

POLITICS (AT 20,000 FEET)

At this year's Progress Meeting, International Vice-President Flemming emphasized with anti-union governments gaining further strength throughout North America the IBEW in Canada cannot afford to sit idly by and watch as legislators act with the goal or the result to harm us.

He has hired Political Advocate/Media Strategist Matt Wayland to work out of the First District Office, to work with Canadian local unions to become more politically engaged. To become more aware of the politicians that serve us locally and to help promote our agenda of safe and secure work, skills training and apprenticeship, workers rights to organize into a union, and respect for the work we perform.

Over the summer we witnessed our federal government legislate CAW members back to work in the Air Industry. A poorly play-written farce on our brothers and sisters in the Postal service, locked out by their employer (the Federal Government) then legislated back to work by the Federal Government (their employer)? Not only did they legislate them back to work, they rolled back the employers last offer? (which CUPW is now pursuing through Supreme Court). Government has historically removed themselves from negotiations with workers, up until a strike or lock-out threatens Canada's economic well being. Neither of these scenarios did that, think about it, if you don't fly Air Canada because they are on strike you can fly another airline. Today most people send and receive electronic mail, have at least one phone and many do online billing or pay their bills at the bank. There was no need to intervene when they did, and certainly in the postal workers case they literally created the dilemma. These government interventions are clearly shots fired



Premier Christy Clarke addresses Vancouver Shipyard workers

over the bow of Labour in Canada.

On another note, with sadness we saw Canada's Democratic champion Jack Layton succumb to cancer and the federal NDP will have to truly test their skills to find someone with even a fraction of the passion and strength Jack brought to politics.

Provincially, I was invited to the Legislative Building to witness Christy Clarke be sworn in as the new Premier of British Columbia and the very first motion for her to speak to was to throw her endorsement behind Seaspan Marine's (Victoria Shipyard) bid to chase the \$35 Billion worth of upcoming Naval and Coast Guard ships. I found it refreshing and highly ironic that the same political party who got elected by bruising the shipbuilding industry through the fast-ferry fiasco and sent work off-shore to have BC's Coastal super "C" class ferries built in Germany, are now seeking re-election by promoting the very shipyards they almost decimated. With Ian Black BC Liberal

MLA announcing his intentions not to seek re-election in his riding (Christy Clarke's old riding) as he has been appointed to the Vancouver Board of Trade, it is very likely that is where our new Premier will be seeking her candidacy. Although you may not be able to tell in August, and the HST referendum results may delay an announcement, all indications point to a Provincial Fall election, if that happens I have always asked you to, be prepared and focused, consider the issues that impact us most, that allow us to carve out a respectful living, and most importantly, get out and vote for the candidate who best reflects your families needs, the candidate who respects our trade and values the work we perform, the work which puts money in your wallet and food on your table.

Summer 2011

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News/Notes:

**Port Alberni
Information Meeting
Tye Motel 8:00 PM
October 18, 2011**

**The Local 230 Building
Society AGM will begin
immediately after the
October Unit Meetings**

Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Over the past few months; Our Bylaw changes submitted to the International have come back approved to allow us to create a revenue stream for our Legal Defence Fund. As was stated in the discussions throughout the local unit meetings, you can't really do anything these days without a lawyer looking over your shoulders. This is a very positive move on behalf of the Local Union moving forward.

I have had the distinguished honour of being appointed by IBEW International President Hill to serve as representing our First District Canada on the Law Committee for the upcoming Convention. This is a prestigious position and arguably the most important committee going into Convention, tasked with the responsibility to look at all proposed changes to the IBEW Constitution.

The Trustees to the Group RRSP's met to discuss changing our current default from Asset Allocation Funds to a Date Retirement Funds. The Default Fund is where our member's money would go for those who have not provided a Fund Direction in their RRSP's. The Asset Allocation earns minimal interest, whereas the Date Retirement Funds are retirement date driven based by the member's 65th birthday, and so they become more conservative as the member gets older. So the Default position would be better designed for the individual member's age group. If you have any thoughts on this move don't

hesitate to email me: BMFS@IBEW230.org over the next couple of months as we will likely look at implementing this early next year.

