



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter

Since 1902

Columbia Free Trade Deal

A letter to: The Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister

Re: Canadian Free Trade Deal with Columbia

Dear Sir, we are writing you with great concern over the pending trade discussion with Columbia. The atrocious human rights violations perpetrated upon Colombian workers is well documented. Columbia is a country where more trade unionists are killed than in the rest of the world combined.

We understand that during the administration of the current President, Alvaro Uribe Velez, 560 union officers and members have been brutally and systematically murdered, at the same time there has been 955 summary executions recorded by the Colombia's Army. Paramilitary organizations linked to powerful drug cartels have used terror, torture and massacred entire communities to create

a mass exodus of the countryside in order to appropriate huge tracts of resource rich land. The United Nations calls Columbia the "worst humanitarian disaster" in the Western Hemisphere. Meanwhile, the United States Congress has indicated they will not pursue a Trade Deal with Columbia at all at this time citing their horrendous human rights track record as the pivotal reason for that decision.

We strongly disagree with your position that requiring Columbia to clean up their human rights problems by stopping the mass murder Colombian workers prior to Canada signing a Free Trade Deal as being "ridiculous" is absolutely absurd, and so out of step with basic Canadian moral values it seems surreal. We believe requiring Columbia to stop the systematic murdering of their citizens prior to signing a Trade Deal is the only true Canadian response.

Our new understanding is that you are currently negotiating a financial penalty for the murder of Colombian trade unionists, essentially making Canada and every



A young Colombian girl peers through her day to day reality.

Canadian citizen an accomplice in the extermination of Colombian workers. With all due respect Sir, this is murder, not a parking violation or a late library book, but murder.

We are therefore with our strongest intent urging you to stop immediately any further Trade discussions with Colombia until the Colombian Government has conformed to the concept of workers rights to organize and work without fear of being brutally murdered, and until there has been full and public debate in Canada weighing the benefits of such a relationship, and what appears to be a deal with the devil himself.

Sincerely,

Philip Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Summer 2008

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Upcoming Courses

- Field Service Representative
Nanaimo - September 27th
- Arc Flash
Nanaimo - September 13th
Courtenay/Campbell River -
September 20th.

Please call Len or Jen in
our Office to get on the list.

Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

The abuse of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program is reaching pandemic proportions within our country and we've reached out to the Canadian Building Trades National Office to look at reinstating the Construction Workers Inc. Program, this program allowed for members of Local 230 to clear criteria and write state recognized exams prior to getting clearances from their home local to the local they are traveling to. Meanwhile the Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) has applied to

Ottawa so they can bring in TFW Building Trades members from the United States to help with construction union contractors manpower so we can continue to reclaim and expand our market share in the Province. The CLRA application deals with the 2 main issues we've had from the beginning of this Program; the members would be working under our construction collective agreements which will deal with wage abuse of workers like those tunnel and rock workers we found on the Canada line in Vancouver making \$3.70 per hour, and the Building Trades TFW's will have the same ability to move from one contractor to another so they are not captured by that contractor for further abuse nullifying the threat of being deported home if they're not doing exactly what they are told.

At the April BC IBEW Provincial Council I was elected as the Councils Chairman and to the BC & Yukon Building Construction Trades Council Executive Board, this is a great honor in that the locals in the Province have faith in Local 230 to be the voice of the IBEW at these Council levels.

At the BC Yukon Building Trades Executive Board we discussed the coming Rio Tinto project in Kitimat which is turning into a 6 million man hour all Building Trades job with Bechtel requiring approximately 250

electricians beginning this fall and will likely need travelers beginning next Spring.

I met with the western construction Business Managers to discuss the construction marketplace in the western provinces currently underway and over the upcoming next couple of years.

I attended the retirement party for Brother Wayne deDelley who after 27 years as Business Manager of Local 993 in Kamloops has decided to hang up his hat. Wayne is a fine trade unionist who I shared negotiation tables, dinner tables, and pool tables with, we didn't always share the same opinion but I held the deepest respect for him and I'll sadly miss him, at the same time I have spent some time with Wayne's re-placement Glen Hilton and I look forward to building a strong relationship with Glen.

The Vancouver Island Railway Corridor is looking for support for federal and provincial funding. Having a diverse transportation system in and around the City of Victoria is an important key to continued growth and construction within the city. It further secures work for our members on the Railway and our contractors like Raylec who often construct the signals, please go to www.ourcorridor.ca and sign the petition to support the Island Corridor Foundation.

Local 230 Elections

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Brother Lorne King for performing the function of Judge of the Ballot, Brother Jim Schellenberg, and Brother Wayne Pfenning for assisting the Judge as Tellers. The recent elections were one of quietest local elections in recent history and I am looking forward to working with Executive Board members who are returning and the new members joining the Board.

