylaws or agreements.
- (e) To perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the Business Manager.

Sec. 3 Stewards shall in no case cause a stoppage of work. In case of any trouble on a job or at a shop, Stewards shall immediately notify the Business Manager.



### LIST OF SECTORS

Outside Construction - Civil  
Outside Construction - Line Contractors  
Independent Power Producers  
Line Clearance Tree Trimming  
Electrical Manufacturing  
Traffic Control  
BC Hydro Cable  
BC Hydro Material Management (Stores)  
BC Hydro Meter Technicians  
BC Hydro Stations  
BC Hydro Fleet  
BC Hydro CPC  
BC Hydro Real Time Ops (FVO/SIO)  
BC Hydro Line - Distribution  
BC Hydro Line - Transmission  
BC Hydro Construction Services - Line  
BC Hydro Construction Services - Civil  
BC Hydro Construction Services - Electrical  
BC Hydro Winders  
BC Hydro Shift Department (Trouble Technician)  
BC Hydro Trades Training/Safety Advocate  
BC Hydro Non-Integrated Areas  
BC Hydro Generation - Northern BC  
BC Hydro Generation - Kootenays  
BC Hydro Generation - Southern BC

# Letters to Local 258

Dear Kevin, Karen, and Cody,  
Thank you so much for renewing your support towards the Burn Lab! We are thrilled that you are continuing your generous commitment to further research in treatment of burns and wounds. Many thanks again for your support!

Helen Wong  
Senior Philanthropy Officer  
VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation

Dear Kevin,  
I would like to say thank you for supporting me in the 1st annual Ski-A-Thon to raise money for Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports (VASS). I was able to exceed my goal and raised \$1550 to help enable disabled skiers to get out on the slopes. Our first event raised over \$20,000 for the organization. I am thankful for the generous support of IBEW Local 258.

In solidarity,  
Mark Davison

Kevin and IBEW 258,  
Thank you so much for your continuous support to help epilepsy patients across BC! Our 10th campaign in March raised \$8061, bringing our overall total to VGH so far to \$55,236! Your dedication to our cause is very much appreciated.

Nat  
Epilepsy Quesnel

Dear Kevin, Larry, Paula, and Cody,  
As IBEW is an important client of RBC Dominion Securities and of my team, we have secured a donation from the

RBC Foundation to a cause that we know is important to IBEW and its members - the Burn and Wound Research Unit at VGH and UBC Hospital Foundation. The RBC is donating \$2000. Please note that these funds come solely from the RBC Foundation and not the IBEW account. We are very pleased to support this important research.

Scott C. Murray  
Senior Portfolio Manager & Wealth  
Advisor, RBC Dominion Securities

Hey Ken,  
Please pass along my thanks to everyone at the hall for the fruit basket. It arrived yesterday. Really appreciated. I am getting overwhelming support.

Thanks again to all,  
Mick Burgess

Thank you for your very generous sponsorship of our U13 Lumby Stars team! Your amazing contribution has helped our team in being able to play in another tournament to cap our season off! From all of us, thank you!

PS. Our team won silver in the tournament!



Dear IBEW 258,  
Your ongoing support for Volume XVIII of The Royal Canadian Legion's Annual Military Service Recognition Book is sincerely appreciated. Proceeds raised will

be used to improve services to Veterans and the more than 145 communities that we serve. This unique publication is dedicated to the thousands of Veterans and ex-service personnel who have served their country so well during times of war and peace. This book will help future generations better understand the sacrifices made during these times of great conflict, and to better understand the purpose and objectives of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Once again, thank you!  
Craig Thomson  
President BC/Yukon Command  
The Royal Canadian Legion

Since 1952, the Electrical Contractors Association has represented the best interests of electrical contractors. Over the last 71 years, the association has expanded to welcome membership from line utility contractors and our industry's manufacturers, suppliers and distributors. I joined the organization in September of 2022, with the benefit of an experienced, committed board and a mandate to build upon the strengths of our first 70 years and plot the course for a successful next 70 years.

ECABC is the only industry association focused on the electrical construction sector of British Columbia. While we work closely with many other associations and organizations on shared priorities, everything we do is in support of the long-term health of the electrical and line utility contractors. And while line utility contractors have not always been included in the association, I am firmly committed to doing everything I can to support your industry, and encourage more contractors to join and actively participate in ECABC. I'm always willing to collaborate with the team at Local



258 where we can work together in the best interests of contractors and workers.

Our association provides a wide variety of services for our members most of which falls into three categories: Advocacy/Lobbying, Education/Training, and Events. Membership in ECABC also provides access to publications, resources, and a shared benefits program. Thank you for everything you all do to contribute to building the critical infrastructure our communities and province depend on.

Matt McInnes, President ECABC

Hi Ken,

On behalf of MS Canada, I would like to thank you and the IBEW Local 258 team for your unwavering commitment and dedication in raising awareness and funds for the MS cause, through your annual Golf Tournament, which raised an incredible \$18,047.08 this year!

Thanks to your generous fundraising efforts, these funds are used to support those affected by MS and the research dedicated to help us advance MS treatment and care.

Nadio Di Spirito  
Coordinator, Community Fundraising  
MS Canada



Dear IBEW Local 258,

Your gift to Lights of Hope impacts every patient, resident, visitor and department at Providence Health Care (PHC). Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Dick Vollet  
President & CEO  
St. Paul's Foundation

Thank you Local 258 for sponsoring the North Regina Little League All-Stars. They were the host team for the Canadian Little League Championship, and beat BC 4-3 in the championship game on August 10! Their first game at the Little League World Series was Thursday, August 17th at 5pm Eastern Standard Time, against Asia-Pacific.

Brother Derek Nernberg



The support for this year's event was strong and very much appreciated. The 16th Annual Event managed to raise just over \$12,700 – a record amount! These funds will be split between our two charities: the East Kootenay SPCA & the East Kootenay Foundation for Health. To date, this event has raised over \$96,000 for Charity!

Thank you to everyone who generously supported the golf tournament through providing prizes and making monetary

donations. We hope we can count on your support again next year.

Thanks,  
Ian Kozicky  
Field Manager, Transmission Line  
BC Hydro

The Ascension Group has administered the IBEW Local 258 Group Retirement Plan since 2016 and is pleased to continue to offer the same great service to you under a new name, Connect Wealth.

Connect Wealth is the same team of advisors and support staff that you have worked with over the past seven years, and we are looking forward to continuing to provide you with the same superior service.

What does this mean for you?

1. As of September 1, 2023 you should have seen the name change from Ascension Group to Connect Wealth.
2. Your Manulife Group RRSP will not change in any way.
3. You have the same team of advisors and support staff available to help you, they will just have different contact information.

If you have any questions about this name change, please reach out to [pensions@theascensiongroup.ca](mailto:pensions@theascensiongroup.ca) or call 1-888-685-3453, option 2.

Vince Olfert  
Certified Financial Planner  
Connect Wealth

Scan the QR code  
to submit your  
own content to  
the Hotline!



# BC HYDRO SAFETY RODEO: Electrifying Competitions, Community, and Commitment

By Kevin Duchak

**Vernon, British Columbia, June 3, 2023**

The BC Hydro Safety Rodeo, an event dedicated to promoting safety and excellence in the electrical industry, returned to Vernon on June 3, 2023, after a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The competition brought together 12 three-person Power Line Technician (PLT) teams and nine Apprentice PLTs, to showcase their skills, camaraderie, and unwavering commitment to safety. The event was graced by special speakers, a grand opening ceremony, and activities for the whole family.

The day began with a gathering of electrical professionals, PLTs, apprentices and their families, all eager to witness the rodeo's thrilling competitions. Cody Gatzke, the Business Manager of IBEW 258, and Bob Kilian, were among the notable speakers at the opening ceremonies. Kilian, in a heartwarming moment, had the honor of ringing the bell to officially commence the rodeo, symbolizing the industry's resilience and dedication to safety.



**Business Manager/Financial Secretary Cody Gatzke swearing in a new member at the Local 258 IBEW booth.**

The rodeo grounds were a bustling hub of activity, featuring several booths run by suppliers of the electrical industry. These booths offered insights into the latest advancements in the field, emphasizing the importance of staying up to date with industry technology. Notably, IBEW 258 also had a booth, underscoring its commitment to supporting and promoting the electrical community.

For families attending the event, there were numerous fun-filled activities for kids. These included safety demonstrations, bucket truck rides, face painting, and interactive displays, all designed to educate the younger generation about electrical safety in an engaging and enjoyable way. It was a fantastic opportunity for children to learn about the importance of electrical safety from a young age.

