



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter

Since 1902

BC Building Trades turns 50



One Saturday night, late in October we celebrated the BC Building Trades 50th Anniversary of building our Province. It was an interesting evening with many of today's and yesterday's labour leaders, several politicians, and some friends and developers. Fifty years may not seem like a long time in contrast with many of the affiliated unions, but our history is as colorful and captivating together as our individual unions apart.

We had the Minister of Labour, Harry Bains radiating excitement explaining many of our new Provincial Government's plans looking forward to putting some accountability in building out our Province's aging schools, hospitals, roads and infrastructure work, providing good work for our construction unions across BC.

BC Federation of Labour President Emeritus, Jim Sinclair, was retained to write a book highlighting our struggles and accomplishments over

the first 50 years. From the strikes that brought out the police in full riot gear, anti-union construction business councils, and their crony political puppets writing legislation directed solely to destroying the BC Building Trades unions this book is an incredible testament to the history of BC's colourful construction past. The evening served as a solid reminder that, we are so much stronger together.

The BC Building Trades Convention was held in Victoria late in September. It was an honour to take up my usual post as the Chair of the Rules of Order. The

Convention provided us with a good cast of 18 presenters; like Bob Blakely, from the Canadian Building Trades office; Concert Properties new CEO, Brian McCauley, gave us an overview of what is coming from this all union developer; David Keane, President of BC LNG Alliance, provided us with an update on LNG; as well as Charley Beresford, new Executive Director of the Columbia Institute, a left-leaning think tank created to help off-set the Fraser Institute. After 7 years as President and 40 years in the Labour movement, Brother Lee Loftus, announced his retirement as Business Manager of the Insulators Union and as President of the BC Building Trades. The incoming President is Dave Holmes, the Business Manager of the Painters and Allied Trades District Council 38. Dave is a Painter by trade and has been working from their office for the last fifteen years.



Autumn 2017

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News & Note

Office Christmas closure
Dec. 25th - Jan. 2nd

The Marine Unit Meeting
Beginning January 2017
Will be held downstairs at
Lodge 191 Boilermakers Hall
located at 802 Esquimalt Rd.
Victoria, B.C.

Sign up for upcoming
Code of Excellence &
COMET classes this
Coming mid- February

Port Alberni Info Meeting
Tuesday, March 20th @7pm



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Business Manager's Report



Phil Venoit Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Over the past quarter, we met with Federal Minister of Labour Patti Hadju to discuss the need to pay closer attention to the underground economy. Recently, the Canadian Revenue Agency released a report citing that the income tax gap is approximately \$8.7 billion dollars, (or 6.4%) and much of that is lost in the construction industry. The Federal government is looking for Provincial partners in identifying this missing untaxed revenue, so they can collect it. This goes well beyond the hot tub or set of pot lights you may have wired for your neighbor. This is primarily undocumented temporary foreign workers and misclassified workers as "sub-contractors" when they are in fact employees, it's often unqualified workers installing electrical equipment for cash with no permits, and much more. We did this once before in BC in 2000 for six (6) months. That compliance team found \$44.5 million dollars in missing tax revenue, lost WorksafeBC, CPP, & EI payments, leaving the rest of us to have to pay more, receive less, and compete against the unscrupulous behaviour.

With Asbestos continuing to be a hot public topic, we need to keep it in the forefront of the minds of the public and public officials. This industrial disease has taken way too many of our members over the years and we need to see a complete ban and education instituted on behalf of all

construction and shipyard workers. To do this, we shot our Asbestos TV Commercial, which will continue to play for the next few years rotating in and out with various other commercials.

The Insider Wiremen's (construction) Agreement was ratified by a very high margin. I would like to thank those who participated by casting your vote. The IBEW Construction Business Managers have also begun meeting with CLRA in an effort to negotiate the classification of Security Technician as a new classification and possible Addendum to our construction Inside Wiremen's Agreement consistent with our Memorandum of Settlement. This is a growing market with no slowing in sight as the technology and use continues to expand.

