



## A Day of Action on Poverty Reduction

October 17th is the Day internationally observed to focus on beating back poverty. Poverty has been a growing problem throughout North America for years, and it continues to swallow portions of the middle class here in Canada. There is no single cause; recessions, free trade deals, decline in union density, anti-union corporate agenda's pushed forward by right-wing governments, and think tanks

recently observed in Ontario, is no guarantee of success." Well one thing for sure, sticking governments heads in the sand, and having no plan will certainly do everything in governments power to achieve the same results.

In response, the Local 230 Executive Board thinking globally and acting locally, agreed to commit to make some small changes in our communities. On Saturday morning October 18th about two dozen 230 members with some family members went grocery shopping in Victoria and Nanaimo. We visited Quality Foods, a local Vancouver Island Grocery store who has always used IBEW members to wire their stores. The groceries we purchased were then dropped off at the local food banks in Langford and Nanaimo.

The Local 230's poverty reduction strategy is to continue to shine a brighter light on the poverty that permeates in our communities, and engage in real conversations with our local politicians and employer associations on how we can get our communities to commit to providing living-wage jobs. Feed someone for

a day and they will be hungry tomorrow, give somebody a good paying union job and they will eat for a lifetime. The only way to ensure the economic health of a community is to ensure that those who live in it have money to spread around.

The international language of a growling stomach became a little quieter even for a short time on Vancouver Island and I would like to thank all of those members who gave up their time and participated on the morning of October 18th. We also presented a \$500 cheque to the Courtenay Food Bank to help in that community.

As the temperature dips, we are also collecting coats and sweaters for those in our communities who need them, if you have a slightly used coat no matter what the size or sex, please drop it off at either the Nanaimo or Victoria offices so we can pass it on to those in need. Again, thanks for those who participated!



like the Fraser Institute all contribute to the deterioration in the standard of living for the 99% of all Canadians.

For the last 13 years BC has had the highest provincial poverty rate in Canada. 1 in 9 British Columbians live in poverty, which takes a tremendous toll on our society and Provincial economy, the annual cost of poverty on crime is calculated at over \$75 million, (people don't steal what they can earn and buy), then there is the cost of poverty on health care of \$1.2 billion; many of BC's kids go to school hungry every day, making their learning environment that more challenging. BC is also the only Province in Canada without a poverty reduction plan. Really! The worst for 13 years and NO PLAN to move from that embarrassing distinction? Stephanie Cadieux, BC Liberal and Minister of Children and Family Development says; "Having a legislated poverty plan, as we have

## Autumn 2014

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## News & Notes

### Christmas Office closure:

From 12:30 December 24th  
Re-opening January 2nd

### Upcoming Courses:

- January: Victoria & Nanaimo
- Confined Space
- Fall Arrest

### February: Victoria & Nanaimo

- Fibre (Victoria only)
- Level 1 First Aid
- Arial Work Platform
- Arc Flash



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# Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

We had a member come to us as he was denied his Employment Insurance benefits while heading to Apprenticeship school because he did not include his BC Education ID number on his EI Claim form. This is a relevantly new requirement which came into effect in the spring of 2012 along with other changes in Bill C-38.

Although, other apprentices in BC have missed this requirement the Provincial Ministry of Innovation has been denying apprentices their BCEID numbers after 28 days have passed from the date they began their schooling. The 28 days is likely copied from the Employment Insurance Regulations as the number of days to let workers know if they qualify for EI benefits. So, by the time someone may find out if they qualify or not it is essentially too late to do anything about it. One more piece to this new steaming pile is that, through their own admission the EI Commission only hits their 28 day target less than 74% of the time. So, 1 in 4 will not find out they don't qualify until after the provincial Ministry's allotted amount of time has ran out!