We attended the BC Supreme Court Canadian Charter Challenge against the Federal Government in the last week of April for enacting a sentence in Bill C-10 robbing our members from Dockyard a 5.2% increase from 2006. Lawyer Catherine Boies Parker argued our case very well. Honourable Judge Harris had many questions concerning the collective bargaining process, at the same time grew tired quickly with the federal government's lawyer mixing Broader Employability with the very rigid rules stemming from the C-10 which prohibited any variation from the legislation, while ten minutes later found himself explaining the exceptions of law found in the PSAC, RCMP, Law Association, and other rounds of bargaining where they received more than Bill C-10 contemplated, thereby avoiding the legislation. Attempting to separate the process of Arbitration with the outcome of Arbitration was another folly; as if the outcome of a process is tainted or biased in any way it places the process in the same light. We are patiently waiting for the Decision.

The British Columbia voters have rejected the HST through the referendum process in favour of the old combined tax system of PST and GST. Although it is hard to tell whether this is a barometer to say we are overtaxed or we just didn't like the way the BC Liberals implemented the unfavourable tax. If my page 1 prediction is correct, we will see later this year. In any event this is a positive move for residential construction as the HST and all the media around it has slowed that market, slowing dispatch and making our small commercial market more aggressive with greater non-union competition.

We have spent several more days in **Provincial Construction negotiations with the Construction Labour Relations Association** and although we have made some headway there are a few further items yet to resolve, and I'm hoping to get something out to the membership soon on

this round of bargaining.

In respect to **Island construction work we continue to do fairly well** with the work being tendered over the past few months, for example; Canem Systems picked up the Squadron 443 maintenance hangar, Sobey/Thrifty Foods Support Centre, Seaport West in Sidney, VIHA Duncan Dialysis and Medical Arts Centre; Houle Electric picked up the Hillside Mall expansion, the Standing Offer at Nanoose, and on the structured cabling at CFB Esquimalt, and The Wesley Street Supportive Housing and Wal-Mart renovation in Nanaimo. Emery Electric has picked up the Power and Communications Upgrade at Rocky Point, Glenlyon School Theatre and the RJH Deconstruct project. We should hear an announcement on the Gold River Cogeneration Plant later this fall, and the \$1.3 Billion John Hart Dam project is moving ahead in their select tender process. Both projects should have electrical workers on it by spring to early summer next year. The Dam project is the largest project going forward by BC Hydro at this time.

Major construction in BC continues to grow and only looking at two jobs in Kitimat; Rio Tinto is setting up to begin their \$2.5 Billion modernization project which will employ over 300 IBEW members for years, and the KBR Liquid Natural Gas project is currently in the later stages of a Project Labour Agreement which will employ another 350 IBEW members at the same time, both of these jobs will likely be manned with mostly travelers. If you are traveling in another local union's geographic jurisdiction always remember you are a guest in that local union and to work with the foremen and the project Steward, and to thank them for the work when you leave.

In the Marine section Victoria Shipyard has done a fair amount of hiring for the HMCS Calgary, which has recently been moved to the wall to make room for the Cruise Ship Disney Wonder, the Submarine maintenance is ongoing.

As summer wraps up, please remember to slow down around school zones.

In Solidarity,
Phil Venoit

CONCERT PROPERTIES RETURNS TO BUILD ERA

Union Pension Fund Developer Concert Properties returns to Victoria to fill the hole in the 700 block of Yates Street with another Condo/Office Tower with commercial space on the ground floor. The facade and some of the side walls of the existing building at Yates, constructed in 1905 and now partly occupied by the English Sweet Shop, will be preserved and incorporated into the new 15 storey, 157 condo unit building. "That block of our downtown has suffered enough having that big, empty hole there and they can't get moving fast enough for me to bring more life and vitality back to that block," said Mayor Dean Fortin. Concert's return to the Condo Market on Vancouver Island serves as a barometer for the construction industry that things are finally turning around in our high-rise resi market.