Early in September, we found a document I have entitled the "Cooperation and Promotion Agreement" between BC Iron Workers Local 97 and the Christian Labour Association (CLAC). With many construction clients seeking a cheaper alternative to the BC Building Trades (that's our construction membership), and with the CLAC badly needing some legitimacy in BC, this is the beginning of a new day of darkness for the Canadian Labour movement. We have written our respective International

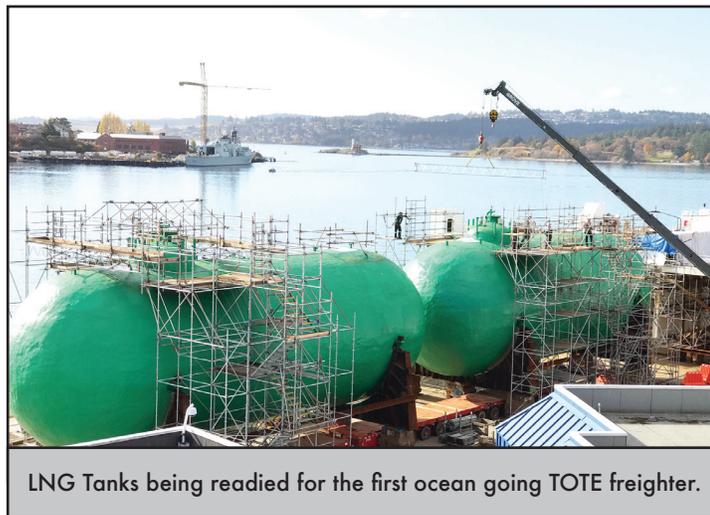
Federation of Labour have started their process towards expulsion, and the Canadian Labour Congress has been informed. These are major steps the Iron Workers Union cannot ignore, and with some hope they will recognize their heinous actions, tear-up the Agreement and come back into the Building Trades fold.

To my knowledge, for the first time in history, BC's Premier reached out to the IBEW to have a meeting with BC's five Business Managers. I've known Premier Horgan for years. He is an approachable people-person, a real salt of the earth type guy. John's relationship with the IBEW started from his original post as BC's Energy Critic. He knows and respects what our membership does every day to make this Province what it is. He knows what damage we have incurred over the last sixteen years: an abandoned apprenticeship system, increased MSP costs taking more money off your wages, ferries and raw logs sent off-shore, gutting IBEW shipyard, sawmill and pulp & paper jobs. Over the last 16 years the BC Liberals have repeatedly sent BC Ferry work to Europe saying we didn't have the capacity or the workforce, while we know different. How is it that the private sector ship owners know different, our federal government

knows different, and yet our own BC Government doesn't know? Because, it's not that they didn't know, they just didn't care.

A more cynical person would say, they actually hated us, and they thought the best way to get rid of unions like ours would be to send our jobs away. Send away the forestry jobs of the Steelworkers, and Building Trades unions. Send away the good union shipyard Metal Trades union jobs. And for those jobs they couldn't send away, they brought in Temporary Foreign Workers to replace good union jobs in BC's mines.

Recent statistics have showed big government infrastructure projects have gone to the BC Liberals' friends and donors, who typically employed the CLAC and non-union workers, shutting out professional building trades members from work they



LNG Tanks being readied for the first ocean going TOTE freighter.

President and Vice-President to alarm them of what has transpired.

The BC Building Trades have Censured Iron Workers Local 97, and the Island Building Trades have censured and expelled them from the Island Council. The BC

Business Manager's Report Continued

historically have performed. The most obvious of that is the site "C" mega-project. For the first time in 55 years a hydro-electric dam went open-shop (not counting the small run-of-the-river IPP's) to mostly non-union and the Christian Labour Association, to find that not even half way through the project is well over budget and late. Meanwhile, we build out the John Hart Dam in Campbell River with some of the highest paid negotiated wages and benefits in the sector, and the Building (Allied Hydro) Trades unions on that dam are on time and budget.

We know those things we need to change will come with great howls from the BC Liberals, the anti-union business community like the ICBA, MERIT, the CLAC will be right behind them bankrolling the volume to those howls, and the business-friendly press will eat it up. I'm asking you to not fall for their bullshit intended to trick you into getting mad and voting against your own best interests. That is

good-paying union jobs with benefits.

