

## BC Doubles Apprenticeship Funding over the Next Three Years



**Premier David Eby Announces massive Apprenticeship Funding Increase at our Training Centre with Business Manager Venoit, surrounded by IBEW Local 230 Members.**

Late last year, we had an incredible historic announcement on Apprenticeship Funding; the Province has committed to increasing the funding into our BC Apprenticeship system to \$241 Million by graduated amounts until 2028. This funding is long overdue, and we have been calling for it for years, but it literally doubles the funding going into helping with the backlog or bottleneck of apprentices in BC to prepare us for the large infrastructure projects coming over the next decade, needed to build Canada. The announcement was made by Premier David Eby, along with Post Secondary Minister Jessie Sunner, and it was made in front of a half-dozen media outlets, and almost 100 distinguished guests, Business owners, CEO's, Executive Directors, Mayors and other MLAs. What made it exceptionally cool was that it all took place in our IBEW Local 230 Training Centre in Victoria. We put together over a dozen of our members working on electrical mock-ups like an electrical Cirque du Soleil in the background throughout the 40-minute announcement. It was the best news for apprentices in BC for over a quarter century, and having it announced at our Local 230 Training Centre was incredible. AND, it didn't stop there.

After the media wrapped up their questions in the scrum, Premier Eby presented me with a Proclamation from King Charles recognizing Local 230 for all the extraordinary work we've put into the Apprenticeship system in BC. This came as a complete (and rare) surprise; I had no idea it was coming. This recognition is shared with the great staff at Western JETS, with our joint creation of the WATT program. A program I wanted to establish to better mirror our community on Vancouver Island, providing the space for many of our members today, including impoverished youth and visible minorities to the construction industry who would have never been able to begin an apprenticeship and make their way into our Trade without us. This is also shared with the Local 230 staff who work to make our members work lives better, the Local 230 contractors who put their trust in us as a partner with their Labour needs, and of course you, the members, who embraced these long-overdue foundational changes to the face and feel of our local union.

### Volume 1: 2026

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#### Member's Dues Auto-Deposit

To send dues payment via e-Transfer, email [dues@ibew230.org](mailto:dues@ibew230.org)

Nonworking dues rate as of July 1st, 2025 :  
 "A" Members = \$58/month  
 "BA" Members = \$34/month

#### Business Hours:

Business Office: 8:00am - 5:00pm  
 Training Centre: 8:00am - 5:00pm

#### Upcoming Training:

##### Technical Training

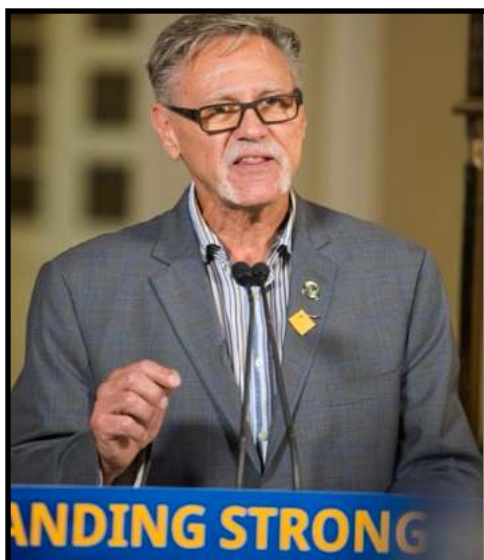
**Mar 20-22** – Fiber Optic – Nanaimo  
**Mar 28** – Solar – Victoria  
**Mar 29** – Solar – Victoria  
**Apr 7-8** – Code Update – Zoom  
**May 6-7** – Code Update – Zoom

#### 2026 IBEW CASH DRAW FOR \$20,000

- **two** cash prizes of \$2,500 on May 13
- **one** draw for \$20,000 and **two** for \$5,000 will take place as soon all tickets have been sold.

Contact the office at 250-388-7374 ext. 8 or email [communications@ibew230.org](mailto:communications@ibew230.org) to purchase tickets.

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



**Phil Venoit, IBEW 230  
Business Manager / Financial Secretary  
Speaking to the media at the BC  
Legislative Building**

It has been an incredibly busy Fall and Winter.

