

## New Construction Technology

The beginning of my 40th year as an IBEW 230 member has been nothing short of a Sci-Fi film. This new decade of change, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, has brought about innovative technology and major transformations in almost every industry at a greater pace. The smartphone, although less than 20 years old, revolutionized the way we communicate and has enabled us to do multiple tasks at once.

A few industries that have technologically been progressing slowly are the construction and shipbuilding industries. Yes, there has been innovation and progress, but nothing to the degree of manufacturing, retail, travel and other industries alike. Some upcoming trends in construction for 2020 that are here to stay include artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning, augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR), drones, wearables and mobile technology, building information modelling (BIM), and modular and prefabricated construction.

AI and machine learning will increase productivity as the computers are able to mimic human cognitive function and learn from data. When sensors are installed on materials and equipment, it creates a smart environment that improves our job site safety and allows personnel to track workflow and installation. AR and VR can help workers detect errors early in the construction process and avoid costly mistakes.



Construction - Drone Services Canada Inc.



Construction worker wearing an exo-skeleton suit by Ekso Bionics

AR can give real-time visualizations of projects while VR offers more engaging training through simulations. This provides new members with realistic exposure to confined space environments and simulated wiring methods. The use of drones has also skyrocketed in construction due to its ability to monitor and get a complete aerial view of worksites. Currently drones are largely used for topographical mapping, which they can perform quickly, precisely and more cost-effective than a human. Wearable exo-skeleton suits will help people walk and lift heavy objects with minimal effort. With strength amplification of 20 to 1, a 200-pound transformer or motor will feel like lifting ten pounds on the job. For construction managers, BIM has been a game changer as it benefits every phase of the project life cycle even after a building is complete. BIM helps manage all the information of a project creating 3D models and generating smart workflows. Modular and prefabricated buildings are also taking flight in the industry. The parts for these buildings are created in a factory away from the construction site and allow for a more cost-effective form of construction. This method takes less time, is more eco-friendly, and lessens disruption and waste at job sites. Whether we like it or not, these are changes that we have to be prepared for.

## Volume 3: 2020

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## Members Dues Autodeposit

To send dues payments via e-Transfer, just email [dues@ibew230.org](mailto:dues@ibew230.org)

Remember to include your name and IBEW \*card number in the e-Transfer "message" section

\*Note: your card number is printed on your yellow dues receipt

## News & Notes

### Upcoming Training:

- Aug. 29-30 | Fire Alarm | In-Person (5 max)
- Sept. 12 | 2018 CEC Updated | Online (15 max)
- Sept. 12 | Frontline 1 | Online (15 max)
- Sept. 19 | Frontline 2 | Online (15 max)
- Sept. 19, 20 | Conduit L1 | In-Person (6 max)
- Sept. 21, 22 | Conduit L2 | In-Person (6 max)
- Oct. 2,3 & 4 | Fiber Optic | In-Person (6 max)
- Nov. 14-15 | Fire Alarm | In-Person (5 max)
- Dec. 5-6 | Low Voltage (data cabling) In-Person (6 max)

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# Business Manager's Report:



**IBEW 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit and BC Federation of Labour President Laird Cronk**

IBEW 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit is joined by Local 230 Member Laird Cronk who serves as the President for the BC's Federation of Labour representing half a million union members. Earlier this year, at the time the picture was taken, Business Manager Phil Venoit also served as the President of BC's Building Trades. For the first time in history, these two iconic positions as presidents were both filled by members of the IBEW Local 230.

## **THE OFFICE**

Please join us in congratulating our Business Agent, Cory McGregor and his new wife Jacquie on their marriage. While COVID had changed their plans, they were able to have an intimate ceremony here on Vancouver Island. We also welcome back our Marine Rep, Charlotte. Formerly Christian, Charlotte is now back at the office and happy to be working. She uses the pronouns she/her and acknowledges mistakes will be made along the way.

Since the outbreak, we facilitated three classes of New Member Orientation for 23 new members. These classes were held adhering to physical distancing safety measures, and we will continue to do our best to conduct business "as usual." Also, we held our Joint Health & Welfare Meeting and I'm proud to say that we will be moving ahead with a new health card in the near future which members of the construction, private Shipyard, and motor winders plan will be able to use when purchasing extended health benefits like: glasses, chiro, massage, and more.