The BC Hydro Safety Rodeo was not only about competition but also about fostering a sense of community among participants. IBEW 258 hosted an open house event on the Friday night before the competition for competitors and volunteers. This event provided a platform for professionals to connect, share experiences, and build lasting relationships in an informal setting.

The pinnacle of the day was, of course, the highly anticipated competitions. The PLT teams and Apprentice PLTs showcased their skills and precision by competing in several events. The events included transformer change-outs, pole top rescue, egg climb, vibration damper change, lightning arrestor and an obstacle climbing course. The focus on safety

throughout the event was unwavering, with strict adherence to safe work practices to ensure that no injuries occurred during the competition.

The winning PLT teams and Apprentice PLTs from the BC Hydro Safety Rodeo had the honor of representing BC Hydro and IBEW 258 at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas and the Enmax Rodeo in Calgary. These prestigious events gather professionals from across North America, providing a platform to showcase their talents and share best practices in the electrical industry.



**PLT team at the Kansas Rodeo. Left to right: Pete Slotte, Brent Barnes and Tyson Norrish.**

The BC Hydro Safety Rodeo 2023 was a resounding success, with electrifying competitions, a strong emphasis on safety, and a sense of community that is central to the electrical industry. With the winners having earned the opportunity to represent BC Hydro and IBEW 258 at national rodeos, this event not only promote safety but also the excellence and professionalism of electrical workers. It is a celebration of their commitment to keeping the lights on and the power flowing while ensuring the utmost safety for all. Safety is our number one priority!





*Brothers Brayden Oliver, Dusty Henry, and Dylan Dawson wearing their team shirts.*



*Brothers Trent Ratzlaff, Adam Peters, John Balback and Mack Warwick spectating one of the competitions.*



*Brothers Colin Cadger, Reese Van Vliet and William Nichols.*



*IBEW 258 President Kevin Duchak with Brothers Barry Organ, Colin Petersen and Ben Berkelaar.*



*PLT team, with Brothers Tyson Norrish, Pete Slotte, and Brent Barnes.*



# BARGAINING NEWS

## Master Traffic Control Agreements Bring Significant Changes to the Traffic Control Sector



Local 258 IBEW would like to extend a warm welcome to the employees of the following companies who are new to the Master Traffic Control Agreement: **Prime Traffic Solutions, Lanesafe Traffic Control, 1st On-Site Traffic Control, Allteck Traffic Control, Coast to Coast Traffic Services, P.S. Traffic Pro Services, VIP Traffic, and Rapid Traffic Management.**

Assistant Business Manager Dayna Gill is pleased to report that the members employed by the aforementioned traffic control companies have voted to accept the new agreement. This contract ratification is a milestone for our Local Union and for the traffic control industry. For years the industry has been fractured. Establishing equal pay for equal work, along with improving both safety and training standards are the core objectives of Local 258. There remains a handful of signatory traffic control employers who are not yet a part of this master agreement, but we are working towards transitioning them to the new master agreement. As new companies join Local 258, we intend to have them sign onto the master agreement.

**Universal Group** - The Universal Group owns and operates Valley Traffic Systems, GoTraffic Management, GoTraffic Management - Island Division, and GoTraffic Management - Okanagan Division, all of which previously had separate collective agreements. Local 258 was successful during the latest contract negotiations in bringing all four divisions together under a singular collective agreement. Two of the four collective agreements were still in full force and effect when this master agreement was negotiated, meaning the parties must honour those agreements until they expire. Effective January 1st, 2024, all four divisions of the Universal Group will be under the same collective agreement. GoTraffic Okanagan and Central Interior employees have received a 2.75% increase in pay, now matching the Island division. As of the publication of this issue, we are finalizing the electronic copy of the new collective agreement and preparing to go to print. Physical copies of the agreement will be provided to the membership as soon as possible. There will also be significant changes in Shop Stewards, and who they represent. As each division will soon be under the same agreement, Shop Stewards will no longer be an exclusive Steward for a single division, they will be Stewards for the entire organization.

**Cariboo Traffic Control** – Employees of Cariboo Traffic Control voted in favour of a new collective agreement, which included changes in both safety footwear allowances and the mandatory equipment provisions by the employer to the employees. It also included increases to lodging allowance, shift premiums and benefit plans. Finally, the new agreement also provides definitions of shifts in the specific context of Cariboo Traffic Control, and clarified language within its job descriptions.

**Streetwise Traffic Controllers** – Employees of Streetwise Traffic Controllers voted in favour of a new agreement, which consists of clarifications in language (such as the definition of seniority), as well as updates to the grievance and arbitration procedure. Other notable changes include an update to the pregnancy leave policy, and increases in safety equipment provisions, tuition reimbursement and living out allowances.

**Triumph Traffic** – At the time of this writing and publication, negotiations are ongoing and are proceeding well. Triumph Traffic is expected to be joining the new Master Agreement.

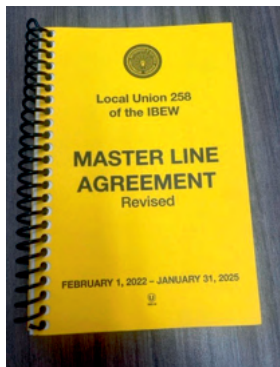
**Central Interior Traffic Control (CITC)** – An in-person vote was conducted for the employees of Central Interior Traffic Control, who voted in favour and ratified their new collective agreement. Developments include clarifications to employee qualifications, improvements to employer-provided safety equipment, increases in First Aid and shift premiums, and a substantially increased wage schedule.



**ABM Dayna Gill attended the GoTraffic Vancouver Island Townhall meeting in Nanaimo on November 9th, where they discussed the Island Division joining the Universal Collective Agreement.**



## Master Line Agreement Revised to Correct Printing Errors



Attention to all Local 258 members working under the **Master Line Agreement** – The business office has been made aware of errors in the printed agreement that had been distributed. The most significant error came in the form of an omission. During the most recent negotiations, the Bargaining Committee secured additional language that expanded upon the

definition of the immediate family described under Article 13.2 of the collective agreement to include mother-in-law and father-in-law. Two additional errors were identified, both of which were not material, but grammar and spelling related. When these issues were identified, the business office reached out to Bruce Scott of Allteck who had served as the lead negotiator for the employers. Mr. Scott reviewed the issues and discussed them with the employer stakeholder group. Upon approval from the stakeholder group, the parties mutually agreed to amend the agreement. In order to clearly identify the correct book, the cover has been changed to say "Revised." Members may also note the signature page in the back, where Business Manager Cody Gatzke's signature replaces that of Doug McKay in the new book.

## Davey Tree members ratify new agreement

Brother Rob Munro, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager, reports that members working at **Davey Tree Co. of Canada Ltd.** with locations throughout BC, have ratified a new two-year contract. This new agreement features improvements to wages consisting of 7% in the first year and 4% in the second year. The Bargaining Committee also secured increases to the boot allowance, per diems, and living out allowance. A letter of understanding to ensure that the employer provides accommodation with cooking facilities where practical was also negotiated by the Bargaining Committee. Finally, the Bargaining Committee accepted the employer's proposal to implement gender-neutral language into the collective agreement. Brother Rob Munro, Assistant Business Manager would like to thank Brother Steve Ferreira and Brother Dylan Bruderer, Shop Steward, for their service on the Bargaining Committee.



## Members Working at Asplundh Canada Ratify New 4-Year Deal



After weeks of bargaining and one rejected contract, Local 258 IBEW Assistant Business Manager Rob Munro reports that bargaining has concluded for members working to provide line clearance tree trimming services at **Asplundh Canada ULC**. Members were asked to vote electronically through email via Simply Voting, which resulted in a noticeable increase in our voter turnout. The highlights of the new agreement include: a four-year term, with wage increases of 6%, 3.5%, 3.5%, and 3.8%, along with increases to the boot allowance, per diems, and living out allowance. Other notable improvements the bargaining committee secured are the introduction of an EFAP plan through LifeWorks and a letter of understanding regarding the employer providing accommodations with cooking facilities. Perhaps the most significant improvement in this contract are the changes to vacation entitlement. Employees with 20 years of service are now entitled to a fifth week of vacation and the entitlement to receiving 4 weeks of vacation was lowered from 12 years of seniority to 10 years of seniority. ABM Rob Munro would like to thank Brother Greg Lasota, Shop Steward; Brother Tim Mitchell, Shop Steward; Brother Tyler Helm, Shop Steward, and Brother Kolbi Krohn for serving on the Bargaining Committee.

