



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902

Are Canadians Facing A Retirement Income Train Wreck?

Even though the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) provides secure retirement benefits at a very low cost, our aging baby boomer population will create a retirement tsunami causing a significant drain on the CPP. Currently there are about 22 retirees to every 100 working age southern Vancouver Islanders, but within one generation that will increase to about 40 retirees. Without an increase to offset inflation it will create a disaster for future retirees as many will find themselves in abject poverty. One of the fastest growing

poverty groups are seniors who are facing higher utility and grocery bills, and find themselves making very difficult choices that challenge their very survival. So, what is the Canadian government doing to protect us against this social threat? The provincial finance ministers met in 2010 in Kananaskis, and again just before Christmas in Victoria. Although, Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty dropped a health care bomb on them, and even though the media ran with that story, the provincial ministers still discussed the important CPP issue. Many provinces agree there needs to be an increase to the CPP, others do not, and in BC there has been a recent shift by the BC Liberals to the "do not" side of the social ledger.

Labour's Plan to Expand The CPP

Canadians want stability and security in retirement and the Canadian Labour movement has developed a plan to help get us there. The Canadian Labour Congress has proposed to phase in a doubling of the Canadian Pension Plan benefits from 25% to 50% of average earnings on a pre-funded basis. The increased contributions

from workers and employers would be invested to pay for higher pensions in the future. This phased in model calls for modest contribution increases to the CPP over a seven (7) year period, and these contributions will result in modest increases to retirement pensions over the near future, with a full implementation after 45 years making our young apprentices entering the trade today the real beneficiaries of this plan.



Canadian Labour Congress President Ken Georgetti.

The Times Colonist reports "Too Little Action on Pensions" December 23, 2010.

"The CPP-paid for by employers and employees while they are working- must be an adequate foundation for Canadians' retirement incomes. If not, there will be greater dependence on old age security and the guaranteed income supplement, both paid for by taxpayers. An aging population will mean rising taxes without reform."



University of Victoria Social Policy Professor Michael Prince.

the same National debates around the financial security of our pensioners as we are having over health care today. We cannot wait much longer without it having a very negative impact on our future economic security, our communities and that of our country. I encourage you to drop in to see your Member of Parliament and tell them you endorse the Canadian Labour Congress's plan to increase the CPP.

Winter 2012

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News/Notes:

Nanaimo Unit Meeting Change:
Please be advised the Nanaimo Unit Venue will change to be held in the New Nanaimo Office located at:
Unit 306 – 477 Wallace Street
Beginning June 20, 2012

IBEW 230 Building Society AGM
Will be held following the regular Unit Meetings in June.

Special Called Meeting
Port Alberni June 19th
Tyee Motel
4151 Redford Street



IBEW Local 230
Vancouver Island

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Business Manager's Report



Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Over the last quarter BC's construction Business Manager's met for close to two solid weeks with the construction contractors bargaining team and the Construction Labour Relations Association and we have enabled changes to the Collective Agreement, **the term of the Agreement is until April 30, 2014.** This round of bargaining has been extremely difficult. As the IBEW is one of the few construction unions in BC that has more than one Provincial local the contractors pushed very hard to get 50/50 name call throughout the Province. They withdrew this proposal and **we have agreed to allow them one extra transferred worker on their jobs, to be clear we have gone from one to two workers transferred into another local's area for out of local contractors. We have agreed to increase the LOA to \$120 per day, (\$125 beginning May 1, 2013) and daily meals to \$60 (\$62.50 May 1, 2013).** Turnaround for out of town work has increased depending on how far away you are from home. We reinstated Heritage Day back to the third Monday of February, a Holiday we negotiated into our construction Agreement over 25 years ago and I am so happy the BC government finally realized we needed a Statutory Holiday in February, beginning next year Heritage Day will no longer be floated, but will be placed back where it was originally negotiated. **We settled on a clear set of Industrial Works** to which our members working in these areas will receive double time on Saturdays. In the last round of bargaining I made it a priority to negotiate stronger language into the Agreement providing more protection for our Shop Stewards, and we were successful in that they could not be let go until the Business Manager accepted the reason why the contractor was proposing to lay them off. This round I focused on getting them some financial recognition, and the contractors were adamantly opposed to paying shop stewards a premium, **I am proud to say the IBEW is the first in construction maybe even the first in BC to get a premium pay for our Shop Stewards. Now, it is only \$0.25 but it is still an extra \$500 per year** for those that perform the job in their shops, and we will continue to push in the next round until they get the compensation they deserve. **Our wage settlement is \$4.00 over the next two years at the Journeyman level.**

\$1.00 March 18, 2012
\$1.00 May 1, 2013

\$1.00 November 1, 2012
\$1.00 April 1, 2014

As President of the Island Building and Vice-President of the Island's Metal Trades Councils we facilitated a meeting with the Island BC-NDP and Opposition Leader Adrian Dix to discuss three core issues with just over a year away to BC's next Provincial Election;