**We had federal Secretary of State for Labour, John Zerucelli, visit us, and took a tour of our Training Centre, where he met with our pre-apprenticeship WATT class, presented three new Journey Electricians with their Red Seal Certificates, and met with Training Staff to discuss several important items to our Local 230 membership, like Training, Affordable Housing, the Shipbuilding Industry, Temporary Foreign Workers, and more... A couple weeks later Minister Zerucelli went on to tell Parliament in Ottawa of his visit;**

**"Mister Speaker, I had the honour of presenting red seals to three new apprentices of the IBEW Local 230 in Victoria, BC. Mister Speaker, they're proud of what they accomplished. They are optimistic about the future because, Mister Speaker, we are going to put them to work. We're gonna build homes. We're building in for major infrastructure projects in the national interest. Thousands of jobs, thousands of opportunities for apprenticeship. Mister Speaker, while the Conservatives come to this house and talk Canada down every day, we're gonna be supporting workers who are building Canada up."**

This is the second time Local 230 was mentioned in Parliament in 2025.

Canada's Prime Minister, Mark Carney, gave a globally recognized epic speech in Davos at the World Economic Forum. He described our current economic situation as a "rupture, not a transition," that the previous rules-based order is fading. I would suggest it really wasn't working all that great for working people to begin with. The "rules" were made by the wealthy who wanted to hold onto their wealth, and by and large they've accomplished that, and more. The top 1% of Canadians own about 25% of Canada's wealth, (or \$1.25 trillion, or about the same as 80% of the Canadian population). While the bottom 40% of Canadians own just 3% of Canada's wealth. The Canadian Middle Class was Union made and built off our members' blood and sweat, and it's time to use this reset to benefit us.

The projects that are being announced across our country. The construction related activity around our country, is our chance to level things up again.

**Some of the Nation Building Projects** being pushed forward by the federal government at this time are; Churchill Falls and Gull Island in Newfoundland, Offshore Wind Projects in Nova Scotia, a New Nuclear Reactor in Point Lepreau New Brunswick, LNG Terminal in Saguenay Quebec, New Nuclear at Bruce Power, Expansion of SMR's and the Ring of Fire in Ontario, more Dams, and a Liquefaction Plant in Hudson Bay Manitoba, more SMR's Phase 2 of the BPH Potash Mine in Saskatchewan, New Natural Gas and Oil Pipelines, and the East-West Energy Corridor in Alberta, Phase 2 of Canada LNG in Kitimat, plus almost \$30 billion in BC Hydro projects, and a big increase to military spending will impact our Island's construction members and our marine members after the construction work is complete.

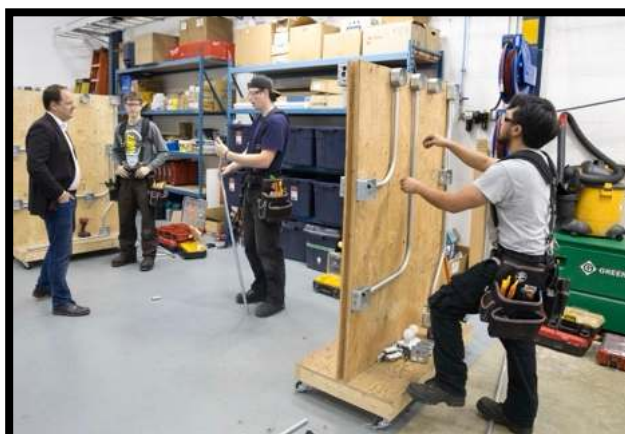
It was also reported to me late last year; closer to home we are looking at over \$400 million dollars of electrical work coming out to tender on Vancouver Island in 2026. This is an incredible amount of work, and it should keep every electrical contractor union and non-union busy. This is great news allowing wages to rise in the non-union and provides a great environment for wage increases for our construction members as well.

**We met as the BC Construction Bargaining Council** for seven days going through the long-drawn-out process of all 16 construction unions proposals, putting in the necessary time to ensure no union was putting something forward that could harm another union, and deciding whether something belonged at the main table with all construction unions, or a trade table for bargaining for a specific union. We have started provincial construction negotiations, and set aside much of the next few months to achieve a memorandum to bring back to the members to vote on.

Coming off our incredible win in Arbitration last year on behalf of our Dockyard members, a story on this is coming next month in the IBEW Electrical Worker.