## Members at NCS International bargain new contract



Members working at **National Cable Specialists International** manufacture cable for the electrical industry. Last summer, the members voted to ratify a new contract after bargaining, which resulted in a four-year agreement with wage increases of 12.4%, 3%, 2%, and 2%. Other improvements include an increase in health benefits from 75% employer-paid to 100%, as well as increases to vision care, boot allowance, First Aid premiums and the introduction of physiotherapy into the benefits, consisting of \$1000 per calendar year.

## Future Negotiations

If you think you would be interested in serving on your Union's bargaining committee for your workplace, speak with your assigned Assistant Business Manager.

# Local 258 News

## Union develops and delivers training to Shop Stewards



Shop Stewards are the eyes and ears of the Local Union. Local 258 recognizes the critical boots-on-the-ground role that Shop Stewards play, and as such, we have chosen to make an investment in training and education for our Stewards. Last spring, Local 258 decided to sponsor our very own exclusive Shop Steward class during the CLC Winter School in Harrison Hot Springs. We invited Stewards from across the province who are employed in various sectors of the electrical industry. We have tasked ourselves with refining the content and course structure to provide the most value possible to our Stewards. Once completed, Local 258 anticipates rolling out the new-and-improved training course to all Shop Stewards in the coming year and beyond.

## Brother Don McNabb announces retirement

Sometime after Brother Al Beason retired as an Assistant Business Manager for Northern BC, Brother Don McNabb had been advocating for a full time Assistant Business Manager to operate in the north. Don had been working for BC Hydro as a Lineman Sub-Foreman in Dawson Creek at the time. Business Manager Doug McKay heeded Don's concerns and offered Don a position as an Assistant Business Manager in 2005. Don was initiated in 1975 and endured the major recession and layoffs of the 1980s. Congratulations on your retirement Don!

## Brother Greg Fanning announces retirement

Brother Greg Fanning, longtime Local 258 Assistant Business Manager, has announced his retirement. Greg was initiated in 1970 and was hired by Business Manager Bob Peel back in the 1980s. Greg has endured much change throughout his career, such as the addition of the electrical manufacturing bargaining unit when Local 264 was amalgamated into Local 258, along with the outside line contractor jurisdictions from Locals 213, 230, 334, 821, 993, and 1003 during the late 1980s. Mr. Fanning has persevered through five Business Managers: Bob Peel, Gerry Bramhill, John McGraw, Doug McKay and Cody Gatzke throughout his tenure at Local 258. Local 258 would like to wish Brother Fanning all the best in the next chapter of his life. Undeniably, Local 258 will be losing decades of knowledge and expertise with Greg's departure.

## Union hires new Business Representative and ABM

Brother Cody Gatzke, Business Manager/Financial Secretary has hired Sister Emily Organ as the Local's Business Representative responsible for communications and human resources. Emily is a CPHR candidate and has a BBA in Human Resource Management from UVF. The termination of the contractor that previously managed our website and produced the Hotline enabled the Local Union to create a new full-time position. This new position is responsible for designing our print media, including the membership guide, various pamphlets, and of course the Hotline magazine. This position is also responsible for human resource affairs, which include hiring, training, and policy building and enforcement.

Brother Ben Berkelaar has agreed to commence employment as an Assistant Business Manager for a trial period of six months, beginning in February of 2024. At the end of the term, both parties will review and discuss his continuation of the role. Brother Berkelaar was initiated to Local 258 in 1994 and is a Red Seal Power Line Technician. He has a BSc from UVic, along with a Provincial Instructors Diploma, an Adult Online Development Diploma, and an Adult Education Diploma. Ben is currently an Apprentice & Trades Training Committee Representative and has used his expertise to provide assistance to the Red Seal National Program Development, which was for the Industry Training Authority's Red Seal program. Ben has also assisted with the Red Seal Provincial Program development and Exam Banks Development for Skilled Trades BC.



## Going Global with BC Renewables

by Brandon Dyck, Government Affairs Coordinator

Early this summer, I had the opportunity to travel to St. John's, Newfoundland for the Energy NL conference, thanks to an invitation from IBEW Local 1620. The organization hosting the conference was formerly called the Newfoundland and Labrador Oil and Gas Industries Association, but as the name change would suggest, the industry is diversifying.

Both Newfoundland and British Columbia have developed some major energy projects in recent years and are set to continue that trend with the inclusion of renewables to the mix. Demand for electricity is projected to at least double, and the transmission infrastructure required to deliver it will triple as transportation and industry are expected to become net-zero compliant by the year 2050. British Columbians know what is at stake, having experienced firsthand the effects of climate change earlier than many parts of the world.

Fortunately, our progressive governments are stepping up from the unprecedented investments in the US from the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act, our own federal government's Investment Tax Credits, the tabling of the Sustainable Jobs Act, and a recent ask by the BC NDP government for renewable energy proposals starting in 2024. Our membership will be called on to meet the demand this new legislation will put on the workforce. "War time-efforts" to build new housing has become a non-partisan issue for all major political parties and new mineral resource extraction projects are being greenlit to provide the conductive material required to power this new economy.

Opportunities are abound, but there will be challenges. The complexity of these projects means more partnerships, more regulatory bodies, and more stakeholders. No longer will Indigenous participation be overlooked to complete major projects. British Columbians cannot be asked to sit idly by as contracts go to foreign-owned companies without community participation. As IBEW members, we are proud of our activism and stewardship both on and off the jobsite. We work to provide greener pastures for all workers. We advocate for better wages and safer job sites across all our industries, and that means more workers looking to join the IBEW. As the work changes, we must maintain these standards. Please keep an ear to the ground and report back to your Local with any information or organizing opportunities. Many hands make light work!

## BC Hydro announces closure of the Burrard Thermal Generating Station

by Jim Greenwell, Senior Assistant Business Manager

Burrard Thermal Generating Station was commissioned with the first of 6 units coming online in 1962, as a source of 950 megawatts of power for BC Hydro to service the growing population of the Lower Mainland.

Since the early 80s, Burrard, in one form or another, has been under threat of closure. Burrard was a political football, with successive BC Governments throughout the 2000s suggesting that it was a source of pollution and an eye sore, along with various other vague complaints, all of which were to mask the true agenda of promoting the involvement of the private sector in independent power generation.

With the completion of the 500kV Interior-to-Lower Mainland (ILM) power line in 2015, which runs from Nicola Substation near Merritt to Meridian Substation in Coquitlam, power access was secured for the people of the Lower Mainland.

Since that time, Burrard has been used solely for voltage control on the system, as an inductive load (like a motor). Between 2014 and 2016, 75% of the workforce at Burrard was cut. With the addition of reactors at Meridian Substation, there will be no further need for Burrard in any capacity and thus, the closure is scheduled for the end of October 2025.

The Local Union is presently in talks with BC Hydro on a Transition Agreement that will provide the remaining union staff with various career avenues, including retirement options, other positions with the employer, and incentive pay to remain until the closure in 2025.

As the history of Burrard has shown us, one wonders if there will still be more story to tell.





## INTERNATIONAL Lineman's Rodeo

# Local 258 IBEW & BC Hydro Competes

### BC Hydro sponsors team & Local 258 sponsors volunteers/judges

Every year, thousands of linemen from across the globe gather in Kansas for the Annual International Lineman's Rodeo & Exposition. This year, Local 258 sponsored the following members to attend the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas as volunteers and/or judges: Brother Barry Organ; Brother Ben Berkelaar; Brother Colin Petersen; Brother Ken Mitchell, Assistant Business Manager; and Brother Kevin Duchak, President. The rodeo/competitions took place this past October in Bonner Springs, Kansas. Local 258 was well-represented, and the Randy "Macho Man" Savage "Cream of the Crop" t-shirts were a massive hit with the other attendees. Shout-out to Vernon Transmission for coming up with the design!

BC Hydro sponsored both the winning team and the top apprentice of the 2023 BC Hydro Safety Rodeo (which took place this past June in Vernon, BC. See the story on page 8!) so that they could attend and compete in the International Rodeo in Kansas. The winning team of the BC Hydro Rodeo consisted of Brother Brent Barnes, Brother Pete Slotte, and Brother Tyson Norrish (pictured on the front cover), who placed 175th out of 292 overall in Kansas, with a time of 55:21.08, and a score of 386 out of 400. The top apprentice of the BC Hydro Rodeo was Brother Chris Combs, who placed 294th out of 440 in Kansas, with a time of 35:04.21 and scored 450 out of 500 in the Apprentice competition.