We have sent a letter off to Minister of Innovation, Don McRae requesting he reconsider the allotted amount of time and reconsider our member's case based on its merits. We have also filed a

request for reconsideration to the Employment Insurance Commission. We have also brought this to the attention of every provincial and federal MLA and MP on Vancouver Island as a potential blunder as it appears the provincial government has interfered in a federal workers program.

I can't stress enough to our apprentices when you file your EI as you head off to school make sure you submit your BC Education ID number.

Last fall Jessica McDonald was appointed by Premier Christy Clarke to perform a review of the Industry Training Authority (ITA) and provided 19 recommendations to help the ITA become a better training provider for BC tradesmen, these were all endorsed by the BC Cabinet. Of those recommendations #15 compulsory certification was one that was open ended as a consideration NOT a recommendation. IN light of that "consideration" we wrote and submitted our Industry Training Authority Submission on compulsory certification of the Construction and Industrial Electrician Trade, the Power Line Technician and the Gas Fitter (as the IBEW also represents Fortis Gas). BC is the only province in Canada where the construction electrician is not compulsory certified.

One of the revelations culminating from the Heat and Frost Insulators Decision over the summer was that the BC Labour Relations

Board would undergo a Constitutional Review of BC's Bargaining Council of Building Trades Unions. That review is set to begin in November and I will likely be at the Labour Board for a couple of weeks throughout the balance of the year, we are well into the IBEW's construction submission on the subject matter of bargaining in BC's Construction Industry in context with its legislative and Council Constitution requirements and restrictions, while in contrast with other provinces throughout Canada. I am personally excited about this opportunity as bargaining has been dysfunctional for decades as the industry has completely changed since the inception of those legal requirements in the late 60's.

Houle was awarded the Courtenay Hospital Electrical power portion as well as the low voltage power for both hospitals. The John Hart Dam has 8 guys on it with FMI and Frontier Kemper will begin hiring soon as well. In an attempt to sew up the labour in the north island we have participated in two job fairs earlier this year. As part of our organizing strategy we decided that as we have already participated as Local 230 and that Houle was awarded the Hospital work, it was time to do things a little different. Houle did the advertising, booked the room and manned the booth alongside two of our Local 230 office staff at a Houle Job Fair to see if any new potential electrical workers would come out of the woodwork, and we were right. Now, some members have taken exception to this style of Organizing, however it isn't anything new, IBEW Locals across North America and their contractors have held what is widely been called Industry Nights to meet with non-union workers and see if there are any potential new members in an area. We can comfortably say between the 3 job fairs held this year we probably have made contact with and have the bulk of the non-union workforce and received their resumes north island. I am also very optimistic about the work coming out next year throughout the rest of the Island as well as the north.



Nanaimo Unit Chair Dave Lambert with his daughter and Business Rep Shane Scott on the Nanaimo Day of Action.

# Bill C-377: Merit Shop Contractors Push Ahead on Anti-Union Attack

Excerpts of Senate Debate Continued

Hon. Pierrette Ringuette,  
Conservative Senator:

Honourable senators, this public bill, Bill C-377, has neither gone away nor changed since it received first reading in the Senate in December 2012. It did not go away because the Prime Minister prorogued Parliament before the other place received it in its amended form. It was put back on the Order Paper in October 2013, over a year before it was introduced at second reading just recently.

Bill C-377 has not changed. In other words, it is still unconstitutional; it still fails to respect privacy; it will be very costly to taxpayers; it puts Canadian workers in danger, especially those who protect us; and finally, it still creates an indefensible imbalance in employee-employer relationships.

My concerns are numerous. The first one is the provincial jurisdiction of the issue. The regulation of labour relations is a provincial issue. While it has been claimed by supporters that this bill is strictly about accountability for tax benefits, the defenders of the bill use labour relations arguments frequently, including references to similar laws in other nations, most of which fall under labour relations, and not tax law.

Representatives from the Canada Revenue Agency claimed: We are considering the focus of this measure as disclosure, not for income tax administration purposes or tax assessment purposes.

