

South Island Construction Continues To Grow



Contrary to the economic downturn experienced around the world and as close as some of our forest industry dependent communities, the value of major construction projects planned or underway across BC has risen to over \$188 Billion! up an additional 11% over last year, and

the south Island is seeing its share of that construction. Western Pacific Enterprises is on the new 500 bed acute care facility at the Royal Jubilee Hospital currently employing 75 members and still ramping up manpower.

The \$300 million dollar "Uptown", with over 3/4's of a million of mixed use retail and office space coming out of the ground in a serious way on the old Town and Country Mall site will accommodate tenants such as Best Buy, Future Shop, and a Wal-Mart Supercentre, the parkades will have 2700 stalls, Houle Electric is doing Uptown phase 1 A), and appears to have 1 B) as well, while Canem Systems appears to have the Wal-Mart on-site.



The fourth phase to Fleet Maintenance Facility Cape Breton, a three year project includes a large addition to accommodate industrial and office functions, extensive renovation of office areas and the existing cafeteria, a new plating shop and waste water treatment facility in the Esquimalt Dockyard was awarded to



Houle Electric. These three projects are some of the largest we have seen on the Island for some time and it's great news that it will be Local 230 members performing the work.

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News/Notes:

- **Marine Unit Change to accommodate Remembrance Day. The meeting will occur November 10th at the Dockyard Legion 5:00 PM**
- **Port Alberni Christmas Information Meeting December 15, 2009 Tyee Motel 7:00 PM 4151 Redford Street**
- **Business Office will close over the Christmas Holiday Season from 12:00 December 24th to January 4th, 2010.**

Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

With Construction bargaining around the corner I met with our Affiliates in the BC Bargaining Council of Building Trades Unions and with Mike Fleming from the BC Labour Relations Board to discuss three items:

The Carpenter and CMAW/CEP and how they will fit in upcoming construction negotiations;

Upcoming Negotiations and how they will be conducted and our recommendations to a proposed structure; which is a good discussion to have when you consider the last round of negotiations we had twelve separate Labour Board challenges before we could actually wrap-up negotiations, and hopefully this discussion will go along way to avert these types of legal delays; and

How we would accommodate the BC Labour Code requirement of having ongoing labour/management meetings during the

closed period of the collective agreements.

If any construction members want to submit proposals for upcoming negotiations next spring please get them into me by mid November, in writing by letter or email.

With the mid-shore patrol project going to Irving Shipyards in Halifax which leaves us with a large hole of unemployment in the private shipyards over a good portion of 2010 before the sub-marine project starts up. Meanwhile the Federal Government is looking at a shipbuilding procurement policy where "Centre's of Shipbuilding Excellence" are contemplated to be created in three or four regions around the country, east coast (likely in Halifax) on the Saint Lawrence (likely in Quebec), somewhere on the Great Lakes (in Ontario) to service and re-build the Great Lakes shipping fleet, and on the west coast. Not willing to wait and see what Victoria Shipyard was going to put forward, IBEW Local 230 along with the Pipe fitters Local 324, Sheet metal workers Local 276, and the Labourers Local 1204 unions co-wrote our own policy highlighting Esquimalt as one of those Centre's of Excellence, and the preferred site (for the west coast).

Since we forwarded our proposal in mid-September, the Metal Trades unions have met with Washington Marine Group's senior Vice-President Spiro Risvos to discuss the west coast participation along with our proposal, they've come on-board,

and we will be setting out a strategy to get the west coast centre. Victoria Shipyard was recently awarded the project to build five more 50 foot Search and Rescue vessels for the Canadian Coast Guard.

We recently met with the **Campbell River Shaw employees to prepare for upcoming negotiations**, Shaw has done a good deal of hiring over the last six months and with them moving into the telephone business they have plans to build the crew possibly to fifty members.

The **Statement of Claim** has been filed on behalf of our Dockyard members **Bill C-10 Charter Challenge in the BC Supreme Court** and in response the Treasury Board has replied by asking for two answers to questions prior to submitting their Statement of Defence;

Who has been violated by the supposed breach of the Act, and

Under which part of the Act did the violations take place?

We have responded by directing our lawyer to file an order of compliance, which basically letting them know we are not interested in playing games and get on with filing Treasury Boards Statement of Defence. In the spirit of Brotherhood, and so we can approach this case shoulder to shoulder with our Dockyard Affiliate Unions we decided to withdraw our Duty of Fair Representation case against the Dockyard Council so we can focus our attention on getting our members their arbitrated 5.2%.

The Union Plus scholarship program is open to IBEW members and their families who are students attending or planning to attend a college or university, a community college, a technical college or trade school. For further information and an application for the scholarship go to the Local 230 Training Page on our website at: www.ibew230.org



Employment Insurance



Well the rancorous debate with those that are effected the least continues by our federal representatives in the house of commons while many Canadian families are pushed closer to homelessness and poverty, it's shameful. The Conservative-Liberal committee struck to look at changes to Employment Insurance has broken off, citing a difference of opinion in what is needed, with both parties putting forward separate changes, and it appears now most if not all parties will back the Conservative plan, so we can all move towards another election as soon as possible.

