



# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 230

February 10, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**RE: Polar Icebreaker**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

We write to you as a community stakeholder and partner of Seaspan. As Business Manager of the IBEW Local 230, I represent over 400 marine electricians, electronic technicians and technologists, motor winders, and electroplaters who work in the private and public shipyard industry on Vancouver Island. These workers do everything from systems programming, to install and repair of electrical/electronic equipment aboard various Canadian vessels. Our members – current and past – are valuable, skilled workers in the marine industry, some of whom helped pioneer the shipbuilding and ship repair industries of Western Canada. As you are aware, B.C. is fighting hard to keep the Polar Icebreaker project at Seaspan's Vancouver shipyards who demonstrated their capabilities when they were originally awarded the work in 2011.

The Vancouver shipyard is purpose-built for the Polar Icebreaker and we believe it is the only shipyard truly equipped with the right labour and supply chain to efficiently build this ship. When the federal government announced in 2019 that they would be removing the Polar Icebreaker from Seaspan's NSS lineup, it left a multi-year production gap at their Vancouver shipyard. This affects B.C. and other provinces as Seaspan has announced their partnerships with Ontario-based Heddle Shipyards and Newfoundland-based Genoa Design International Ltd. As stated by Premier John Horgan, we need this project and it will sustainably employ people, use a vast supply chain, and contribute to Canada's GDP.



*Established in Victoria in 1902*

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We ask that you, the Government of Canada, make a timely decision and return the work back to B.C. The longer your decision takes, the greater the risks in terms of work-gap and production backlog. There are design teams, engineering suppliers, electrical workers, and many others that will be out of work soon due to this production gap. The Polar Icebreaker, to be Canada's most powerful conventional icebreaker, was in Seaspan's production schedule for several years. As you can imagine, this is no easy gap to fill.

We hope B.C. has Canada's support, and we hope that you can help preserve jobs and the economy for British Columbians. Our marine industry has come a long way, and this is the sort of project that can develop and maintain the shipbuilding expertise in B.C. to eliminate boom and bust cycles of vessel procurement and make Western Canada competitive both nationally and internationally.

Yours sincerely,

Philip M. Venoit  
Business Manager  
Financial Secretary

c.c.: The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement  
The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry  
The Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard  
The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of National Defence  
The Honourable John Horgan, Premier of B.C.  
The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation



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