



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902



## Building Canada's Largest Single-Leaf Bascule Bridge

The new Johnson Street Bridge will be the largest single-leaf bascule bridge in Canada – and one of the largest in the world at just over 45 metres – creating a new iconic structure entering into Victoria's downtown core from the west. About 30,000 Victorians cross the bridge every day. City Council received a report in 2009 that the old Bridge like many other steel bridges built in the 1920's was fatigued corroded and likely at the end of its life and should be replaced. They secured some federal funding and a loan approval for just under \$50 Million. Then it went out in a referendum to City's residents and created a 60/40 split to replace it, which seems normal for all construction projects these days. The City then received three different bridge concepts and council ignored the most popular project design, which upset the citizens apple-cart further.

Construction of the new bridge was awarded to Westcoast PCL and the project started in May, 2013 as the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the City of Victoria. Western Pacific Enterprises (WPE) was awarded the electrical contract.

WPE Foreman, Ryan Bestwick, will always remember the first official bridge opening and vehicle crossing on March 31st, 2018. *"This one of its kind movable bridge is powered by 3 – 100HP HPU motors and controlled by various instruments precisely tracking bridge movements and required a team of highly skilled electricians to safely execute the electrical and bridge control installation."* Although, dogged with political problems and delays caused by structurally sub-par steel from China, the bridge will remain for the rest of this century as a testament to our members work ethics and professionalism.

## Volume I: 2018

*Inside This Quarterly*

[www.ibew230.org](http://www.ibew230.org)

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## News & Note

### Upcoming Courses

Code of Excellence: Victoria - June 23rd

A reminder FSR's must have paid their \$100 fee before August 1st, or they will lose their FSR status. Payment can be made on the Tech BC website.

### Port Alberni Info Meeting

July 17th @ 7:00 PM

Tyee Motel

IBEW Bob Baskin

Memorial Pig Roast

Save the Date - July 28, 2018

301 Petersen Road

Campbell River



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# Business Manager's Report



Advanced Education Minister Melanie Mark with Business Manager Phil Venoit

2018, wow! Welcome to the year that will bring our first members born this Millennium.

Millennial Y-2K's. This is great news! Our Local Union depends on the movement of our elder Baby Boomers into retirement to make way for the Youth moving into the electrical construction and marine industries, and it's all of our jobs to mentor these apprentices to become experienced and educated good productive positive members.

## Apprenticeship and the ITA

With our new Advanced Education Minister giving the Compulsory Certification Working Group the go-ahead to continue with their work. The Group decided on the research firm MNP to develop the document for us to take to government later this year. This has been a battle on many fronts. Over the last couple of years, the anti-union free market business folks inside this group are alive and kicking, and the CLAC are trying to get involved through positions they were appointed to by the BC Liberals in 2017.

All of this internal commotion is to hinder the idea of Compulsory Trades.

We attended the BC Skills gala and ITA Youth Day. The most recent Industry Training Authority (ITA) All Chair Sector Advisory Group Meeting has taken on a new tone, with the change of Government.

## Health & Safety

Late last year, we met with various Board Members and Managers of WorksafeBC to discuss anything from Asbestos, to Crane Safety and Claims. Although WCB often gets a bad rap (and often in the claims division for good reason), I honestly believe most of these

folks really care and are engaged in looking at solutions to make our workplaces safer for all British Columbians. They are simply shackled to the legislative regulations and policies from the last 16 years that too often tie their hands. The Minister of Labour has called for a review of how WCB is serving workers in BC and we will likely see some changes coming there soon.

## Construction

The IBEW-BC Provincial Council put together our submission to the BC Utilities Corporation to endorse moving on with the Site "C" Dam project. The Allied Hydro Council put together a stellar report and although we didn't think we needed to duplicate the report, we opted instead to simply endorse their submission and wrote a summary of the benefits to continuing the project, this document is on our website under the letters and correspondence section. I've been appointed to the Provincial Committee to negotiate the Protocol Agreement which will decide on the process for the next round of Construction Bargaining in 2019 overseen by the BC Labour Relations Board. If you have proposals for the Inside Wiremen's Agreement please send them to me via email at [Phil@IBEW230.org](mailto:Phil@IBEW230.org) by the end of May please. Include your name and contact info as well as intent of the suggested proposal. We have close to full employment in construction.

Victoria's sewage treatment projects are finally beginning with Emery wiring the 400 amp service for the 60 trailers for the project. Both Clover Point and Macaulay Point Pump Stations have been awarded to Western Pacific Ent. With the two last jobs at McLoughlin Point and Hartland Road yet to be awarded. Projects at the Fleet Maintenance Facility Dockyard are winding down while other projects are coming out to tender. There are a large number of assisted living, condo, hotel, retail and office towers going up in Victoria.