## THE CREAM OF THE CROP





# LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED? JOIN ONE OF LOCAL 258'S COMMITTEES!

## NextGen Committee | For members 35 and under | [nextgen@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:nextgen@ibew258.bc.ca)

Local 258 IBEW is reaching out to members 35 years of age and younger who want to make an impact in our Union, in the organized labour movement and in the community to help build our NextGen Committee! This committee will give young members a chance to get involved in our Union's future and to ensure their needs and interests are properly understood and represented. Through a mandate to increase Union activism through education, engagement and leadership opportunities, your Union can help guide and equip young workers like you with the tools you will need to be future leaders.

NextGen is an initiative created by the IBEW First District Canada to better understand and engage our younger members in IBEW Locals across Canada. Designed to ensure the IBEW remains relevant and reflects the best interest of all generations of its members, NextGen is focused on responding to the needs of IBEW members under the age of 35.



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE  
COMMITTEE ORGANIZER!**

## Women's Committee | For the Sisters of Local 258 | [womcomm@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:womcomm@ibew258.bc.ca)

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

While the Women's Committee has many purposes, its main goals include encouraging, educating and uplifting our sisters to take on activist and leadership roles within their communities and the IBEW, educating and informing our industries on issues related to gender equality, gender opportunity and gender discrimination; assisting in the development of mentoring programs, formal and informal, that support women's leadership and promote opportunity; assisting in the establishment of programs and educational materials to further educate our members and employers on diversity and inclusion the workplace; aiding in the elimination of sexual harassment, violence against women, sexual discrimination and exploitation in IBEW Union halls and workplaces, and advocating for employment equity and civil, human, and women's rights.



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE  
COMMITTEE ORGANIZER!**

## Veterans Committee | For past & current service members | [veterans@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:veterans@ibew258.bc.ca)

The purpose of this Committee is to assist Veterans in the Union with issues they may be facing, and to help them gain strength through camaraderie. We are also aiming to help both Veterans and Military personnel outside of the union who are transitioning back to civilian life find meaningful and long-lasting careers within the IBEW. Programs we are looking at working with include Helmets to Hardhats (H2H), a non-profit that helps place both current and former military members into unionized trade jobs, and aids in easing the transition to a new environment.

Our goal is to sponsor and donate to Veteran organizations that help service members and Veterans through career transitions and any other issues they may be facing, physical or mental. Most importantly, we believe that by forming this Committee, we can bring to light some of the struggles and hurdles Veterans may face on a daily basis, and through cooperation as a whole, we can support one another and make meaningful and positive changes and contributions.



**SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE  
COMMITTEE ORGANIZER!**



# Local 258 Seeks to Charter its First-Ever Political Action Committee



Whether we like it or not, politics play a pivotal role in our day-to-day lives as electrical workers. Half of our membership is employed by BC Hydro, a public utility and crown corporation. The other half of our membership, though not directly employed, indirectly work for BC Hydro in one way or another. Being a crown corporation, BC Hydro is subject to regulation, scrutiny, and policy from various entities such as the Public Sector Employers Council, the British Columbia Utilities Commission, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation, the BC Hydro Board of Directors, and the BC Hydro ratepayers. Our province has various special interest groups that are designed to lobby government for regulation and public policy changes. Examples include the Electrical Contractors Association of BC, Clean Energy BC, First Nations Power Authority, BC Federation of Labour, BC Sustainable Energy Association and the Community Energy Association. These groups have the attention of the government. In the same vein, Local 258 needs to ensure that our message is getting out, and that is where the Political Action Committee comes in. If you are interested in getting involved, or if you think that you have the prowess to help contribute to Local 258's public relations and political action campaigns, please scan the QR code, or send an email to [pac@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:pac@ibew258.bc.ca)

## OUR GOALS

- 1. Occupational Health & Safety**
  - a. Identify key safety issues our members face that can be resolved by legislation.
  - b. Advocate for positive changes to Occupational Health & Safety legislation.
- 2. Private Sector Procurement**
  - a. Improve our contracting out language in the BC Hydro collective agreement.
  - b. Promote the prioritization of unionized and BC-based contractors in BC Hydro's procurement process.
- 3. Lead Electrification in BC**
  - a. Collaborate with other organizations such as advocacy groups, First Nations, government, and private enterprise.
- 4. Public Sector Bargaining**
  - a. Campaign for free collective bargaining and vocalize opposition to government-imposed mandates.
  - b. Lobby the government to increase funding for the public sector.

## PATH TO SUCCESS

1. The work we do is dangerous. The IBEW was founded on safety. We will continue to be leaders in safety. We will partner with other unions and advocacy groups to champion shared safety objectives.
2. Our jurisdiction must be protected and our market share must be expanded. By advocating for energy construction projects to be completed by local contractors, and by supporting initiatives designed to benefit local communities, we will better position ourselves to keep work in the union and to negotiate stronger collective agreements.
3. In order to remain at the front and centre of the electrification movement, we must partner with other groups. By forging relationships with First Nations and advocacy groups such as Clean Energy BC, we will lead the industry with electrification.
4. The public sector is heavily regulated, so much so that unions no longer negotiate fundamental terms such as the term of contract or the general wage increases. We will lobby government and support other unions or organizations that advocate for free collective bargaining.

## GET INVOLVED



# HOLD THE PULL: ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY SAFETY BULLETIN

## BC HYDRO VAULT EXPLOSION

On February 24, 2023, a BC Hydro vault exploded between West Hastings Street and West Cordova Street in Vancouver, shortly after 6:00 PM PST. Video footage of the explosion was captured by the dashcam of a passing vehicle. Two members of the public were injured, and there was damage caused to nearby buildings. BC Hydro prompted a third party to conduct an investigation, which ultimately concluded that a buildup of combustible gases caused the explosion. The buildup was found to have been caused by a faulty gasket in an oil-filled switch that had not been replaced. The particular gasket was not available at the time of repair, so crews were instructed to repair the faulty gasket with an RTV silicone-based gasket instead. The gasket had a chemical reaction and produced gases which pooled in the vault and ultimately exploded when an ignition source was introduced. An internal assessment from BC Hydro revealed that in 2016, this same vault had been identified as a high risk to the public and it was recommended that the equipment in this vault be replaced by 2018. CEO Chris O'Reilly made it clear that the crews were not to blame for this incident.



## ALTEC DIGGER DERRICK PEDESTAL FAILURE CAUSED BY METAL FATIGUE

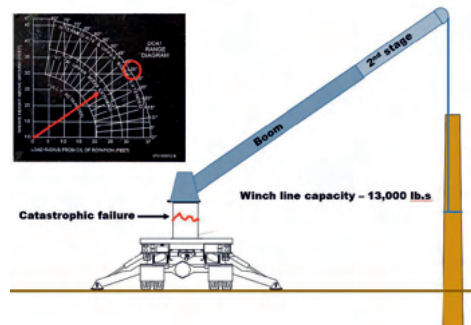
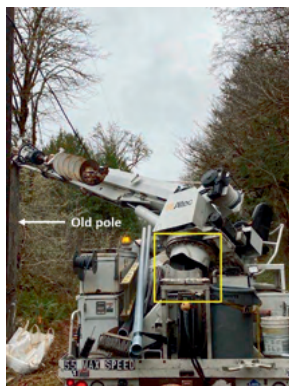
### DOs and DON'Ts

#### DO:

- Complete a visual inspection before each use.
- Read your load charts.
- Use the pole butt jack to prevent overloading.

#### DON'T:

- Use the claws to rock the pole back and forth.
- Wind/load up the winch line when pulling poles out of ground.





# CONTACT YOUR UNION REPRESENTATIVE!

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**MARINA LUPORINI**



Email: [mluporini@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:mluporini@ibew258.bc.ca)  
Phone: 604-314-4414  
(Note: Marina is currently on an extended leave of absence. Please contact Dayna in her place)

**EMILY ORGAN**



Email: [communications@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.ca)  
Phone: 778-880-2379

NOTE: The representatives for Northern BC (Units 1 & 2) and the Southern Interior (Unit 3) have retired or are about to retire, please monitor our website for updates.



# THE HISTORY OF HELICOPTER PREMIUMS:

## A closer look at how the IBEW successfully arbitrated Article II of the collective agreement in 1966

Written by Cody Gatzke

Photos on page 32

Local 258 was chartered in 1967, a full five years after BC Hydro was established in 1962. The British Columbian government, led by Premier W.A.C. Bennett, had just passed the Hydro and Power Authority Act. This legislation led to both the expropriation of the BC Electric Company and its subsequent merging with the BC Power Commission to create the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority. This amalgamation resulted in five different IBEW Locals having five different certifications and collective agreements. To speak to BC Hydro with one voice, the Local Unions formed Utility System Council #27 in 1963. While this council proved to have difficulties in effectively administering the bargaining unit, it did achieve a major victory in 1966. The year prior to Local 258 being granted its charter and the Utility System Council being disbanded, an arbitration was held. This was the very first arbitration between BC Hydro and IBEW, and it is perhaps one of the most important and significant arbitration awards we have.