The claim that this bill is beyond the jurisdiction of the federal government has been put forward by ministers from almost every Canadian province, the Canadian Bar Association, Barreau du Québec, the Federation of Law Societies of Canada, the Certified General Accountants Association of Canada, Constitution experts such as Bruce Ryder of Osgoode Law School and Alain Barré of Laval University, among many, many others.

As a defender of our Constitution, I cannot approve such an encroachment

on the division of powers between the federal government and its provincial counterpart. Private law, as is labour relations, is a provincial jurisdiction. Provinces have already enacted balanced, transparent labour relations legislation in order to foster social peace, democratic processes and economic growth.

The Privacy Commissioner stated in committee that it is a “significant privacy intrusion”

The Canadian Privacy Act specifies that to disclose private information publicly one needs consent of the individual whose private information would be disclosed and/or posted. In order to abide by the privacy legislation, the unions, the director of the Canada Revenue Agency and the minister would all have to get the individual consent for the information to be disclosed publicly. If not, any of them and/or all of them would be subject to court challenges under the Privacy Act.

The obligation that labour organizations would have to disclose all disbursements related to legal or medical activities, for example, violates the solicitor-client privilege that exists for members of the bar, doctors and other professions. If a member violates solicitor-client privilege, these professional

associations may take disciplinary action or sometimes even impose fines. Solicitor-client privilege is the very reason that we view these professionals as credible and that we trust them as clients and as members of a democracy.

Canada has more than 25,000 unions of varying size, including many small regional and local unions that do not have the resources to provide this kind of information.

It’s also important to mention that Canadian taxpayers will have to shoulder the financial burden imposed by the costs for the Canada Revenue Agency to fulfill its obligations, as set out in Bill C-377. Canadian taxpayers should not pay \$60 million to satisfy non-profit, non-taxpaying organizations such as Merit or LabourWatch.

Senators must review legislation with the fundamental criteria of its constitutionality, respect of jurisdiction and Charter rights along with other federal laws, such as the Privacy Act. I strongly believe that Bill C-377 is a constitutionally-flawed bill and that if it is sent to be studied further by a standing Senate committee, the appropriate one would be the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs.



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# IBEW Local 230 Now Offers Blended Learning

Blended learning is a move to bring classroom learning with web based modules. Local 230 now offers the training alliances full range of online and blended learning courses. The training includes various forms of blended learning for the initial training of Electrical Apprentices and Continuing Electrical Training for IBEW members.



## Courses Include:

### Building Automation:

Control Devices and Applications course focuses on the devices that monitor and control building systems.

### Conduit Bending and Fabrication:

Provides a comprehensive overview of conduit bending and fabrication procedures and methods.

### Test & Measurement Academy:

This Academy allows the learner to interact in a series of troubleshooting scenarios in a first-person environment.

### Test Instruments:

An overview of measurement principles and test instrument procedures are covered along with an explanation of personal protective equipment

### Transformer Principles and Applications:

Provides a comprehensive overview of transformer operation, maintenance, installation, and troubleshooting

### Transformer Simulator:

This simulator is a fully interactive training tool that simulates transformer connections in a lifelike setting which is safe for the student and the equipment.

### Motors:

The course includes the latest information on the operation of many types of motors, reading and understanding motor nameplates, braking and starting, adjustable-speed drives

### Ace That Test:

The Ace That Test program aims to help you do well on important tests and certification exams.

How IBEW Local 230 members register for blended learning:

Step 1:

Open <http://blendedlearning.njatc.org> in a web browser

Step 2:

Click on the register button

Select IBEW Local 230 for your training location.

The password is: vancouverisland

Click continue

Step 3:

Input your personal details.

Student Types:

Red Seal Electrician select "Continuing Electrical Training"

Apprentice select "Apprentice"

Click Request Access

Step 4:

Wait for account authorization.

Step 5:

Once notified of approval, you will be able to select desired courses.