Concert Properties has developed the Marriott Hotel, Astoria and Belvedere condos in the Humboldt Valley, as well as the Chelsea in Fairfield and 365 Waterfront along the Selkirk waterway, this will be their sixth south Island project in recent years.



John Stamatiou Lead Chargehand McRae Electric.

McRAE ELECTRIC OPENS SHOP ON THE ISLAND

Over the last 4 months we have been meeting with the owners of McRae Electric from Vancouver with the goal for them to come over to the Island. We have negotiated a deal that provides the money as described in Vicship with some elements of the Island Motor Winders Agreement and the Construction Agreement as well.

They will be going after the work at Ocean Sciences and BC Ferries along with being the Techsol west coast representatives to install and maintain all Techsol automation equipment.

McRae has 30 years experience and is well known in the marine industry in BC. They have hired John Stamatiou from BC Ferries to run the McRae Island Division. This move by McRae is a strong testament our marine work on the Island will stay strong for many years to come.

IBEW HOUR POWER VISITS VICTORIA

Late in the Spring, workers from Oswego Creative the facilitators of the web news service, IBEW Hour Power visited Victoria to do a story on our challenges with the Temporary Foreign (Guest) Worker (TFW) Program and the success we had with the Cranes in Esquimalt. The TFW Program is a real threat to wage increases as it was originally intended as a last resort but is quickly becoming first choice for

many employers in the service industry and construction as well.

Last year when many provinces saw double digit unemployment, Alberta for example increased their TFW intake by 37% not as a way to fill vacancies, but a way to suppress wages. With all of the work coming to BC we have to strive to put our best

foot forward, if we don't, we stand to lose an incredible opportunity to perform the majority of the construction work in the Province, and



Brother Rand Lechner, Cameraman with Oswego Creative.

lose contractors, and clients as they look at alternatives to get their work done. Honouring our oath to give eight hours work for eight hours pay is imperative to our future. To see the work performed by our members at Houle Electric on the Esquimalt cranes go to www.IBEWHourPower.com to watch the feature story on the Dry Dock Cranes.

LOCAL 230 2011 ELECTION RESULTS

I would like to begin this report by thanking the membership, for the continued trust you've put in me to carry on doing the good work Local 230 deserves as the Business Manager/Financial Secretary. The past 15 years have been professionally and personally as rewarding to me as they have been challenging.

Phil Venoit – *Business Manager/Financial Secretary*

Your Executive Board/Table Officers are:

President: *Chris Baker*
Vice-President: *Greg Gyorfi*
Recording Secretary: *Pat Baxter*
Treasurer: *Cheryl Arseniuk*

Unit Chairmen/Executive Board Members:

Victoria Unit Chair: *Al Sotkoway*
Nanaimo Unit Chair: *John Kitchen*
Campbell River Unit Chair: *Vacant*
Marine Unit Chair: *Raj Takhar*



Canem Systems employees finish up at the Odeon Theatre Langford July 2011.



Richard Aylard Canada Skills Competition 2011.



IBEW LOCAL 230 CHRISTMAS PARTY DINNER AND DANCE

Featuring live entertainment from
"The Push"
Serving Turkey & Vegetarian Lasagna
with the works!
DOOR PRIZES!!

Friday, November 25th, 2011
Pacific Fleet Club, 1587 Lyall Street
\$15/member, \$25/member & spouse
Doors open @ 6pm, Dinner @ 7pm
Contact the office for ticket purchase info (250) 388-7374

CANADIAN SKILLS COMPETITION 2011

We attended the Canadian Skills Competition this year hosted by Abbotsford where our Local was well represented with Brother Ben Kilmer of Canem Systems Victoria as a Judge and by Brother Richard Aylard, also with Canem Victoria who competed in the apprentice competitions for residential and commercial wiring. Richard did an exceptional job earning a Bronze medal and just missing the Silver by one point.