Some Assisted Living projects like Amica and Cherish are nearing an end, while Summit is coming out of the ground. Canem is on these projects as well as the Low-Rise Condo at 701 Belleville and Mayfair Mall. Thomis Electric is working on several building renovations, like Dunsmuir Lodge, Harbour Towers and Sidney Safety Centre, as well as the new Eagle Creek Village Phase 2 apartment building. Houle has picked up both the Nanaimo & Victoria Airport expansions. They also just finished the Port Hardy Airport, UVIC Ocean Sciences Building, Esquimalt Town Centre, Esquimalt Graving Dock and CFMTR

Substations, VIU Health Sciences Building & Auto Marine Trades Redevelopment, North Island College Trades Building, a Bitcoin mine in C/R, CFB Comox Fixed Wing Search & Rescue Building and Entrance Island Wind Turbine. FMI has a Shut-down at Harmac Pulp and Paper, and they were awarded the Englishman River Water Treatment Plant. They also have about 50 members at the John Hart Dam, while General Electric has 20 members on the Turbine & Generator work.

## Marine

I chaired the Maritime Sector Advisory Group Meeting for the ITA and continue to push compulsory certification, asbestos training and building BC Ferries in BC. I am now joined by Victoria Shipyard Manager, Joe O'Rourke, as my Co-Chair so we can begin working a little closer on issues that are important to the shipbuilding industry. If we can build a better alliance between the Union and Victoria Shipyard (Seaspan) we can partner on government initiatives and approach them with a shared voice. This will give both our federal and provincial governments more confidence to build and repair shipyard work in BC. Which is why our new TV Commercial focused on the Marine Industry aired with the intent to rebut what the BC Liberals had been saying for years and the public bought into –hook, line and sinker, that we can't build ships in BC.

The commercial focuses on the fact that we are building vessels for the federal government and doing LNG conversions for the private sector, while ironically BC Ferries is sending new ferry construction and LNG conversion work overseas.

We met with Transportation Minister to discuss the railway, ferries and highway work.

Victoria Shipyard will be getting very busy again with the TOTE LNG fuel conversion and the Coast Guard coming over to dock at Ogden Point while neither of these vessels require security clearance. The HMCS Winnipeg and the New Zealand ANZAKS will be running in parallel come mid-Spring.

The Metal Trades (Shipyard) Unions sponsored the Remembrance Day Ceremony last year held at the BC Legislature and we shot a great TV Commercial commemorating the work our collective marine members do day in and day out to maintain and upgrade our Navy. I also had an interview that ended up on the front page of the Times-Colonist on the global opportunities coming in the Diesel to LNG conversions in the marine industry.

# Business Staff Duties

Over the last year we hired two new staff members, Cory McGregor and Christian MacRae. Cory worked in commercial construction as well as Industrial construction traveling through Locals 424 & 993, he also worked in the marine sector and always showed interest and a willingness to help out at the Union Meetings. For the last year Cory has been managing our technical training portfolio and services the South Island construction, as well as our members at the City of Victoria and VIHA and is the primary Dispatcher for Construction.

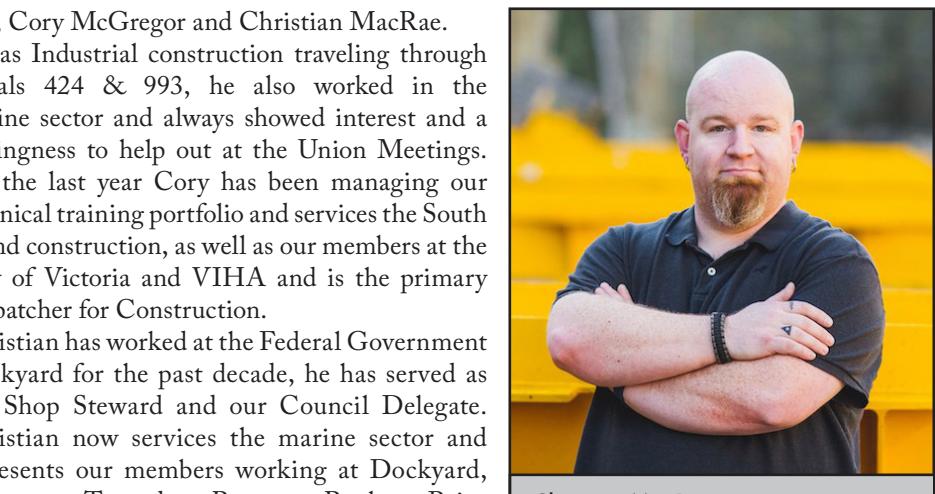
Christian has worked at the Federal Government Dockyard for the past decade, he has served as our Shop Steward and our Council Delegate. Christian now services the marine sector and represents our members working at Dockyard, Nanoose Torpedo Range, Rocky Point Munitions Depot, Victoria Shipyard, Point Hope Shipyard, Esquimalt Drydock Company,

as well as our members working at Emery Electric (marine division), Excel Power, McRae Electric and Koho Marine.