At the time, there was no premium or additional pay for carrying out work involving a helicopter. It was considered to be a part of each lineman's job and was captured in their hourly rate of pay. The IBEW submitted a question to the Arbitration Board (at the time, it was common practice for arbitrations to occur in front of multiple people, functioning as one body known as an Arbitration Board. As of recent, the practice of Arbitration Boards has all but vanished) surrounding the use of new technology, automation, new hazards, etc., relating to what is now Article 2. The Arbitration Board ruled in favour of the Union, making an Award that established a premium to an employee's regular rate, along with life insurance in the amount of \$50,000. The parties ultimately decided to incorporate this award into Article 13 and drafted the language that we all know today as the 25% premium.

Soon after, the private sector represented by IBEW Local 993 was successful in negotiating an enhanced premium in 1974. This was the first instance of the 50% premium coming into effect. Shortly thereafter, BC Hydro, who was on the verge of constructing a massive volume of transmission lines, felt compelled by Local 258 to negotiate a higher premium in order to compete with the private sector. This resulted in a Letter of Understanding being implemented mid-term, which formed the language in Article 49 that is applicable to construction employees.

In 1975, the collective agreement expired and was re-negotiated with the LOU now incorporated. A manager from BC Hydro was assigned the task of inserting the LOU into the agreement. No material change was intended by either party when the LOU was to be incorporated, however, this manager had his own interpretation of the LOU, which excluded all construction department employees from the original premium that had been in Article 13. The manager changed the preamble, which unintentionally resulted in construction employees only receiving a premium for actual construction of power lines and not the maintenance of power lines, because BC Hydro went on to change their interpretations to match the manager's position.

In 1980, the union went to arbitration to rectify this issue, and the arbitrator made an Award to amend Article 49 to clarify that the premium described in Article 13 applied to construction employees. This was significant because of the intent; the LOU was originally meant to enhance helicopter premiums for construction by adding language to Article 13.

During the 1991 negotiations, the Local 258 IBEW Bargaining Committee succeeded in negotiating a further enhanced premium in Article 13, now known as the 50% premium. The Union had to make a compromise with BC Hydro in order to enhance the premium for regular employees. The compromise was to apply the premium only to the time worked with the helicopter, rather than all hours worked, which is what Article 49 describes for temporary employees.

During the 2022 negotiations, BC Hydro issued the Union a Letter of Estoppel. This letter advised Local 258 that effective upon the renewal of the collective agreement, they would no longer pay employees who hoist from a helicopter a high time premium of eight hours for unstable plant (tower) and four hours for stable plant (ground). This practice had emerged some time ago and had never been agreed upon by IBEW or BC Hydro. BCH argued that the 50% premium already included hoisting work and that high time corresponded to a different premium. The Union responded by arguing Human External Transport as a new work method, which consists of hoisting, Class D, platform, and touch-and-go. The Union succeeded in negotiating a new 75% premium on top of the existing 25% and 50% premium. Touch-and-go and platform were paid at the 50% rate, and they are now paid at the 75% rate. I am sure there will be more to this story as time goes on.

# 2023 Nanaimo Line Campout & Fishing Derby

by Brian Gueldenstern

*Many thanks to Brother Brian Gueldenstern, Shop Steward, for filling us in on the 13th annual Nanaimo Line campout – the springtime weekend gathering of co-workers and their families at a local lake, organized by Local 258 members from BC Hydro's Nanaimo Line Room.*

This year from June 9-11, Local 258 held its 13th annual Nanaimo Line Campout and Fishing Derby at Windy Point on 1st Lake.



*2023 Derby Winners!*

The campsites filled up fast with beautiful weather leading up to the weekend, but the rains came in hard on Friday, marking the wettest day ever in the history of this event. On Saturday however, everything dried off and the fishing derby was on, with Brother Jason Slotte as the Derby Grandmaster. There were lots

of boats on the lake this year catching fish, with myself having caught a few Cutthroat and Rainbow trout. The derby-winning fish was eventually caught and released from shore, and what a beauty of a fish it was!

On Saturday night, everyone gathered at the gazebo for the annual potluck dinner. I'm always amazed at the wide selection of amazing home-cooked food and delectable dishes people bring every year. Brother Kurtis Young and Brother Dylan Zienowicz manned the BBQs and cooked up a feast of burgers and salmon for everyone. The Fishing Derby ceremony followed dinner and this year, with support from IBEW 258, Dig Right, and The Harbour Chandler, we were able to give away 16 fishing rods and a good assortment of clothing to our fishing contestants. This year we recognize the following people for each division:



*Brother Dale Nielson and his fish.*



*2023 Campout and Fishing Derby group photo.*

## Youngest to Catch a Fish

**1st Place:** Noah Perro  
(Son of Brother Clay Perro)  
**2nd Place:** Thomas Simpson  
(Son of Brother Jim Simpson)

## Krazy Kids

**1st Place:** Miles Fisher  
(Son of Brother TJ Fisher)  
**2nd Place:** Harry Simpson  
(Son of Brother Jim Simpson)  
**3rd Place:** Georgia Gauthier  
(Daughter of Brother Zane Gauthier)

## Troublesome Teens

**1st Place:** Logan Mottishaw  
(Son of Brother Pete Mottishaw)  
**2nd Place:** Ryan Bastian

## Awesome Adults

**1st Place:** James Robinson  
**2nd Place:** Brother Dale Nielson

## Overall Winner 2023

Taylor "Hot Rod" Watt  
(Nephew of Brother Jim Simpson)





Overall winner, Taylor Watt.



Leah Watt.



Logan Mottishaw, son of Brother Pete Mottishaw.



Gord Coulson, Brother Zane Gauthier and Georgia Gauthier, 3rd place winner of the Krazy Kids category.



Will Alexander, Caleb Mottishaw and Brother Brian Gueldenstern.



Brother Jason Slotte, Miles Fisher, and Brother Brian Gueldenstern.



Brother Pete Slotte.



Brothers Scott Toop and Jason Slotte.



## LABOUR NEWS

### BCFED launches initiative for gig and app-based workers

The British Columbia Federation of Labour represents over half a million workers across British Columbia in all sectors of our provincial economy. The Federation consists of more than 50 affiliated unions and approximately 800 Locals, province wide. BCFED is currently working towards ensuring that every worker in British Columbia has the same legal rights and protections and as such, they are asking that gig and app-based workers sign up for a focus group and complete a survey. With your suggestions and experiences, BCFED aims to improve wages, benefits, and overall working conditions. To sign up for a focus group, go to [bcfed.ca/gwdb](https://bcfed.ca/gwdb) To complete the gig worker survey please go to <https://ca.research.net/r/gigwork2023>

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### IVP Tom Reid defeated by Russ Shewchuk

During the International Convention held in May of 2022, incumbent International Vice President Tom Reid was defeated in an election by challenger Russ Shewchuk, Business Manager Local 2085. Mr. Shewchuk's electoral victory is notable because it is highly unusual for a sitting Business Manager to successfully contest the office of International Vice President. Usually, a Business Manager would be promoted to International Representative and then later seek election for IVP.

### Lonnie Stephenson retires

After seven years serving as IBEW International President, Lonnie Stephenson has made the decision to retire. Lonnie took office in 2015 and served through some of the most chaotic times; a global recession, anti-union politicians controlling all branches of government, the Supreme Court imposing right-to-work on the public sector, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite all that, the IBEW persevered under Lonnie's leadership. Lonnie joined Local 145 in 1975 and was elected vice-president in 1984. He would go on to become president and in 1991, Business Manager. In 2002, Lonnie was appointed 6th District International Representative. The International Executive Council has appointed IST Ken Cooper to fill the remainder of Lonnie's term.

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### Ken Cooper named new International President

On January 4th, 2023, Ken Cooper vacated his office as International Secretary-Treasurer that he held for the last six years to accept an appointment as the IBEW's new International President. Retiring President Lonnie Stephenson states "The IBEW is at an extraordinary moment, and Coop is the right person for this moment." Kenneth W. Cooper grew up in a house with no indoor plumbing in one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Ohio. In 1985, he joined a small construction local and was eventually elected to serve as Business Manager of Local 688 at 31 years old. The path forward for the IBEW looks bright under the leadership of Ken Cooper.

