

BC Conservatives' Anti-Union Bill M233



Union Leaders March to Legislative Assembly of BC

Early in March, Conservative Member of the BC Legislative Assembly Kiel Giddens forwarded an Anti-Union Bill, attempting to outlaw Project Labour Agreements that unions like the IBEW have signed with the BC government for well over six decades. These Union Agreements help ensure BC's infrastructure projects are built on-time and budget, without Labour unrest, and using the most qualified skilled trades workforce in BC. Attempting to outlaw projects like the Cowichan Hospital, or the Dam work we've worked on and built over the last century on Vancouver Island, illegal to be a Union job only, is an ideology that has steeped in the Conservative Party in BC since the 1980's.

Thousands of workers and union supporters signed the petition, and emailed their MLA calling on them to oppose this legislation. Many trades workers shared personal stories about how they've benefitted from work on CBA projects. Local 230 had close to 20 members come out to help fill the gallery on two separate days to show a visual opposition facing the Conservatives while they attempted to twist and spin their anti-union bill. Our members knew they were protecting good paying union jobs, and I would like to thank them all for that show of solidarity on behalf of all of our members working in construction.

The BC legislature voted on the BC Conservative bill to ban community

benefits and any other project Labour agreements, and open up public infrastructure jobs to out-of-province workers, and to unscrupulous contractors with no oversight who often abuse their workforce while using tax payers' money to do it.

I personally met with Premier Eby, Labour Minister Whiteside, Infrastructure Minister Ma, and several other MLAs to explain how this would negatively impact our membership, and how important it was to bounce this borderline discriminatory Bill. And, We Won! Thanks to

many of you who showed up, to those who signed the petition, who wrote letters to their local papers, and were active on their social media accounts. 48 BC NDP and BC Green MLAs voted to protect BC jobs. While 42 MLAs, all elected as BC Conservatives, voted to remove those protections, and against BC Skilled Trades rights to a good paying Union job.

The Cowichan Hospital project has generated almost \$30 million in wages and benefits paid to the 271 Local 230 members, that have worked on that job to the end of 2025. That means mortgages/rents and bills paid, food on the table and hopefully some leisure money left over. And, this is, what's at stake in this insidious attempt tabled by the BC Conservatives, who only last year was pouring their admiration and allegiance into pretending to give a flying-kite about Blue Collar Construction workers, they are once again showing their true selves. If it was left up to them, we would have no hope in asbestos abatement legislation making our jobs safer, no 5 Sick Days, or even the simple decency of having access to flush toilets, and running water. We've stopped the attack for now, but the BC Conservatives voted to scrap PLAs and CBAs and we now know we need to be ready to continue to fight for IBEW jobs going in to the next Provincial Election.

Volume 2: 2026

Inside This Issue

Page 1:

- BC Conservatives Attempt Anti-Union Bill M233

Page 2:

- Business Manager's Report

Page 3:

- Executive Board Election Results
- Convention Delegate Results
- Training Centre Goes Green

Page 4:

- Congratulations New Red Seals!

Member's Dues Auto-Deposit

To send dues payment via e-Transfer, email dues@ibew230.org

Business Hours:

Business Office: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Training Centre: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Upcoming Training:

Technical Training

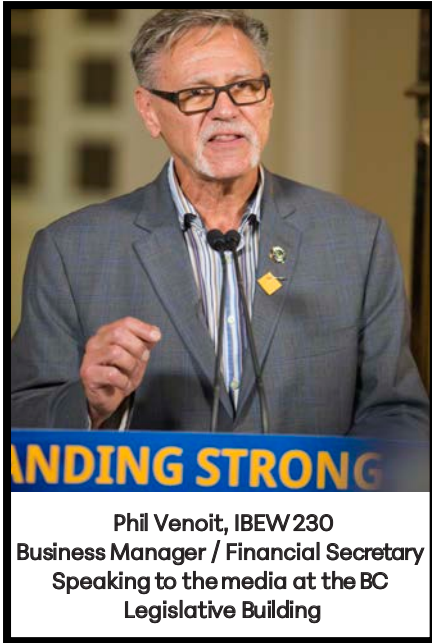
Aug 8 | Power over Ethernet | Victoria
Aug 26-27 | Code Update | Online
Sept 9-10 | Code Update | Online

JRD Training

Aug 7 | Fall Protection | Victoria
Aug 10 | MEWP | Victoria
Aug 24 | MEWP | Victoria
Aug 28 | Fall Protection | Victoria

Aug 6 | MEWP | Nanaimo
Aug 12 | Fall Protection | Nanaimo
Aug 25 | Fall Protection | Nanaimo
Aug 27 | MEWP | Nanaimo

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



The new Local 230 Website is up and running, with some new features like the "Upcoming Projects" page intended to let the members know of the work that our contractors have bid successfully and know where and which employer is doing the work, these projects will cover larger jobs all around the Island. The member's portal is still being worked on, and for those who were looking forward to see some changes to the dispatch process, this will become a key feature for the members to see firsthand of the work being offered to the members. I'll explain all of that when we reach our beta testing stage, as we went with a separate company for the member only portion of the website.

The Esquimalt High-School had a leak in the roof above the space used for their robotics class. Local 230 came

to the rescue with some much needed replacement preparation space for the High School robotics team, the "Atom Smashers". This talented Robotics class, was prepping to go down to Houston Texas to compete at the World's FIRST Robotics Tournament. They won the Spirit Award, link to video here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GhQ1xbHjFJerQOpjKDEHzk5YDw51v0wr?usp=sharing>

Let's pause looking to the future for a minute to celebrate the past. Local 230 was added to the BC Labour Heritage Society's Greater Victoria Labour History Walking Tour. You can find it on their app, or you can access it on the web using this link:

<https://bclhc.stary.app/>

What used to be one tour for Victoria is now two tours. If you select "Victoria Harbour South: The Working Waterfront" tour, you'll see that it starts at Fisherman's Wharf with the story "Turning the Lights on in Victoria," which talks about the IBEW Local 230 and its long history of building out early electrical infrastructure on Vancouver Island.