**We entered into negotiations at Victoria Shipyard.** Victoria Shipyard is a Boilermakers Lodge 191 Certification and this was the first time we were invited as guests to bargaining. We met two-dozen days in face-to-face negotiations, and reached a tentative agreement. The collective members ratified the Memorandum of Settlement with a 29.8% increase, plus further money in their retirement over a 4-year term. With a 16% increase March 1st, will take Journey trade rate to \$56.69 per hour.

Like any round of bargaining there are problems with some of the contemplated changes pursued by the employer, and I've re-presented those issues as ongoing, and looking to meet with the employer to resolve them to our member's benefit, the employer has shown a willingness to meet, and I'll be reporting back to the members on this.



**The Honourable John Zerucelli and three Local 230  
WATT Apprentices**

# Retired Members of 2025

<b>Doug Alden</b>	24-year member
<b>Ronald Ballard</b>	28-year member
<b>Gerhard Bender</b>	45-year member
<b>Daniel Brooks</b>	48-year member
<b>Donald Cornell</b>	44-year member
<b>Michael Crucil</b>	44-year member
<b>Fernando De Jesus</b>	15-year member
<b>Denis Desjardins</b>	32-year member
<b>Norman Emery</b>	40-year member



<b>Laurie Jordan</b>	32-year member
<b>Joe Kolic</b>	36-year member
<b>Roy McPherson</b>	59-year member
<b>Wieslaw Opasinski</b>	30-year member
<b>Walter Paravicini</b>	43-year member
<b>Heyno Sauermann</b>	51-year member
<b>Michael Slanina</b>	43-year member
<b>Brian Wilson</b>	11-year member

## In Memory Of

*With sadness and fond memories, we said goodbye to 7 members in 2025. They will be deeply missed and forever in our thoughts.*

<b>Gordon Ells</b>	73-year member
<b>Marc Griffiths</b>	2-year member
<b>Harvey Steeves</b>	60-year member
<b>Stephen Tattrie</b>	68-year member

<b>Barry Dalman</b>	37-year member
<b>James Giles</b>	37-year member
<b>Guy Blanchet</b>	12-year member



## 41st IBEW International Conventional Call

The IBEW reviews its Constitution every five years. The International Convention is the body which decides any amendments, their impact, and how they will guide the IBEW through the next five years and beyond. The 41st Convention will be held from September 21st – 25th, 2026 in San Diego. The Delegates and Alternates are nominated and appointed in accordance with the Local 230 Bylaws and the IBEW Constitution, Article 2, section 10, and Article 17. The Local 230 Business Manager and President serve as delegates to the Convention by virtue of their respective offices. While further Local 230 Delegates and alternates are elected At Large. Candidates must be members of the Local Union with at least twenty-four months of “continuous good standing” in Local 230 prior to the month of Nominations, and a Journey-level worker in their recognized classification.

Nominations for Local 230 Delegates and alternates will occur under New Business at the Regular Unit Meetings during the month of May 2026. If an election is required it will be by a mailed secret ballot vote. Those receiving the highest number of votes will fill the allowable number of Delegates representing Local 230, which will be determined consistent with Article 2, Section 8 of the IBEW Constitution. All ballots must be returned in the designated post office box by noon on July 3, 2026. The vote will take place at the IBEW Local 230 Training Centre located at 859 Viewfield Road, Victoria, B.C., and will be counted that afternoon under the direction of the Election Judge as appointed by the Local Union’s President, and as many Tellers as the Election Judge determines necessary. The President has appointed Brother Adrien Livingston as the Election Judge for the IBEW International Convention Delegate count.

Local 230 members putting their name forward as a delegate must be able to legally clear customs to enter the United States in Vancouver, BC with a valid and accepted passport. The Executive Board cannot stress enough this is NOT a vacation, it is work. Every day you will be required to show up on time and stay until the Convention is adjourned, every day. One further serious consideration is the recent actions of the White House deploying it’s 30,000 ICE Agents into several cities throughout the United States and although, their actions appear brutal and heinous inside a democracy, we are not going to a rally or a support mission on U.S. democracy. Due to this street level discord, the Executive Board has decided it much less-safe to travel by road, and therefore Delegates attending the IBEW International Convention must board a flight as determined by the local union which will be made closest to the delegate’s residence for their convenience, disembark in San Diego and without undue delay report to their assigned Convention Hotel and the same in reverse at the Close of Convention. Local 230 Delegates will NOT participate in any Immigration Customs Enforcement or Homeland Security protests or non-IBEW Local 230 sanctioned politically motivated events. And, it is generally understood if a Local 230 Delegate participates in this type of event, they are acting on their own volition and will be held solely responsible, and therefore personally legally accountable for their actions.

