

## Cowichan District Hospital Rocks!



IBEW 230 Members working on the Cowichan

The new Cowichan District Hospital (CDH) is being built on the unceded traditional territory of Quw'ustun (Cowichan) People. This seven-story tower, 200-bed facility will be over three times larger than its replacement in Duncan, and 800 free parking spaces. With the use of BC's mass timber and glass bringing in plenty of natural light will provide a great connection to its natural surroundings, overlooking the Valley. Something for IBEW members to be proud of is, this is the first fully electric hospital in BC reducing its carbon footprint in our community and province.

A little over a month ago, I saw that the RBC had purchased a signed acoustic Nickelback guitar and was raffling it off with the proceeds to go to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation, matched by Jim Pattison to raise money for needed medical equipment that was not in the original budget for the hospital.

I thought what a great charitable cause for us to get behind, and with the contractors

support, we purchased a raffle ticket for every member onsite with a chance to win the guitar, the synergy was too cool to pass up, not only do our members put their skill and experience in continuing to build the Cowichan Community with a number of recent legacy projects like a new RCMP station, affordable housing, high-school and now a new hospital that will serve the community for over the next half-century, but to put our experience, skills and money for such an important benevolent cause, it just made too much sense, and continues to portray the IBEW on Vancouver Island as the Union of Hearts and Minds.



Chelsea B. wins the Nickelback guitar!

AND... I'm thrilled to say one of our own apprentices, sister Chelsea Banner won the guitar!!! As highlighted on the front page of the Cowichan Valley Citizen newspaper.



IBEW 230 Members working for Thomis and Ainsworth

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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

Nov 22-23- Low Voltage/Data - Victoria  
Dec 5-7- Fiber Optic - Victoria  
Dec 9-10 - 2024 CEC Update - online  
Dec 13-14- Solar Course - Victoria

#### Construction Safety Training

Victoria Courses:

Nov 24 - Fall Pro  
Dec 8, 19 - Fall Pro  
Nov 20, 29 - MEWP  
Dec 4, 11, 18 - MEWP

Nanaimo Courses:

Nov 22, 25 - Fall Pro  
Dec 17 - Fall Pro  
Nov 27 - MEWP  
Dec 9, 15 - MEWP

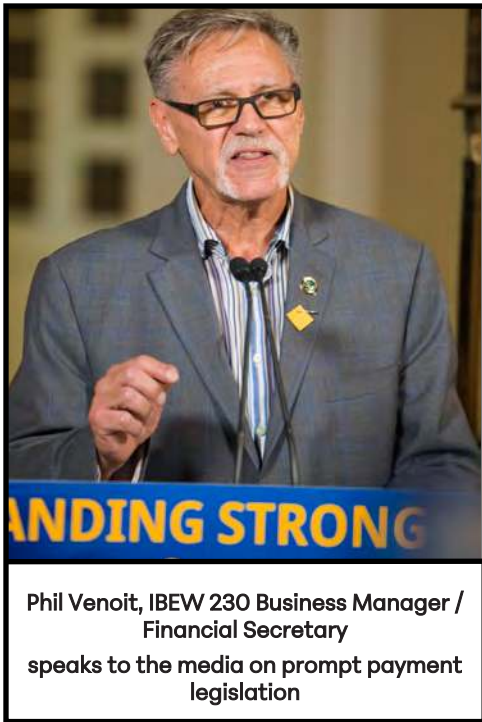
Courtenay Courses:

Nov 18 - Fall Pro

#### Holiday Closure

Our offices will be closed Dec. 25 - Jan. 2  
We reopen on Monday, Jan. 5 at 8:00am

# BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



## PROMPT PAYMENT

Prompt payment is finally nearing a Legislative end.

This important Bill will require clients, developers, and general contractors to pay out their sub trades within a reasonable scheduled period of time. We've seen our members pay the price of not getting paid because clients and developers couldn't pay out their contractors, and in turn, setback or even bankrupt our contractors. When that happens, it's our members who don't get paid, lose retirement, and Health and Welfare contributions, as well as the ability to pay their immediate needs, along with a termination notice. This is an important legislative change for our contractors and our membership.

## DOCKYARD MEMBERS

After years without a renewed Contract, and after months of Negotiations breaking down between the Federal Treasury Board, the Department of National Defence, and the Dockyard Trades and Labour Council, pushing us to impasse and moving us to a Binding Arbitrated Decision. Our members have had their patience finally pay off. Our members not only received the standard

increases enjoyed by the balance of the federal civil servants, not only did the Arbitrator see the injustice in their previous Arbitration yanked away from them by the Harper Conservative Government in 2012, but he saw the obvious existence of the bias and gap of basic pay equity between the East Coast and the West Coast workforce working on the same vessels performing the same work with the same credentials, as just plain wrong.

These are our marine electricians, electronic technicians, technologists and electro-platers who maintain our Naval Vessels and the equipment and weapons aboard them. Arbitrator Kaplan's questions and managements answers I believe have led our members to a just financial conclusion.

As usual, this was a great team effort, from our members proposals, ABM Anguish in getting these together and presenting them to Council, for the vetting committee to do their work. Then our Delegates Jon Gable, Daniel Nelson and Marine Chair Jeremy Switzer who joined me in their comments in helping to shape the Lawyers and Arbitrator's thoughts, and likely the outcome and decision.

Our members were awarded what amounted to about a 22-28% (dependent on what level of pay and what trade classification) increase by January 1st 2026 rolls around, with retro-pay I'm hearing will be significant for members that had worked there during the entire time the collective agreement reached its open period.