Your Executive Board is:

President – Neil Banman

Vice-President – Chris Baker

Recording Secretary – Pat Baxter

Treasurer – Bob Laquement

Victoria Unit Chair – Gary Eakins

Nanaimo Unit Chair – Shane Scott

Port Alberni Unit Chair – Vacant

Campbell River Unit Chair – Dan Gordon

Marine Unit Chair – Raj Takhar

IBEW Provincial Organizer Hired



The International Office has hired Brother Jason Mann as our Provincial Organizer to assist the IBEW locals around the Province in our non-construction organizing. Our first target is the Sears Appliance Technicians on the Island, on the heels of Vancouver getting an Agreement with Sears and Local 424 in Alberta putting in their certification with Sears in Edmonton. The IBEW represents the Technicians at 23 locations around North America. Sears is an international organization and their workers should be considering international representation. If you know of any Sears Technicians on the Island who may be interested in the IBEW and union representation, please send Jason an email with contact information at jason_mann@ibew.org

Sector Report

Appliance Repair – The Appliance Technicians working at Sears on the mainland have settled their dispute and collective agreement, they didn't achieve any large gains however they didn't suffer any concessions either, meanwhile Local 424 in Edmonton have an application of Sears Appliance Technicians at the Labour Relations Board, and we have begun reaching out to the appliance techs on the Island as well. If you know any of the workers employed at the Sears locations on the Island please let them know, or call us in the office so we can sit down with them and discuss the benefits of going IBEW.

Cablevision - We started building our legal managerial exclusion case against Campbell River TV, this is just another twist on an old exercise we've had with CRTV in the past. Simply they have renamed workers classifications like "Marketing Manager" or "Technical Manager" and are now saying these folks are no longer in the Union. There is a set criteria to be considered a manager under each labour code and we believe they will not pass the test.

The CRTV, CEO and Board of Directors resurrected the sale of Campbell River Television to Shaw Cable by lowering the strategic barriers that the charter members to the Association implemented to prevent a hasty sale, Local 230 has had an extensive and very bad history with Shaw and their anti-union ideology, and therefore we are in a much better position keeping CRTV as an Association. History has taught us that Shaw will likely terminate 50% or more of IBEW jobs and run things from Calgary or Courtenay. We attended the televised live Special Called Meeting intended to consider the question to sell CRTV and after 3-1/2 hours of listening to several questions to which the Board of Directors, CEO, President, Accountants and Lawyers couldn't answer or refused to answer, I forwarded the motion to table the Resolutions to change the Bylaws and refer them to the Annual General Meeting in November, and to seal and destroy the ballots already collected. The rent a Parliamentarian ruled the motion out of order under some mysterious grounds, which left me no alternative but to challenge his ruling, which then caused a temporary adjournment, while the head table huddled for 15 minutes. What they didn't realize was they had left their microphones on, and the entire community of Campbell River listened on while they schemed to squash the motion.

In short, the challenge passed and the motion passed as well, now the entire community is waiting for the Board of Directors and team of

Lawyers to get involved and find a way to legally deal with the motion, this will give us the time to inform the community on both sides of the debate. Starting with the televised interview on the show "Nobody expects a Spanish inquisition" which was aired in late July.

Construction -

Commercial/Institutional – Canem Systems picked up the Tsawout Community Centre, Shoppers Drug Mart University Village Nanaimo, the parking lot lighting package at the Cowichan Commons, Duncan London Drugs and Village Green Mall; Houle Electric picked up the Courtenay Royal Bank, Galaxy Motors in Victoria, a Security upgrade for the Ministry of Finance, the Telus Building controls upgrade, and the Mearns E-Learning Centre at U-Vic; Emery Electric has picked up the Enterprise Data Centre at U-Vic, the Best Buy, Margaret Jenkins School seismic upgrade and reno, and CIBC shell out at Westshore Mall; Mazzei Electric picked up the Terminal Centre in Nanaimo and Co-Op gas in Tofino. The 500 bed nurse towers at the Royal Jubilee Hospital has been let to Western Pacific Enterprises from the mainland this is likely the largest institutional electrical project Vancouver Island has ever seen and our members should be on-site this time next year and should run for years.

Industrial – The only good news in this sector is the Harmac employees along with 3 venture capitalists have jointly bought the Mill, and I'm pleased to pass on that one of them is a friend of the IBEW, F&M Installations.

Residential – Aines and Tyler picked up the Twawaayuus Rainbow Gardens Assisted Living project in Port Alberni; Houle Electric picked up the Oak Tree Manor in Nanaimo; Mazzei picked up the Shores in Tofino.