### New Minister appointed to oversee BC Hydro

Mid Island-Pacific Rim MLA Josie Osborne has been appointed by Premier David Eby to replace Surrey-Whalley MLA Bruce Ralston as Minister of Mines, Energy and Low Carbon Innovation. This new portfolio will mark Osborne's third cabinet position since being elected to provincial office in 2020. Osborne most recently served as Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship. Osborne states that her new position is "all about building a strong, clean and secure future for all British Columbians." Osborne is responsible for oversight of BC Hydro and Power Authority.

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### ECABC names new President

The Electrical Contractors Association of British Columbia was founded in 1952, when a group of electrical contractors decided they needed a voice to speak on their behalf. The Association has three chapters in three regions (Interior BC, Vancouver, and Vancouver Island), and is a member of the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) and the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA). ECABC's mission is to strengthen and promote the electrical and line utility industry in British Columbia through both partnerships and advocacy. In September of 2022, Matt MacInnis was named as President of the ECABC, replacing Deborah Cahill. MacInnis had previously served as vice-president of Communications for the Mining Association of British Columbia.

## Government establishes BC Hydro task force

The announcement of the BC Hydro Task Force came in conjunction with the environmental approval of the Haisla Nation's Cedar LNG Project in Kitimat, BC. The BC Hydro Task Force will provide strategic advice to the government on ensuring reliable, affordable, and emissions-free energy for future generations. The task force will include staff from the Premier's Office, both the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, as well as external Indigenous and energy advisors.

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## ITA changes name to Skilled Trades BC

After nearly two decades, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) has changed its name to Skilled Trades BC. The ITA was established in 2004 to replace the Industry, Training and Apprenticeship Commission, shortly after the provincial government abolished mandatory certification for skilled trades in 2003. BC was the only province in Canada without a mandatory trade certification, however in 2021, the provincial government announced the reintroduction of mandatory certifications. Local 258 has long been an advocate for compulsory trade certifications and welcomes this change. In December of 2022, the Industry Training Authority was officially renamed to Skilled Trades BC, alongside the new mandate. The electrical trades, including electricians and power line technicians are some of the first trades groups that Skilled Trades BC is

is focusing on. Business Manager Cody Gatzke has confirmed that Local 258 has been contacted by a consulting firm regarding a collaboration.

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## New leadership for IBEW Local 993

Kamloops Local 993 Business Manager Glen Hilton was defeated in the Local Union's most recent election by challenger James (Jim) Bicknell. Glen Hilton had served as Local 993's Business Manager for approximately 15 years. Jim Bicknell most recently was employed as a general foreman for an electrical company, and in a classy move, offered Mr. Hilton a position as an Assistant Business Manager. This transition plan ensures continuity and stability.

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## Major victories for IBEW Local 213

In 2017, approximately 240 telecommunications workers employed by Ledcor Technical Solutions (LTS) voted to unionize with Local 213. LTS proceeded to hire a notorious union-busting firm. The negotiations had been slow and frustrating. The parties ultimately went through a federal mediation program which lasted approximately a whopping 800 days and failed to produce a single contract offer. In July of 2019, the bargaining unit voted 79% in favour of a strike. LTS responded that an offer would be imminent, so the bargaining unit held off from walking the picket line. In September of 2019, the offer came. Assistant Business Manager Robin Nedila said, "this will go down as one of the worst first-contract proposals in Canadian labour history." On October 1, 2019, the employees of LTS hit the streets, officially on strike. They would

ultimately walk the picket line for a staggering 160 weeks. After combing through the Canadian Labour Code, it was decided that an appeal would be made to the Labour Minister under section 80. The appeal worked, and a ruling was issued in November of 2022 that required LTS to commence bargaining. On June 22, 2023, for the first time since 1986, the CIRB imposed a collective agreement, accepting most of the union's proposals. After 6 years, the workers finally have their first agreement.

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## Phil Venoit, Business Manager elected to 7th term

Victoria-based IBEW Local 230 recently held its Local Union election which resulted in Phil Venoit being elected to his seventh term in office. Mr. Venoit has held his office since 2002, which makes him one of the IBEW's longest serving Business Managers. Mr. Venoit has replaced Doug McKay as the IBEW's representative to the BC Federation of Labour.

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## Prime Minister visits the Electrical Joint Training Committee

IBEW Local 213's EJTC hosted a town hall meeting at its Port Coquitlam facility last spring. The Prime Minister took questions from electrical apprentices on a wide range of topics for over an hour. The Prime Minister provided insight into the federal governments priorities, and made a promise to introduce anti-scab legislation.



# In Memoriam

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

## **Keith Gilkes**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in December, 2021*

## **William Grewe**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in December, 2022*

## **George Robertson**

*IO Pensioner  
Passed in December, 2022*

## **Arnold Koenig**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in January, 2023*

## **Hale Conwright**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in February, 2023*

## **Cyril Belton**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **David Carlson**

*Former Member at CITC  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Victor Gleason**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Dennis Greenwood**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Bryan Johnstone**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Ralph Kettner**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Croft Sinclair**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Thomas Tuck**

*BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in March, 2023*

## **Russell Atkins**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Barry Bedell**

*IO Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Trevor James**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Jerry Root**

*IO Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **John Tykalovich**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Mauno Vahasalo**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Daniel Zupanic**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in April, 2023*

## **Philip Davidson**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in May, 2023*

## **John Fletcher**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in May, 2023*

## **Glenn Hanson**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in May, 2023*

# In Memoriam

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

## **William Merrie**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in May, 2023*

## **David Reid**

*BC Hydro + IO Pensioner  
Passed in May, 2023*

## **Brian Gustason**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in June, 2023*

## **Peter Szumik**

*BC Hydro + IO Pensioner  
Passed in June, 2023*

## **Larry Watrich**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in June, 2023*

## **John Wood**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in June, 2023*

## **Howard Chafin**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in June, 2023*

## **John McGraw Jr.**

*Former NCS Employee  
Passed in July, 2023*

## **Joseph Sinner**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in July, 2023*

## **Mike Barry**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **George Huovinen**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **Ralph Jay**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **David Jorgensen**

*Current IBEW Member  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **Jack Scoles**

*BC Hydro + IO Pensioner  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **Matthew Sielski**

*GoTraffic Mgmt. Current Member  
Passed in August, 2023*

## **Todd Henderson**

*BC Hydro Current Member  
Passed in September, 2023*

## **Howard Quinn**

*Former BC Hydro Employee  
Date of Passing Unknown*

## **Benjamin Hildebrand**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in October, 2023*

## **Melvin Ducharme**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in October, 2023*

## **Leon Arishenkoff**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in October, 2023*

## **Ronald Gowe**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in October, 2023*

## **Dennis Dey**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in November, 2023*

## **James Exelby**

*Retired BC Hydro Pensioner  
Passed in November, 2023*





Brother Ben Berkelaar presenting Brother Damen Norris the Gordie Sawka Award for the top level 4 apprentice.



Brother Ben Berkelaar, Trades Training Project Coordinator presenting Brother Trent Ratzlaff the Gordie Sawka Award for the top level 1 apprentice.



The Maple Ridge line crew along with Brothers Bob Killian, Ben Berkelaar and Kevin Duchak presenting Brother Trent Ratzlaff the Gordie Sawka Award for Top Level 1 Apprentice.



Brother Luke Moore winning the Joint Line Apprenticeship Training Association (JLATA) Jerry Rector Memorial Award.





Brother Cody Gatzke, Business Manager-Financial Secretary (second from right) discussing electrification with Kwatuuma Cole Sayers, Executive Director of Clean Energy BC (right).



Members of SCEP 5735 (the union representing Hydro-Québec employees) visiting to tour FVO. Left to right, Bjorn Humle, Ken Mitchell, Yan Gaudet, Jim Greenwell and Marc-André Bouchard.



Local 258 IBEW sponsored the Stalew Powwow and operated a booth over the course of 3 days in September at the Langley Events Centre. Above: Brothers Tim Moran, Organizer for Local 213, Jim Greenwell, Sr. ABM, and Ken Mitchell, ABM. Right: Brothers Tim Moran, Cody Gatzke, Business Manager-Financial Secretary, and Kevin Duchak, President.



Local 258 delegates posing for a photo with members of Local 2034 IBEW from Manitoba at the International Lineman's Rodeo in Kansas this past summer.