This is recognition of our members skills and responsibilities in maintaining the Pacific Canadian Naval fleet has been long-overdue and I'm incredibly happy to be part of the resolution for them.

## VICTORIA SHIPYARD NEGOTIATIONS

I've sat for 6 days now along with the Boilermakers, and the rest of the Metal Trades Managers and Reps, and with Seaspan to negotiate a renewal to the Victoria Shipyard Agreement. We have provided a full proposal package and been working through that. We have had a hiccup, both parties to a degree putting out communications to the

workforce and I'm hoping we can re-establish a decorum that would offer the appropriate process a fair chance to evolve and a fair agreement for those working at Victoria Shipyard.

## INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION & SHIPBUILDING

I was invited by the Canadian Intergovernmental Conference Secretariat to attend their Canadian summit on backing the Canadian Steel market by building ferries and rail in Canada. It was so positive to hear everyone get behind a national strategy despite incredible adversary in the face of Trump's Tariffs. The only real flaming bag on the doorstep of the day-long Conference was Buy Chinese (BC) Ferries, who became adamant that Chinese yards paid similar wages and benefits, had similar labour and safety laws, and environmental practices as Canada. Left most in the room stunned. Chrystia Freeland called him out on it, saying he was mistaken in these respects. The rail industry in Ontario and Quebec are both building new and replacing old rail lines and are committed to using Canadian made steel. Davie Shipyard, and Seaspan remain committed to using Canadian made steel as long as their contracts require Canadian content. Which is something we have to push both levels of government to require in their vessel construction on the west coast.

On the BC Ferries/shipbuilding file, I had a CFX radio interview based on my published letter to the editor following my meeting with federal Transportation Minister on supporting the Canadian Steel Industry, a TradeTalk Magazine story interview on the history of building BC Ferries in BC, and a meeting with the Jobs and Economic Growth Minister, Ravi Kahlon, in a more generic discussion on industrial opportunities in shipbuilding in BC with former federal Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan, on how to build out the Canadian Naval Fleet in the most efficient and quickest way possible beginning with more new Orca Class Training Vessels we built in Esquimalt over a decade ago. I've also joined the BC Ferries & Marine Workers Union in consideration of a campaign to right the heading on their ship construction practices.

# Local 230 NextGen Youth Conference 2025



Local 230 Youth Members, Staff, and IBEW Representatives at NextGen

In late September, we held our third triennial Local 230 Youth Conference. We brought in almost fifty Local 230 youth members from all over Vancouver Island to participate in two solid days of education and networking with peers.



**KAIROS Blanket Exercise** is an experiential teaching tool that explores the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the land we call Canada

We started Day 1 with a history on how and why we put the Committee and Conference together, then moved into two heavier subjects of Drug and Alcohol Abuse. It became incredibly sobering to hear two counsellors' tragic story of their lives in construction while using, and took a nose-dive from there. When we were asked if we had a family member or close friend die from an overdose or suicide, and to watch 90% of the participants get up and

line up to put a post-it-note on the wall with the person's name who passed. Some with multiple names could have made anyone's heart sink. We also had our folks from Green Health put on a Stress Management seminar. From there we moved into Your Financial Story with Richard Hughes from CBPP.

After lunch, Cory McGregor presented on the importance of developing a Culture of Safety, then International staff members Dayna Gill and Dustin Brecht put on a class on the importance of Organizing, then to wrap up Day 1 International Staff Brandon Dyck hosted a Panel on "Why Politics?" with MLAs Darlene Rotchford, Parliamentary Secretary of Labour from Esquimalt/Colwood and George Anderson Parliamentary Secretary on Transit from Nanaimo-Lantzville.



Political Panel with Business Manager Venoit, IO Rep Brandon Dyck, MLA Darlene Rotchford, and MLA George Anderson

On Day 2, we had BC Building Trades Executive Director Brynn Bourke present on the state of construction in BC. We had Kairos come back for their second conference and perform a blanket exercise explaining through an indigenous perspective what colonization in Canada looked like.

After lunch, the BC Federation of Labour provided a session on Changing Climate, Changing Economy Worker Engagement, and to wrap up the day, we held our Youth Committee Nominations and Elections. I'm proud to say our incoming Chair is Lexi Redman, Vice-Chair is James White, and Recording Secretary is Riley Jurgensen.



Training Coordinator Cory McGregor presents on the IBEW's culture of safety

We celebrated the event with a dinner and keynote speaker past International Representative and BC Federation of Labour President, Local 230 Member Laird Cronk, who spoke of a couple fond memories of his active time in our local union.

I heard from a good portion of the delegates and they were all genuinely thrilled about the two solid days of great union tertiary information and education. Over those two days, our Local 230 youth were all engaged and showed interest at every turn, this is what makes it all worthwhile.

Thanks to all our sponsors and speakers that made the event incredibly successful!

# Congratulations to our new Red Seal Electricians!



**Top Left:** Alexandra R., Danny T., Yvonne B.

**Middle Left:** Wade E., Nicholas W. William C.

## Confined Space Awareness (30-minute time commitment)

These courses are available on the WJETS website under the Online Training tab. They will be completed through the VuBiz link.

### How to Access VuBiz:

1. Create a WJETS account: Your member card number is your username.
2. Once logged in, navigate to the Online Training section and select the VuBiz link.
3. If you're a first-time user, choose "First Time User," and enter your member card number, along with your first and last name.
4. The default password is "IBEW2." After the initial login, you can use your member card number and "IBEW2" for future logins.

### Certificates:

All completed courses will have certificates saved in your VuBiz account, including both a full-sized version and a wallet-sized certificate.