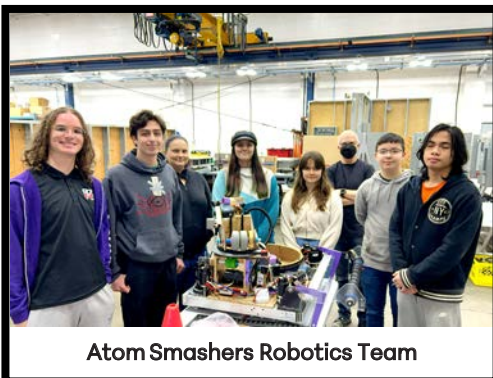


City of Victoria Shop Steward Riley Slinn, was working in the Fort and Fernwood area while digging to prepare for some new streetlight work, he came across a long piece of cedar, bored out and soaked in creosote to stop the bugs from devouring it. Inside the bored-out portion was old electrical conductors likely used to power-up a station for the City's electric

street trolley used throughout Victoria in the early 1900s.

As part of Canada's Building Trades Unions, we welcome the federal government's launch of the Build Communities Strong Fund, a \$51 billion investment that will drive the construction of critical infrastructure across the country, from community centers and hospitals to transit and water systems. This long-term commitment will support tens of thousands of skilled trades jobs each year while helping build stronger, more resilient communities. The IBEW and CBTU affiliates are ready to partner in delivering these projects and ensuring the benefits reach workers through good-paying careers, expanded training opportunities, and continue to provide inclusive pathways into the trades.

But this is only the beginning, the Defence spend is a whopping \$500 Billion, and a good chunk of that will be on Vancouver Island, between CFB Comox, the Barracks that will be needed to house the increased personnel, the new installations to support the new surface and sub-surface vessels. Our construction membership voted in favour of the proposed increases to the Inside Electrical Workers standard Agreement of 3.5%, 3.75%, and 3.75% over the next three years, (or about \$2.00/year), as well as a number of other beneficial changes, to our Living Out and Meal Allowances, our Steward Pay, we agreed upon a stipend for Job Ready Training, increased our membership with the addition of Field Engineers, and more. We Settled the BCIB Agreement for the Cowichan Hospital by almost mirroring the construction agreement. These two rounds of bargaining for our construction members will continue to support the Labour harmony our members have benefited from for decades.



2026 Executive Board Election Results

I would like to begin by thanking those members who put their names forward in this years election of Local 230 Officers. There is a great deal of responsibility, work, and understanding of the importance, and what is in the best interests for the Local Union and the Local 230 membership always in focus for the Officers.

I would also like to thank the members who participated in our democratic process, with their due care and consideration of electing leaders to continue to move our Local Union forward.

Finally, my task would have been much greater if not for the help and hard work of our two Election Tellers Brothers Jon Gable and Jeremy Switzer, and Sergeant of Arms Brother Kale Anguish.

The Election Results for the Executive Board are as follows:

Table Officers

President - Raj Takhar
Vice-President - Jackie Oliver
Recording Secretary - Lauren Scott-Moncrieff
Business Manager/Financial Secretary - Phil Venoit
Treasurer - Adrien Livingston

Unit Elections

Victoria Unit Chair - Al Sotkoway
Nanaimo Unit Chair - Evan Dickinson
Courtenay/Campbell River Unit Chair - vacant
Marine Unit Chair - Jeremy Switzer

I feel confident the local union is in good hands with the sound stewardship, knowledge and experience as I look around the table.

I wish the Officers and membership all the best going forward, as there are over 1600 Island member families' livelihood and standard of living depend on every decision.

Fraternally,
Darren Baxter, Election Judge

IBEW International Convention Delegates Election Results:

This year, Local 230 is entitled to have 6 delegates. The Business Manager and President serve as delegates to the Convention by virtue of their respective elected office. Our President decided to formally withdraw from the convention leaving 5 delegate positions. Below are the results of the delegate election:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Phil Venoit, Business Manager/Financial Secretary | 3. Kale Anguish | 5. Al Sotkoway |
| 2. Cory McGregor | 4. Greg Gyorfi | 6. Jordan Gilmour |

Local 230 Training Centre goes Green

With big thanks to funding provided through the Canadian Apprenticeship Strategy (CAS) Government Grant, we are thrilled with the purchase of new training equipment that will enhance both our training capacity and facility infrastructure. A new solar energy system, consisting of 30 kWh of solar panels and three 10 kW inverters, will significantly expand our renewable energy training opportunities. The system will help offset the facility's electrical costs while allowing excess power to be sold back to BC Hydro, providing members with hands-on experience in modern solar energy technologies.

We also received a 60 kW backup generator and 400-amp automatic transfer switch. This equipment will provide emergency power to the building and support the development of a new Generator Operation and Maintenance Training Program, giving members valuable practical skills in backup power systems and electrical generation technologies. These investments strengthen our commitment to providing industry-leading training while supporting sustainable and resilient energy solutions for the future.

I'm proud to announce on Tuesday, July 14th our Training Centre Hydro meter started spinning backwards!



Top-left: Panel installation
Top-right: Transfer Switches
Bottom: Solar Panel Delivery

Congratulations to our New Red Seals!



Top Left to Right: Jared W., Nicholas W., Matteo L.

Middle Left to Right: Cole R., Samuel C., Douglas M.

Bottom Left to Right: Tucker H., Jesse L., James E.