Motor Winders – Beaver Electrical Machinery will be closing down their Campbell River operations and transferring their workforce to their operations in Nanoose, they're busy with work from Port Alice Mill and Nanaimo Regional District. Duncan Electric Motor is slow.

Municipal Government – City of Victoria members are preparing to install heritage lighting around the Chinatown and Empress Hotel areas.

Private Marine – On April 21st a new frigate upgrade contract worth \$351 million was awarded to Victoria Shipyards. The first phase of the program, a \$40 million contract for the refit of up to three frigates, commenced with the dry-docking of HMCS Vancouver on May 5th. The second phase which totals \$311 million, will include the mid-life refit work/upgrades to all five frigates currently operating on the west coast. On July 4th it was announced that Victoria Shipyards signed the contract with the federal government for the servicing of the Canadian navy's Victoria class submarines worth an initial \$250 million. The Metal Trades members at Victoria Shipyard voted 67% in favor of the changes to the Collective Agreement and although the Agreement still has its shortcomings, what Agreement doesn't? We were able to achieve an approximate 6% per year wage/benefit increase over 5 years, staved off the implementation of an Electrical Trades Helper, and our members gained the financial advantage of all overtime from this point forward being paid at double time.

Public Marine – We are awaiting a decision on mediation dates on our members complaints against the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council for breaching their Duty of Fair Representation. I'm confident these complaints will be successful if the federal government is interested in hearing them. In any event it's been conveyed to me that the Board is aware of the problem and at the very least, we have their attention. I've always believed, if we are not at the (bargaining) table we're probably on the menu.

Provincial Health Care – Our members are busy with a fire alarm system upgrade at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital, another fire alarm system upgrade at the Memorial Pavilion and getting ready for a BC Hydro lighting upgrade

Railway - After we wrapped up some legal challenges to the Vancouver Island Railway Council's Constitution. The BC Labour Relations Board conducted a "Last Offer Vote" on behalf of Southern Railway the members ratified the altered memorandum by over 76% the changes brought more money in the first year and a \$500 signing bonus for our members.

Electrical Wholesale – Both Nanaimo and Port Alberni Westburne locations are reporting themselves to be busy.

Training Report

We met with the Construction Industry Training Organization (CITO) who shared their contributions to the Industry going forward, this is a positive step in terms of governance and after a generation and a half (6 years) later it's beginning to resemble the ITAC we knew before the BC Liberals canned all the Counselors and started charging apprentices tuition. They will not be alleviating any of that as the Government is still coming up short when it comes to investing in the future for Trades.

At the Western JETS Meeting we presented the motion to begin paying for 5 level 3 First Aid tickets per year per local, and to review the needs of the members on an annual basis, we also endorsed the distribution of the very pointed Mark Breslin book "Survival of Fittest" for distribution within our construction membership.

We are also planning the 2009 BCEA Trade Show scheduled for Nanaimo and the focus will be changing to provide for a larger educational component.



Fallen Brothers

Our deepest sympathies are extended to our Fallen Brothers families and friends.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Initiated</u>	<u>Died</u>
Anderson, George	01/01/1953	08/02/2008
Arcuri, Gabriel	01/10/1947	17/02/2008
Asikainen, Eric	01/05/1982	03/11/2007
Atherley, Arthur	01/07/1947	01/03/2007
Bell, Bill	01/04/1989	12/02/2007
Buck, Joe	01/11/1998	31/03/2008
Doe, John	01/02/1961	27/01/2007
Fandry, Gordon	01/01/1981	30/03/2007
Finnegan, Harry	01/01/1957	11/05/2007
Hortensius, H. L.	01/10/1971	27/10/2007
Kernachan, John	01/03/1980	31/03/2007
Olsen, Melville	01/11/1950	06/01/2007
Wolfe, Patrick	11/10/1999	26/03/2007
Wynen, Louis	01/03/1953	14/08/2007

Retirees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Initiated</u>	<u>Date of Retirement</u>
Boorman, John	01/07/1965	01/01/2007
Davidson, Bill	17/06/1969	01/02/2007
Hope, Bill	19/05/1964	01/03/2008
Jordan, Doug	01/11/1965	01/07/2007
Lamont, Dennis	01/01/1968	01/02/2008
Landry, Daniel	01/06/1969	01/06/2007
Ostwald, John	01/03/1967	01/10/2007
Paterson, James	01/11/1965	01/11/2007
Peddle, Stephen	01/03/1967	01/09/2007
Ramsay, Peter	01/03/1970	01/10/2007



Joe Buck

March 7, 1973 - March 31, 2008.

Sincere thanks for all the support from IBEW 230 members. Losing Joe is a terrible shock; I am grateful for your kindness and generosity. Please remember the good times. Joe & I shared a great love and he is in my heart eternally. My condolences to those who miss him too.

Madelin Emery

Joe's ever-loving partner