- Full-scope Apprenticeship Trades Training to the Red Seal Level in British Columbia which should include the IBEW being back at the table as a partner with the electrical component of the Industry Training Authority, the rest of Canada now treats BC Trades workers as sub-standard due to the BC Liberals meddling in our crafts and as they begin to get very busy we need to reverse that perception as an immediate election issue right out of the gate.
- A return to the Build BC Ferries in BC with legislative endorsement. We have been able to secure a great amount of highly technical federal Naval and Coast Guard shipyard work over the next decade, we need to begin planning now, how we are going to continue to build Provincial work when the decade is over.
- We talked about an overall Island Transportation Infrastructure strategy to not only find ways to protect the Island Railway Corridor's right-of-way moving commuters in the south Island, and a solid plan to safely and efficiently move freight throughout the entire Island.

The Christmas Dinner/Dance was well attended with over 120 people, the food prepared by Naval Chef Aaron and his kitchen crew was fantastic, the band "The Push" kept the dance floor busy for almost the entire evening, and the donated prizes from various unions and the Building and Metal Trades Councils were incredible. We presented a coat to Sister Jackie Oliver for selling the most tickets, and we raised \$260 that went to Santa's Anonymous through a 50/50 raffle. I would like to thank our secretaries Jen and Nicole for all their hard work in making this year's Dinner/Dance a great success.

I have stepped down from serving as the IBEW's representative at the BC Federation of Labour. Over the past five years I've sat as one of the Federation's 14 Executive Officers, and over that time I got to work with a dynamic group of leaders of the largest unions in BC whom I have a great amount of respect and fondness for. All of them Brothers and Sisters within the labour movement and some I am honoured to call friends. At the Joint Electrical Health and Welfare Meeting we bumped up the accommodation coverage for required out of town hospital visits to \$60 per hotel stay.



Brother G. Barret presents Brother M. Braga his JM Certificate.

Sector Report

Cablevision – Shaw in Campbell River reports that they continue to be busy in offering new phone services in that area.

Construction: Commercial/ Institutional

– Canem has picked up the Crown Isle Shopping Centre renovation, City of Nanaimo Annex and the Country Grocer in Nanaimo, Cowichan Commons, the Co-Op Gas Bar in Langford, BMW Security rough in, TD Bank Base Building, ICBC Office in Nanaimo, Coast Capital Savings in Duncan; E.H. Emery Electric has picked up the Bed Bath and Beyond, NADEN Transformer upgrade; Houle Electric has picked up the Cowichan Lake Research Station, Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal PA system, EB Games at the Bay Centre, Mayfair Mall and Hillside Mall; Watts Electric picked up the Irrigation Pumping Station in Nanaimo.

Industrial – Houle Electric has picked up the Nanaimo Pollution Control Digester; FMI is just wrapping the security system upgrade at the Dunsmuir Sub-station and currently planning for a new 25 Mega-Watt Generator and switch gear upgrade at Harmac with a shut-down coming later this year. BC Hydro has issued an Request for Proposal for the \$1.3 Billion seismic upgrade to the John Hart Dam and should have about 400 Building Trades members on site for 4 years beginning mid 2014, and we are still hoping for a positive indication from the lower mainland Waste Management Board that the Gold River Co-gen will move ahead later this year, and the Cape Scott Wind farm is still going through the permitting process.

Residential – Canem Systems has been awarded Concert Properties 5th residential development in Victoria, “Era” is a 157 home, 16-storey concrete building, located in the heart of downtown, on Yates.

Dockyard – The Dockyard Trades and Labour Council have retained Joseph Arvay to assist in our arguments in the upcoming BC Court of Appeal to our Supreme Court Charter Challenge. Mr. Arvay has argued numerous landmark cases involving civil liberties and constitutional rights, and has had a remarkable role in shaping how our Canadian Constitution

is interpreted. We have confirmed dates in April for Bargaining.

Motor Winders – Late last year the Industry Training Authority (ITA) made the decision to discontinue the Motor Winder's Apprenticeship Program in British Columbia. Local 230 responded appropriately, protesting the move as a regressive educational position moving our Province backwards especially knowing that we are on the verge of an increase in the industrial and marine work picture. The ITA has referred the fate of the Motor Winder's Apprenticeship to the Resource Training Organization (RTO), and Local 230 has requested to participate in the discussions with other industry stakeholders to

occur sometime this spring and we look forward to a positive resolve.

Municipal Government – Our members at the City of Victoria recently ratified their Collective Agreement providing them with a 2% increase in each year of three years. An increase to the casual employee benefit rate, as well as increases into Dental, Group Life Insurance, and Extended Health Care eye exams, and hearing aids. We further expanded the bargaining unit by including a new position of Electrical Design Technologist.