We need to openly support the changes coming that help our industries and membership get to work. We have sat on the sidelines for far too long - it is time to openly support the changes that will come to WorksafeBC so when we do get to work, we will be safer on the job, and get to go home to our families. Not too long ago, Local 230 performed 70-80% of the construction work on Vancouver Island - we need to get back there and lift the lives of all electrical workers.

We are entering into a new era and relationship, one that has great power, and great responsibility, so we have to be considerate and respectful and learn how to sustain the things we want into the decades to come so our members will benefit for generations. I'm asking you to get involved in the political process and don't be fooled by the media. That's going to take a little work from you, but better upfront now than working longer for less.

New Member Orientation

We continue to put on our New Member Orientation classes to help provide a better working knowledge with new members rights and responsibilities that come with membership, if you are a relatively new member and would like to know a little more about the Union, please give Charlene or Erica a call in the office, or click on the; Code of Excellence, COMET, and/or New Member Tab on the bottom of the Home Page on the Local's website.



offices, the sign in table at the Unit Meetings over the few months, and if you can't make it to a meeting, talk to your coworkers and contact us so we can drop by a number of packages to your job-site or employers office. There can't be much worse than the feeling that your child or elder parent has gone missing, please let us help by bringing you the identification kits needed before this happens, so you, your family and the authorities are better prepared.

2016 Top Apprentice Award

The Top Apprentice 2016 Golden Pliers Award goes to Brother Keith Washington. Keith originally comes to us from Ontario, and worked South Island, after a seven-month trek through Asia he has settled in the north Island area, and we wish the best for his bright future.



W-JETS Executive Director presents Brother Keith Washington with the 2016 Golden Pliers Award as the Top Apprentice.

Universal PharmaCare Canada

Our Facebook Page has a new petition on it, to help bring extended Pharmacare Universal to all Canadians, if we can achieve this we can save costs on our Health and Welfare Plan, drive up costs to the non-union employers, which make our contractors even more competitive, and will help us gain market-share, and give us the ability to put more money in wages. I would urge you to sign the Petition, to create a better future for you and your family. <http://www.aplanforeveryone.ca>

Child Identification Kits

Every year in Canada about 50,000 kids go missing. Our International has sent us a number of Child Identification Kits. If you have young kids at home, grand-kids or even elder parents, please pick up one envelope per child (or elder) at one of our Island

Truck Crash Helps Feed our Community

Local 230's collaboration with the Goldstream Food Bank began a couple years ago when our NextGen Committee, took part in helping out on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Gail Ireland who runs the food bank told us to come down and gave me a tour of the food bank, I noticed at that time most volunteers were in their 70's. Gail and I made a plan for this years Day of Poverty, and we would offer our muscle, manpower and enthusiasm, and should anything come up to give us a call. Well, it seemed like I just walked out the door when we got that somewhat frantic call. A Superstore tractor trailer had crashed on the Trans Canada highway and she needed bodies to unload more then 4000lbs of perishable and non-perishable foods and supplies. Local 230 NextGen members,

Women's Committee, office staff, and even one International staff representative unloaded the truck in about a half-day. We were able to salvage so much food from the damaged truck that we filled the shelves at the Goldstream food bank, and were able to help stock both the Mill Bay and Sooke food banks as well. By helping out the food bank before October 17th it gave us a chance to meet the people that volunteer and run the food bank daily. So, on the Day of Action we could easily fit right in and work alongside the other volunteers instead of just being in the way and constantly trying to ask how and where we could help. Our members help those days brought us that much closer to our community.



Cory McGregor,
Business Representative



Providing the safest workforce on the island is paramount to our success.

FALL ARREST Course is online!

Please check out the following online courses thru WJETS.ca:

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| -Fall Arrest | -Asbestos Awareness |
| -WHMIS | -Personal Protective Equipment |
| -Fall Pro & Fall Arrest Awareness | -Young Worker Safety Orientation |
| -Electrical Hazards | -and many other online courses |
| -Lockout/Tagout 1 & 2 | |

From our family to yours, the office and staff of IBEW Local 230 would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!