Below is a basic outline of primary tasks associated with each of our Local 230 Business Staff members. Please contact the office, Jen or Erica will help you out with apprentice administration, dues, pensions and other benefit claims, or services, and/or direct you to the appropriate staff member related to your issue.

## Phil

- Construction Negotiations
- Health and Welfare Plans
- Local Union Finances
- Legal Matters
- Political Outreach
- Group RRSP & Pension
- Bursary & Western JETS
- Promo & Marketing
- VI-Building Trades Council
- VI-Metal Trades Council



Cory McGregor



Christian MacRae



Local 230 Department of National Defence members Standing Strong with Humboldt.

## Shane

- North Island Construction
- North Island Organizing
- Motor Winders
- Wholesale
- Railway

## Cory

- South Island Construction
- W-JETS Technical Training
- City of Victoria
- Health Care Facilities
- NextGen Committee
- Dispatch Construction

## Christian

- FMF Dockyard Esquimalt/
- Rocky Point/ Nanoose
- Victoria Shipyard
- Industrial Grievances
- Dispatch Marine

## Meetings

- Nanaimo Unit
- Courtenay/ CR Unit
- North Isl. Labour Council
- VIU & NIC PAC
- North Island United Way

## Meetings

- Victoria Unit Meeting
- Victoria Labour Council
- VI-BCTC
- Camosun PAC
- Victoria United Way

## Meetings

- Marine Unit
- DTLC
- VI-MTC

# Code of Excellence and COMET Coming

We have more Code of Excellence and COMET Courses coming in June in Victoria. Remember the COE is required for all members and the COMET is required for all members planning on working non-union to pay their bills while waiting to go to work with a Union

contractor. If any south-Island members are interested in either of these Union Course contact Jen or Erica in the Union Hall to get your name on the list. We will be scheduling more for up-Island this coming Fall.

## Organizing

For the last six months, I had been meeting with the owners of Pacific Power Tech, a non-union contractor that works primarily in the High Voltage testing and calibration market to bring them into the IBEW in British Columbia, which will provide further opportunities for our members across the Province. They signed our standard construction collective agreement in April. This is great news however, after spending days meeting with the owners, and developing a better understanding of this portion of our industry, it's becoming more obvious to me that we need some separation from our Inside Wire Agreement. We also had discussions with our construction contractors who work in the Security Field to get a clearer understanding of the Security Marketplace, the quiet changes that occurred early in 2017 by the Attorney General, the training required for Technicians to do the installation and maintenance.

So, we will likely be negotiating expanded Addendums to the construction

Agreement and moving to standalone Agreements in the future if we want to be serious about maintaining a presence in the High-Voltage and Low-Voltage markets.

mandated every construction Local Union must employ at least one full-time Organizer with no other duties. This is hard work, requiring flexible hours, patience, tenacity, good

anyone as I will look at all who apply for the position. Most importantly this is NOT intended to be part-time or short-term position. It will take any intelligent electrician a good



Over the last two years, Wayne MacPhee, worked diligently in trying to organize the construction market around the south-Island, he came to me prior to the end of the year to let me know he couldn't carry on. So, I'm looking to hire an Organizer for the south-Island. The International President has

communication skills, strategic thinking and a personality that generally plays well with others. I also believe the Local's Organizer should mirror the workforce we are trying to organize, generally speaking a younger Journeyman wireman, (optimally between 28 and 38 years old). This doesn't exclude

two years just to understand the job and begin to find some success in it. Organizing is simply another apprenticeship in labour relations, and it takes time to know what you're doing and to become competent. Send your letter of interest in the job to Phil@IBEW230.org

## IBEW Local 230 Retirees 2017

Whether it be spent on the golf course or best fishing spot, wishing all our 2017 retirees the best in their retirement! Thanks for helping the industry with all your hard work. Congratulations!

Charla Mason  
Laurie Moseley  
Donald Albany  
Michael Smith

Lynn Roach  
William Cornell  
Donald Boyd  
Donald McLean

Robert Carter  
Rodney Simpson  
Stephen Sommers  
Larry Tyler

Gerald Wong  
Paul Hoshal  
Anthony Maruca