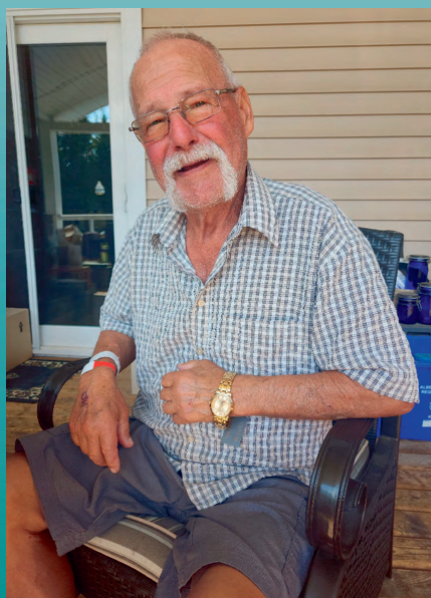
Left to right: ABM Jag Aujla with eight newly initiated members, Trevor Masse, Carson Jones, Tyler Marquette, Dillon Klassen, Hewitt Garriock, Brendan Deschenes, Zach Doyle and Lael Johnson.



Brother Jesse Adams swearing in Brother Cosimo Petruzzelli at the Unit 5 meeting.



Brother Curtis Young being sworn in by Brother Lloyd Clark, Unit 4 Chair.



Brother Dan Gunson receiving his retirement watch.



Sister Liane Bunting, Unit 2 Chair swearing in Brother Marshal Schonewille.

## WANT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS FEATURED IN THE HOTLINE MAGAZINE?

We're always looking for content to fill the pages of the photo gallery!  
Send your submissions to [communications@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:communications@ibew258.bc.ca)

(Please make sure any photos you submit are clear, high-quality images and be sure to include the names of anyone in the photo.)





Brother Mike McMinn presenting Brother Carl Seabrook (the founder of Midway Power Line Services, a longtime Local 258 signatory contractor) with his 55-year membership pin.



Brother Dan Lukoni receiving his retirement watch with some of the crew from Bridge River.



Brother Cody Gatzke, Business Manager presents Brother Dick Brody with his 55-year membership pin.



Unit 5 Chair Mike McMinn (right) presents Brother Hasso Behn (left) with his retirement watch.



Brother Lance Swanson receiving his retirement watch from Brother Greg Fanning, ABM.



# Local 258 IBEW Photo Gallery



Sister Dayna Gill, ABM, with Brother Dan Giesbrecht, retired ABM, at the Annual Local 258 Golf Tournament.



Scenic view of the Mica Generating Station, north of Revelstoke, BC., taken by ABM Jag Aujla.



Retired Brothers Les Parker, Jiusuff Khan, and Gary Coghill with Local 258 IBEW Vice President and Senior ABM Jim Greenwell.



Brother Ken Mitchell, ABM with the winners of the Annual Local 258 Golf Tournament. From left to right, Craig Masse, Ryan Wiebe, John Dooley and Pierce Layne.



Rodeo competition grounds in Bonner Springs, Kansas.





Brother Will Van Den Born (right) out doing line work for one of the last times in his career with his son, Josh Van Den Born (left).



Employees from Trueline Power working hard to repair damage from fires in Salmon Arm.



Brother Joe Karpinski, Brother Eric Robichaud and Brother Cody Heaps from Trueline Power getting ready to head out for another day on the job.



# HELICOPTER PREMIUM ARBITRATIONS

The question submitted to the Board of Arbitration is as follows:-

"Whether any compensation or benefit in addition to their normal rates of pay should be paid or given by the Authority to members of the I.B.E.W. employed by the Authority, in respect of any additional hazard, factors relating to automation or technological improvement, or any other factors created by working in conjunction with helicopters in the following operations:

- (1) setting poles,
- (2) setting towers,
- (3) setting crossmembers,
- (4) stringing conductors,
- (5) transporting personnel and materials,
- (6) making line patrols,

and, if so, what amounts of additional compensation or benefit should be paid or given by the Authority; to what employees or class or classes of employees should additional compensation or benefit be paid or given, and how should the amount of additional compensation or benefit be determined, in each case?"

A snapshot of the question that the IBEW submitted in 1966 to the Arbitration Board pertaining to helicopters.

Agreement as a "housekeeping" item and delegated to Tom Walker, the Personnel Manager of the Construction Division, the task of drafting suitable language. It was clear from the evidence that members of the negotiating committees from the Brotherhood and from Hydro did not intend to make any substantive change to the provisions which had been negotiated the previous autumn - only to incorporate them into the collective agreement. There was no discussion of the new wording drafted by Tom Walker and it became part of the 1975 - 77 collective agreement.

The changes to the wording of the collective agreement were significant. The Letter of Understanding now appeared as part of Article 48(n), rather than as an amended version of Article 13.

The opening words of the Letter of Understanding which had read,

*The Parties agree to amend the existing practice as follows:*

*Amend Article 13(q) as it applies to the Construction Department Employees only to read:*

were replaced with these words:

*The provisions of Article 13(q) shall not be applicable to Construction Department Employees and in lieu thereof the following shall apply:*

These introductory words were followed by the balance of the Letter of Understanding in precisely the same form as had been negotiated and signed in September of 1974.

The helicopter arbitration award has just been received. Mr. Lambert and I have met, and later Messrs. McDowall, Martin and I discussed it.

There are a number of points not specifically covered in the award or on which alternative interpretations are possible. We have decided that the award should be interpreted as follows:

1. The premium does not apply to people being transported to or from their work area by helicopter. However, the premium will be involved for a man "working" in a helicopter when he is patrolling lines, spotting, etc.

Thus, moving men to their job locations during working hours will simply be done at straight time.

2. Those of us who have discussed this all feel that Section 13(d) of the Agreement does not apply any more than this section applies in the application of the "high time" premium. This helicopter settlement is a premium, not a higher-rated job. Therefore, we should pay, when men are actually working in or under helicopters, at a rate of eight-sevenths of his regular rate for the time worked. Time worked would be for a minimum of fifteen minutes. Times above fifteen minutes would be calculated to the next higher quarter-hour.

3. Although the award reads "8 hours' pay for 7 hours' work" this should not mean that, if we work men 8 hours, we have to pay the last hour at double time. The contractors' arrangements with the Union provided for double time in the last hour; our award does not.

4. Work on stringing conductors, setting cross-members, or transporting materials would involve payment of the premium only to the hook-up man or someone else who conceivably could be under the helicopter.

5. Insurance -- we will check with the insurance carrier, but would think that the coverage could be provided for the same premium to cover both the man working in the helicopter and travelling in it, opposite merely covering him for working under the helicopter. If we could easily exclude the coverage for the man travelling in the machine, we would.

The diary of a BC Hydro manager shortly after the helicopter Arbitration Award. This was how BC Hydro interpreted the Award.

The Board's Award is as follows:-

1. Additional compensation or benefit should be paid by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority to those members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers employed by the Authority and who are actually engaged in working in and under helicopters.
2. The additional compensation or benefit for those workmen described in paragraph 1 should be as follows:-
  - (a) Eight (8) hours pay at the usual rate for seven (7) hours work;
  - (b) Life insurance in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) should be provided for such workmen while actually engaged in working in and under helicopters.
3. The additional compensation set out in paragraph 2(a) above should be paid on the base of such workmen's usual classification only.
4. As stated at the hearing, the Board makes no finding as to the number of workmen required in a crew engaged on an operation using helicopters.

DATED at Vancouver, British Columbia, this 13th day of June, 1966.

One of the pages pertaining to the Arbitration in 1980 regarding the incorrect incorporation of the LOU in 1975

The Arbitration Award received in 1966 by the IBEW. Establishes the first helicopter premium and insurance



# Membership Organizing Program

## Preamble

A union's strength is in its numbers. The larger its market share, the more leverage and influence it has to negotiate stronger contracts. Further, with a larger membership base comes a better financial position in terms of enduring union-busting tactics from both employers and anti-union politicians.

## Our Mission

To expand our market share by empowering and uniting electrical workers through grassroots organizing efforts. We aim to build a strong collective voice that promotes the objectives of the IBEW. Our greatest advocate is our membership, or in other words, you!

## The Organizing Process

Organizing is a two-part process that consists of securing certification from the Labour Relations Board as the legal representative of a workforce, as well as negotiating the first contract.

### Obtaining Certification

This can either be a top-down approach (where management voluntarily recognizes the union) or a bottom-up approach (where workers sign obligation (support) cards and the union applies for certification). The average successful campaign takes approximately 4 months.

### Negotiating the First Contract

After obtaining certification, negotiations will commence to secure the first contract. Negotiations can be short and sweet, or long and arduous. Some take weeks while others take years. On average, you can expect between 6 and 12 months to complete negotiations.