Private Marine – At the Annual Victoria Shipyard Labour Management Meeting we reviewed manpower requirements with an overview of the current work with the HMCS Calgary currently being worked on and half way through the project, it should wrap up in the spring. HMCS Protecteur is in for her scheduled mid-life refit, and the Winnipeg is scheduled for May. The HMCS Chicoutimi is going through her QC phase, and HMCS Cornerbrook is now in for repairs and scheduled maintenance. Negotiations on the Umbrella Agreement for the National Shipyard Procurement Strategy have wrapped up. Next steps will come this year in modernizing both Vancouver and Victoria shipyards will require a number of new buildings to bring the shipyards capability to manage this coming work. We will not see any impact of marine work from the NSPS until late 2013 or early 2014 as ships get completed. We discussed an increased parking strategy which Vicship will have an available 600 parking spaces for the 900 workers, if you can car pool with another Vicship worker near your home you can cut your gas in half and contribute to solving this problem.

Vicship will be moving forward

on an Attendance Awareness Program which is intended to persuade the workforce into being a little more conscious about their controlled absences from work. E.H. Emery picked up the GPS and Automatic I.D. systems on 6 Naval Vessels, while McRae Electric has been busy with installing new sewage treatment plants onboard the Queen of Oak Bay for the BC Ferries and the Sir Laurier for the Coast Guard.

DAY OF MOURNING APRIL 28, 2012



EACH YEAR IN CANADA APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND WORKERS LOSE THEIR LIVES SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WENT TO WORK THAT DAY. CONSTRUCTION AND HEAVY INDUSTRIES ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS HORRIBLE REALITY. ON APRIL 28TH, PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO REMEMBER THOSE WORKERS WHO DID NOT RETURN HOME AT THE END OF THEIR SHIFT, AND REMIND THE REST TO THINK AND ACT SAFELY.

EVERYONE DESERVES A SAFE WORKPLACE.

JOIN OTHER MEMBERS OF LABOUR GATHERING AT:
CENTENNIAL SQUARE IN VICTORIA AT 9:00AM

keep this important Trade alive. For a couple of decades now the Local 230 Motor Winder Apprentices have had to go to great financial ends to attend their technical training at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary and return to the Island for shop employment. This contemplated move would eliminate the ability to register motor winders in BC. We understand meetings will

Moseley Enterprises Provides A Decade Of Service

For over 60 years Nicholson Manufacturing has specialized in making ring de-barkers for the forestry industry. All around the globe, wherever there is a forest products industry, you will find Nicholson equipment in operation. Manufactured in an 110,000 square foot state of the art facility on the Saanich peninsula, Nicholson ring de-barkers provide the user with superior quality and decades of reliable service. Nicholson has a range of de-barker models to suit any application, in sawmills, chip plants, veneer plants, OSB mills and more.

Based on the principle of Cambium Shear, the idea of feeding a non rotating log through a multi-tool rotating ring, proved to be both practical and highly effective in removing bark. Current maximum speeds in excess of 500 feet per minute for some de-barker models, utilizing the same basic principles but incorporating optimum mechanical design and electronic controls. By continually investing in the latest manufacturing technologies gives Nicholson one of the most modern and complete machining and fabrication assembly shops on the West Coast of North America, and the Local 230 members working at Nicholson for Moseley Enterprises ensure the Nicholson Plant keeps running smoothly.



Brothers M. Oickle and D. Desrosiers at Nicholson.

Sector Report (Continued)

Provincial Health Care – In the Health Sector the negotiations began as scheduled on February 8th and 9th between the Facilities Bargaining Association and Health Employers Association of BC. As was expected the employer has come to the table with the net zero mandate as spelled out by the provincial government.

Railway – We have recently written the Prime Minister requesting funding for the Island Railway Corridor.

Wholesale – Westburne in Nanaimo reports work picking up over the last six months, while Port Alberni has stayed fairly flat.



Owner/member L. Moseley with Brother S. Emery (inset).

IBEW **DRAW FOR** **\$100**
2012 Harley-Davidson
FLHRC-103 Road King® Classic
Per Ticket

Early Bird Draw

\$5000.00

May 24, 2012
at the 24th Annual IBEW/MS
Charity Golf Tournament
in Mississauga, Ontario

Main Draw



2012 Harley-Davidson FLHRC-103 Road King® Classic

Draw for the Bike will take place as soon as all tickets are sold, or at the IBEW All Canada Progress Meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia on August 22, 2012

Must be an I.B.E.W. Member to Purchase and Win

Tickets \$100.00 each • Only 500 tickets to be sold

Winning Tickets go back in for the next draw.

A second \$5000.00 cash prize will be drawn at the All Canada Progress Meeting on August 22, 2012

Proceeds to assist in funding of the reception at the IBEW International Convention in 2016.

