



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 230

January 17, 2022

The Honourable Selina Robinson, M.L.A.
Minister of Finance
PO Box 9048 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Shore Power needed at Victoria's Ogden Point Cruise Ship Terminal

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on an urgent matter that concerns all British Columbians and even every Canadian. As you well know, BC has been devastated by a year classified by catastrophic natural disasters and has opened our eyes to the need for proper infrastructure investment. Specifically, I want to point out the need for shore power to tackle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

First, we talked of global warming, then climate change, and now "climate crisis." The year 2021 brought unprecedented tragedies, causing thousands of deaths, and completely disrupting the way we live. The heat wave literally boiled the shellfish in our ocean shores and killed nearly 600 people. Level 4 droughts allowed wildfires to run rampant and burn down entire towns and forests. Our air quality at one point was the worst in the world and 12 times above the exposure level recommended by the World Health Organization. We've recently endured catastrophic floods that have wiped out homes, farms, highways, railroads, and other infrastructure. This winter, regions in BC were under extreme cold warnings and Arctic outflow warnings, breaking 21 low temperature records.

It is simple, and it is clear. We can no longer use excuses like "finances" to delay or halt progress towards environmental sustainability for the several reasons listed above. The Climate Crisis has truly become a matter of life or death and will continue to be exacerbated by human activity. We need to follow in Vancouver's footsteps and aspire to be innovative leaders, invest in clean energy, create green jobs, and develop sustainable practices around our marine environment. While the Transport Canada's Shore Power Technology for Ports Program has been closed, there is no reason for BC not to take ownership in tackling environmental emergencies. We need our province to reach out to the Federal Government and come together, with the Greater Victoria Harbour Authority to fund the installation of shore power. The need for shore power at Canadian ports transcends all levels of government and is an issue that demands immediate attention, for the wellbeing of all Canadians.

This year is set to be a record-high-season for the cruise ship industry in Victoria, meaning we will welcome thousands of visitors in just a few months in 2022. While we celebrate the return of tourism and cruise ships to the city, we must also acknowledge the challenges and responsibilities. Currently, Ogden Point is the busiest cruise ship port-of-call in Canada and that undoubtedly comes with environmental duty. These ships are essentially floating cities, and when docked, they're polluting by ways of diesel exhaust fumes, engine noise, and more.



Established in Victoria in 1902

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The Ship Emission Mitigation Technology Assessment and Business Case determined in their study that more than 46% of GHG and criteria air contaminants can be eliminated at Ogden Point with the installation of shore power at two berths at Pier B. This pier welcomes about 75% of all cruise ship calls, equivalent to 1,394 cars on the road per year. This would be an incredible achievement given that cruise ships are the largest source of emissions at the Breakwater District, accounting for 96% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Pollution has been an issue for the planet and James Bay residents for years. Residents recount times when orange and brown plumes hang above the legislature while cruise ships dock. Loud, continuous rumbling of engines is a nuisance to neighbours, but moreover, it's highly detrimental to our valuable marine ecology.

It's time we focus on switching over to green marine technology as soon as possible. We are at a critical point where our environment is aggressively reacting to the abundance of pollution (GHG) we put out. As the Omicron variant takes hold, the cruise ship season could be further delayed creating the optimal opportunity to upgrade to shore power without disrupting tourism.

Another reason to upgrade Ogden Point is the most recent activity at the cruise ship terminal. The Korean cargo ship, SM Busan is docked at Ogden, possibly for a month while repairs are finished. Twenty crew members are working to fix the ship along with local workers. Opportunities like this brings hope for future work for longshore workers and highlights the need for shore power if more giant ships like this one (304 metres long) will dock at Ogden Point.

I can tell you we have the necessary skills and workforce to implement shore power. The IBEW Local 230 has over 1,300 members whom primarily work in the construction and marine industries. Shore power allows ships to connect to BC's green grid and shut down their diesel-fueled engines while docked. This alternative marine power is an effective way to reduce air emissions and improve local air quality. Let's not wait, we should take action to reduce GHG now for a cleaner, greener future

Sincerely yours,

Phil M. Venoit
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary

Cc: The Honourable John Horgan, The Premier
The Honourable Omar Alghabra, M.P., Minister of Transport
The Honourable George Heyman, M.L.A., Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
The Honourable Ravi Kahlon, M.L.A., Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation
The Honourable Bowinn Ma, M.L.A., Minister of state for Infrastructure
The Honourable Rob Fleming, M.L.A., Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
The Honourable Melanie Mark, M.L.A., Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport
Ian Robertson, CEO, Greater Victoria Harbour Authority



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