Federal Conservative Human Resource Minister, Dianne Finley says it would be *"irresponsible"* to ease employment insurance rules to help laid-off workers who can't qualify for E.I.. Federal Conservative Minister of Transportation John Baird says, making Employment Insurance more available to Canadians is a *"Socialist scheme"*. Yes! Without all of the negative overtones Mr. Baird actually got that one right! (Un)Employment Insurance was a Canadian scheme, another social safety net, an **Insurance** which we all pay into to help out unemployed and under-employed workers, because being Canadian is about caring for other Canadians.

The average payout of E.I. today is \$335 per week, or less than \$50 per day, in many cases to support a family and such luxuries as mortgage/rent, food, clothing, and utilities, meanwhile an M.P. Like John Baird gets by on an \$80 daily parliamentary per diem simply to feed himself! Clearly, this man and many other Federal Conservatives are not the construction workers BFF. It's widely recognized if we want the economy to continue to chug along you need to put money in the hands of people who will spend it, and it is well recognized those on Employment Insurance spend their income, there is not a lot to save at the end of the month. So, if they were truly the wizards of wealth the Conservative Party would be seriously looking at improvements to the EI, not publicly fighting them.

I would like to thank our Local 230 members who took out the time to sign the petitions circulating through the Unit Meetings to provide progressive improvements to the current Employment Insurance program so that Victoria NDP Member of Parliament

Denise Savoie could forward it in the House of Commons as recorded on Hansard:

"Mr. Speaker, I have a petition signed by my concerned constituents from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers asking that the government improve employment insurance. It belongs to workers, they say.

"They ask that measures be introduced to reduce the number of hours for eligibility to 360 hours. They are asking that benefits be extended, especially in this difficult economic time, and they are asking that benefits be at least 60% of normal earnings."

With half a million more Canadians unemployed since Labour Day 2008, and regardless of our governments and their economists telling us that the recession's over, job losses are expected to continue. We've seen recessions before and we made it through but one major difference from the recession in 1992 was at that time only 2 of 10 workers didn't qualify for Employment Insurance, in today's recession 5 of 10 workers do not qualify, just half of unemployed workers will receive Insurance. Now more than ever we need progressive Employment Insurance reform, reform intended to help out of work Canadians.



Western JETS Goes Online For Registration

The following is a list of courses the WJETS offers to Journeymen and Apprentice electricians for the purpose of upgrading.

Aerial Platforms	Data Cabling BCBC	H.V.A.C.	PLC Level 2
Air Brakes	Data Cabling Lucent	Industrial Controls	PLC Level 3
Auto Cad	Data Cabling	Instrument L(1)	Rigging
Boom Truck	Digital Control Wiring	Instrument L(2)	Security Alarm
Code	Effective Supervision	Instrument L(3)	Traffic Controls
Code Refresher	Electronics	Scissor-lift	Transformers
Code Residential	Fibre Optics	Motor Controls	Variable Speed Drive
Computer Skills	Fire Alarm	Overhead Crane	Welding
Conduit Bending	Fork Lift	Photo-voltaic	Wind Generation
Data Cabling Amp	High Voltage Splicing	PLC Level 1	

Please sign up at your Union Hall for any course that you wish to take by clicking on the course and emailing the office, once we have the required number of members for the course in your geographic area the WJETS will put it on.

What You Should Know About The Swine Flu

The human swine influenza A (H1N1) has now been reported in Mexico, United States, Canada and other countries around the world. The World Health Organization is coordinating a global response to the threat of a pandemic. The Public Health Agency of Canada and the BC Centre for Disease Control are closely monitoring the outbreak and have plans in place to limit exposure to Canadians.

British Columbia employers have a responsibility to protect their workers from all work related hazards, including exposure to infectious diseases like influenza. "The best way to limit influenza exposure in your workplace is to have sick workers stay at home and encourage regular hand washing with hot water and soap," says Geoffrey Clark, WorkSafeBC's senior occupational hygienist.

The swine flu is a respiratory disease associated with pigs. The symptoms of swine flu in people resembles regular human flu symptoms, including fever, cough, headache, general aches and fatigue. Some people also experience runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

When a worker is at risk, or may reasonably be expected to be at risk of

harmful contact with a biological agent when specified by WorkSafeBC, the employer is required to implement an exposure control plan as specified in Section 5.54 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, which incorporates in part, "hygiene facilities and decontamination procedures." (WorkSafeBC has specified that section 6.34 applies to the virus that cause the swine flu.)

An exposure control plan must include a statement of purpose and responsibilities, identify the workers at risk, assess the degree of risk and, identify how that risk will be controlled (for example, through safe work practices, education and training, personal protective equipment, good housekeeping, and engineering controls such as isolation rooms).

Resources for implementing an exposure control plan:

Guidelines Part 6 – Biological agents
WorkSafeBC publication-Controlling Exposure: Protecting Workers from Infectious Disease
WorkSafeBC's Prevention Information Line: Toll-Free 1-888-621-7233.

On behalf of the IBEW construction Locals in BC I have requested that the CLRA establish a Human Swine Influenza Exposure Control Plan as soon as practical, and that Plan be implemented throughout the union construction industry in British Columbia.

The World Health Organization has determined that the swine flu virus is spreading from human to human. As with any infectious disease, the following are recommended standard precautionary measures.

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. When you cough, do so into your sleeve if possible.

- Wash your hands often with soap and hot water, especially after you cough or sneeze
- Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people
- If you get sick stay home from work
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth – germs spread that way