## What's Expected of You

The Membership Organizing Program is a new initiative developed by the business office that is designed to give our membership the opportunity to participate in the operations of the Local Union. The business office will perform most of the work and will ensure that you have the resources you need. Almost every day, you interact with other people who do not have any of the security or benefits that a union provides. These people could be your relatives, your friends, past co-workers, or employees of companies that you interact with through your work. This is an opportunity for you to influence positive change in the lives of those people, simply by making a phone call. IBEW Local 258 is very diverse, and represents a multitude of industries, including power line contracting, independent power production, utility arboriculture, electrical manufacturing, HydroVac operation, civil utility construction and traffic control.

## Getting Started

Make a list of people you know who work for a non-union electrical employer. You might be surprised how many you know! Call the people on your list and tell them why you are calling. Share your experiences with the union, speaking genuinely and authentically. Inquire about any issues they might be dealing with at their workplace. Set up a meeting between a union organizer and your contact.

**IF YOU'RE READING  
THIS, SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO HELP  
YOUR UNION GROW!**



# UNION NOTICE BOARD

## ATTENTION: Local 258 IBEW A Members

"A" members are eligible for the IBEW pension and death benefits, as well as a wider range of employment opportunities with other Local Unions who have Construction jurisdiction. Members who are employed with Local 258's Outside Line Contractors must be "A" members.

This is a reminder to all "A" members to update your beneficiary information when there is a change in your personal status.

Phone: 604-520-3305  
Toll-Free Phone: 1-877-520-3305  
E-mail: [info@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:info@ibew258.bc.ca)

## Check out our website and social media to stay up to date on current events!

We no longer publish Unit meeting schedules in the Hotline. We have given Shop Stewards a QR Code to post on your union bulletin board at your headquarters, with instructions on how to add the schedule to your cell phone's calendar app. Simply scan the QR code with your phone's camera to access the Local 258 website and other important links!



## DISCOUNTS WITH UNION SAVINGS

As a member of Local 258 IBEW, you have access to deep discounts and savings, offered by Union Savings, Canada's only not-for-profit, Union-run members benefit program. Sign up today to get more information about all of the high-value offers and discounts offered by Union Savings by visiting their website at [www.unionsavings.ca](http://www.unionsavings.ca).

- AUTOMOTIVE
- ELECTRONICS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- FASHION
- FINANCIAL
- HOME
- INSURANCE
- SERVICES
- TRAVEL
- WELLNESS



## DISPATCH: Know Before You Go!

If you intend to work outside Local 258's jurisdiction (BC and the Yukon): **YOU MUST OBTAIN PROPER DOCUMENTATION BEFORE YOU GO!** Failure to do so will impact your ability to work in another Local's jurisdiction.

### YOU MAY REQUIRE:

- A Work Clearance
- A Letter of Introduction
- A Paid Up Dues Receipt
- A Travel Card



Phone: 604-524-3547  
Toll-free: 1-877-520-3305  
Email: [dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca)

Please contact Brother Noel Johnston at the Local 258 IBEW Dispatch office for more information!



## UNION DISPATCH SERVICES

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

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

To be eligible for Dispatch, you must register as soon as you become unemployed. Do not delay, as this will affect your standing on the list. Members are called out to work based on a combination of criteria, including trade qualification, Union seniority and the date that you registered with Dispatch.

Procedure for placement on the Dispatch List:

1. Your membership in Local 258 IBEW must be current with membership dues paid and up-to-date.
2. It is helpful if you submit a resume including your qualifications and work history, copies of trades qualifications and/or tickets you have. If you are a Journeyman, you must have an Interprovincial Red Seal (for applicable trades only).
3. We must have your current contact information, including phone number and full mailing address. Please update your contact information regularly if there are changes, as this impacts our ability to provide you with work opportunities.
4. You must provide copies of your current drivers license.

Please send all of the above required documents (resume, current contact information, copies of trade certificates and driver's license(s) plus payment of union dues) via regular mail to:

Local 258 IBEW, ATTENTION: DISPATCH  
Suite #140 - 8029 199 Street, Langley, BC V2Y 0E2

OR

Scan and email to: [dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca). We also accept payment by phone for debit or credit card, and by e-transfer.

For inquiries, please contact Dispatcher Noel Johnston directly at 604-524-3547 or toll free at 1-877-520-3305 and ask for Dispatch, or email: [dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:dispatch@ibew258.bc.ca). The Dispatch office is open Monday to Friday (excluding holidays) from 7:00am to 2:30pm. After hours, please leave a voicemail with your name and phone number.

## BC HYDRO POWER PIONEERS SUPPORTING WORTHY EMPLOYER INITIATIVES

The BC Hydro Power Pioneers Association was founded in 1990 by BC Hydro retirees and carries on a tradition dating back to the days of BC Electric and BC Power Commission.

Power Pioneers has 15 regional branches throughout British Columbia with approximately 1800 members and represents over 5,500 retirees and their spouses. It is a registered non-profit society whose members volunteer in their local communities and raise funds for causes like the BC Children's Hospital.

The Power Pioneers have so far published six books on the history of electricity in British Columbia. These books, along with lots of other Power Pioneers merchandise, can be purchased online at [powerpioneersgear.com](http://powerpioneersgear.com).

### Interested in joining?

You can join by going to [www.powerpioneers.com/membership/](http://www.powerpioneers.com/membership/)  
Membership is only \$10 per person, per year.

### Who can join?

A common misconception is that you must be retired to join. You can join if:

- You are a current or former employee of BC Hydro.
- Your spouse works/worked for BC Hydro.
- You or your spouse worked for a predecessor company to BC Hydro.
- You or your spouse works/worked for a company associated with BC Hydro.

### DISPLAYING OUR HISTORY. ONE PIECE AT A TIME.

The Jingle Pot Substation Museum was founded in 1998 by Mike Morris, Power Pioneer and retired line supervisor. Since Mike's passing in 2015, the museum has been managed by a volunteer team, currently lead by Pat Morris and Bruce Masse.

To learn more about the Jingle Pot Substation Museum, or to make a donation, please contact Pat Morris.

Phone: 250-753-1647

Email: [patnmike@shaw.ca](mailto:patnmike@shaw.ca)

Address: 2801 Jingle Pot Road, Nanaimo, BC.

**30** BC HYDRO **PowerPioneers**

# Between The Lines

## Message from Kevin Duchak, Local 258 IBEW President



As the President of IBEW Local Union, I am excited to share some important updates and news with all our members and supporters. We've had significant developments recently, including the creation of the Veterans Committee, co-chaired by Jamie Lowe and Jordan Geddert. This initiative reflects our core values of solidarity, brotherhood, and community involvement, and is a testament to our dedication to their well-being. The Veterans Committee is dedicated to addressing crucial issues such as job placement, healthcare access, and ensuring a smooth transition into civilian life. We stand with our veterans!

In addition to the newly formed Veterans Committee, I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all our committees. Our various committees, such as the Women's Committee, NextGen Committee, Joint Line Apprenticeship Training Association (JLATA), Apprentice & Trades Training Committee (A&TTC), Safety Practices Committee (SPC), and the Work Protection Practices Committee (WPPC). Committee members play a vital role in ensuring our union's success. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our common goals are truly commendable. I encourage all members to actively participate in these committees, as they form the backbone of our union's strength.

On another note, I recently had the privilege of attending the Kansas City Linemen's Rodeo as a delegate of our Union. This event was a fantastic showcase of our members' skills, professionalism, and dedication. Our representatives competed with passion and represented us exceptionally well. I couldn't be more proud of their performance, which reflects the high standards we uphold as a union. Our members are true experts in their field, and their achievements at the Lineman's Rodeo are a testament to their outstanding capabilities.

Finally, as we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our members and their families. I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a New Year filled with joy and prosperity. During this festive time, please remember to stay safe and cherish the moments with your loved ones. Our union is not just about professional support; it's also about fostering a sense of community and togetherness.

In the spirit of unity, let us continue to support each other, engage in our committees, and work together towards a brighter future. Our collective efforts will undoubtedly lead to even more successes and achievements for our union in the coming year. Happy holidays and stay safe!

In solidarity,  
Kevin Duchak

### Contact:

Phone: 604-520-3305  
Toll-free: 1-877-520-3305  
Cell: 250-617-6787  
Email: [kduchak@ibew258.bc.ca](mailto:kduchak@ibew258.bc.ca)

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE  
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SUITE #140 – 8029 199 STREET,  
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