This year the IBEW turns 135 years old, let’s recognize that by putting our best foot forward!

# Nomination for IBEW Local 230 Election Call

Nominations for Officers of Local Union 230 will be held consistent with the IBEW Constitution, the Local 230 Bylaws, and any variation as described herein as follows: A member placing the name of another member in nomination for office when the member is not present, shall at the time the nomination is made, give to the Unit Recording Secretary evidence, in writing, signed by the nominee, that the nominee agrees to be a candidate for a specific Local Union office. No member may be a candidate for more than one Office. Anyone nominated to more than one Office must declare the Office for which they will be a candidate.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous good standing in Local Union 230. "Good standing" means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the two (2) years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold office in the Local Union. The election of officers shall be conducted by mail ballot.

Nominations will proceed in the order of Offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of office shall be the balance of three (3) years (to July 2029).

President Raj Takhar has appointed Darren Baxter to perform the role of Election Judge and Kale Anguish as the Sergeant of Arms for the purposes of all nomination meetings and election venues for the counts. Judge Baxter has named two (2) tellers from the Local to assist with the collection and ballot count.

## NOMINATION CALL FOR UNION OFFICERS

Nominations for Officers of Local Union 230 will be held as follows:

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement of willingness that they will accept the specific nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one Office. Anyone nominated to more than one Office must choose the Office for which they will be a candidate.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous good standing in Local Union 230. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the two (2) years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold Office in the Local Union.

Nominations will proceed in the order of Offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of Office shall be three (3) years.

IBEW Local 230 Nominations for the positions of President (and Delegate to the 41st International Convention), Vice President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary (and Delegate to the 41st International Convention), and Treasurer will occur at the following Unit Meetings during the month of April 2026.

### Marine Unit 5 - April 8

5:00PM - IBEW Training Centre  
859 Viewfield Road, Victoria

### Victoria Unit 1 - April 9

7:00PM - IBEW Training Centre  
859 Viewfield Road, Victoria

### Nanaimo Unit 2 - April 15

7:00PM - IBEW Nanaimo Office  
306-477 Wallace Street, Nanaimo

### Courtenay/Campbell River Unit 4 - April 16

7:00PM - Halbe Hall  
8369 Island Highway, Black Creek

## THE ELECTION FOR UNION OFFICERS

**Date:** June 30, 2026

**Time:** The Election Judge and Tellers will leave the Local 230 Training Centre just prior to 10:00AM and arrive at the designated PO Box to empty and pick up the ballots at 10:00AM. Candidates or their written Designate may witness the emptying of the PO box.

**Place:** Candidates or their Designate may observe the counting of the ballots but must maintain 6 feet of space from the ballots at all times. The ballots will be counted at the IBEW Local 230 Training Centre located at:

**859 Viewfield Road  
Victoria, BC  
V9A 4V1**



## NOMINATION CALL & ELECTION FOR UNIT OFFICERS

Nominations for Unit Officers of Local Union 230 will be held as follows:

Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the nominations or provide a written and signed statement of willingness that they will accept the specific nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one Office. Anyone nominated to more than one Office must choose the Office for which they will be a candidate.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous good standing in Local Union 230. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the two (2) years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold Office in the Local Union.

Nominations will proceed in the order of Offices as listed below whose term of Office shall be three (3) years.

IBEW Local 230 nominations and elections for the positions of Unit Chair and Executive Board Member, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary for each of the Unit Meetings will occur at the following Unit Meetings during the month of June 2026.

### Marine Unit 5 - June 10

5:00PM - IBEW Training Centre  
859 Viewfield Road, Victoria

### Victoria Unit 1 - June 11

7:00PM - IBEW Training Centre  
859 Viewfield Road, Victoria

### Nanaimo Unit 2 - June 17

7:00PM - IBEW Nanaimo Office  
306-477 Wallace Street, Nanaimo

### Courtenay/Campbell River Unit 4 - June 18

7:00PM - Halbe Hall  
8369 Island Highway, Black Creek