



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 230

**Review Committee – Union Training
and Innovation Program submissions:
Innovation in Apprenticeship Stream**

Coordination Unit, Mailstop 402
National Grants & Contributions
Delivery Centre (ESDC)
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV,
4th Floor
Gatineau QC K1A OJ9

August 25, 2020

**Re: Increasing and Expanding Apprenticeship Completions by Specialized Endorsements in Stationary
Generation Service Technicians**

Dear Sir / Madam,

As the representative for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 230, I am writing to express my commitment to partner with the Western Joint Electrical Training Society to ensure more members complete their apprenticeship while preserving the skills and knowledge that will be essential to future installation and maintenance of Canada's energy infrastructure.

We recognize that there is an opportunity to connect individuals who are more at risk of non-completion– including women, indigenous peoples and youth, as well as those facing economic or geographic disparities – with the skillsets that will ensure long term employment. We anticipate that this project will be a resource for our organization to address systemic changes that cause apprenticeship disengagement and we are committed to a collaboration that provides solutions. We also are committed to working with contractors and the British Columbia Industry Training Authority (ITA) to explore how a formal endorsement can be developed for tradespeople working in our province and across Canada. Below are points on why the IBEW Local 230 is an ideal partner and why this partnership is needed:

- IBEW 230 currently represents 1400 electrical trade workers in the residential, commercial, industrial, marine, motor winding, railway, and the wholesale of electrical equipment within our jurisdiction of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands of British Columbia.
- Local 230 members trained in the rare artform of Motor Winding have built and maintained power generation stations on Vancouver Island since the local's inception in 1902.
- In 2018 Local 230 had 140 electricians and electrical apprentices working on the refurbishment of John Hart Dam in Campbell River, one of the key components to generating power from damming water is using turbines connected to generators to produce power.
- Vancouver Island is one of BC's more populated areas, and therefore, has high electricity demand. The Island has 6 generating stations all built between 1947-1971, which generate about 30% of the Island's electricity consumption. The balance majority comes from undersea cables to Vancouver Island.

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Established in Victoria in 1902

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Increasing and Expanding Apprenticeship Completions by Specialized Endorsements in Stationary Generation Service Technicians August 25th, 2020

It is important to note that generators typically have a life expectancy of 30-35 years, which means all our generating stations have exceeded normal life expectancy and are overdue for rewinds with the exception of John Hart Dam. Both Strathcona Dam and Ladore Dam located in Campbell River were scheduled to have their generators refurbished, however, COVID-19 caused BC Hydro to pause this important work. These are key generating stations that feed Vancouver Island's electrical demands. Vancouver Island is situated in the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which makes it the most seismically active zone in BC. One major earthquake and the Island could be forced into a rolling brown out situation where business and residential customers would have to share a reduced amount power demand. The self-reliance on electricity must be a focus going forward, and we will need the right training to help ensure our successful future.

- The marine shipbuilding and repair industry are highly dependent on the Motor-Winding Technician Trade as well. British Columbia is a major marine hub of oceanic going freighters, cruise ships, the Canadian Coast Guard, Navy Ocean Sciences vessels, fishing vessels, BC Ferries and more. These vessels all use generators and motors to run almost all of their electrical equipment.
- The current key barrier to ensuring we have the right number of skilled motor winding technicians is the decision by the Canadian Council of Directors Apprenticeship to de-register the trade as a Red Seal Trade, and therefore leave it up to the provinces to establish a training program.
- BC's Motor-Winding Technicians are primarily IBEW Local 230 members and this needed training will only become available if we participate.
- This project will enable our Local to create structured mentorship options for our apprentices who will develop this specialized skillset prior to the impending retirement of the generation of electrical workers who currently hold this knowledge.

We anticipate that up to twenty-five apprentices per year will be recruited into training in our Local through this project. As an organization, we are committed to identifying individuals at risk of disengagement who can be supported to success through this project, working to develop and deliver the curriculum that preserves the skills necessary to Canada's energy future, and identifying emerging best practices that can increase apprenticeship completions across the trades.

Yours sincerely,

Philip M. Venoit
Business Manager
Financial Secretary



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