## **WORK PICTURE**

From all reports from our construction contractors, the drafting table for new projects on Vancouver island is heating up. The next two years promise to be very busy with some of these projects:

- Cowichan Hospital and RCMP Detachment
- Nanaimo Jail

- Sandstone Development in south Nanaimo
- Ladore & Strathcona Generator Rewinds
- A&B Jetty Recapitalization Esquimalt
- Royal BC Museum & Archives Building
- University Heights Shopping Centre Redevelopment Plan
- UVic Dining Hall & Dorms
- Telus Building
- Pexisen Elementary & Central Mountain Lellum Middle Schools

The Shipyard will see a slow-down this fall, but they are currently working on the TOTE LNG conversion plan which is slated and going ahead in early January 2021. And for those that are interested in travelling, BC LNG and Site C dam are slated to begin later this year.

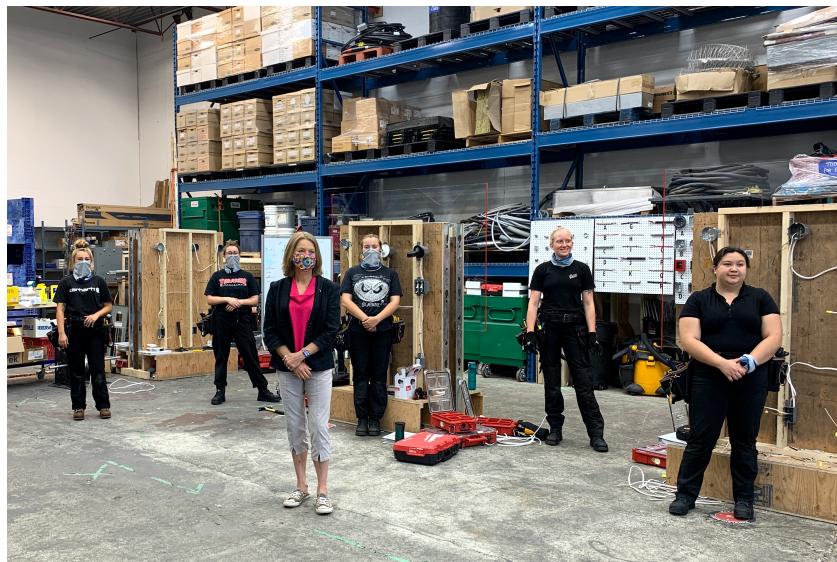


New "dazzle" paint on HMCS Regina at the Dockyard.

## **HMC DOCKYARD**

On July 28th, Dockyard released an update noting that they "have a large number of personnel back in the workplace and a corresponding increase in the amount of maintenance." The site is moving forward into a Sub-phase 3A- Surge, which includes the maintenance of HMC Ships Winnipeg and Regina. We are happy about this news as in March, most of CFB Esquimalt was shut down. Only essential workers and core services continued with the site closed to the public. Eventually, the

workforce came back at half capacity with split shifts, and in July they started at almost full capacity. An exciting event for the Navy is the Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), which is the world's largest international marine warfare exercise in the Pacific Ocean. Our members were able to pull together and prepare the HMCS Regina so it could depart from the Dockyard on Friday, July 31st.



Local MLA and Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity and WATT Class

The frigate will be participating in exercises between Hawaii and California. This showcases the abilities of IBEW 230 members at the Dockyard who even though had to cut their crew in half, were able to complete a major job. The frigate was painted to commemorate 75 years since the end of the Battle of the Atlantic. For those thinking that the paint is simply a flashy new look, you are wrong. It breaks the silhouette of the boat from the horizon (referred to as "dazzle paint") and is a type of naval camouflage that makes it difficult for opponents to track and target the vessel.

## **WATT CLASS & MITZI DEAN**

Due to COVID-19, the WATT courses were suspended for about three months, which gave us time to get the classes back and running with proper physical distancing measures. While the program was on track to meet the number of students agreed upon with the federal government, the pandemic threw a wrench in the process. Earlier this summer, the classes relaunched at half capacity to enable the previous students to finish their final week of the program. Originally a two-year program, the WATT classes were scheduled to end on March 31st, 2021. Our first class was held on April 15th, 2019 and admitted just shy of 100 students in the first year. Now with only half capacity (classes reduced from 10-12 to 5-6 people), the government has agreed to give the WATT program a year extension making it a three-year program. This will allow us to reach the number of students we are hoping to help.

Our most recent class is made up of all female students and we were able to coordinate a visit with Local MLA and Parliamentary Secretary for Gender Equity, Mitzi Dean. MLA Dean wanted to get a sense of what barriers these women face and asked where they were in their lives before starting the WATT program and how they see this change in career benefiting them. I accompanied the WATT class with Mitzi along with her assistant, Andrew, and Western Jets Executive Coordinator, Adrienne.

# Coronavirus Update

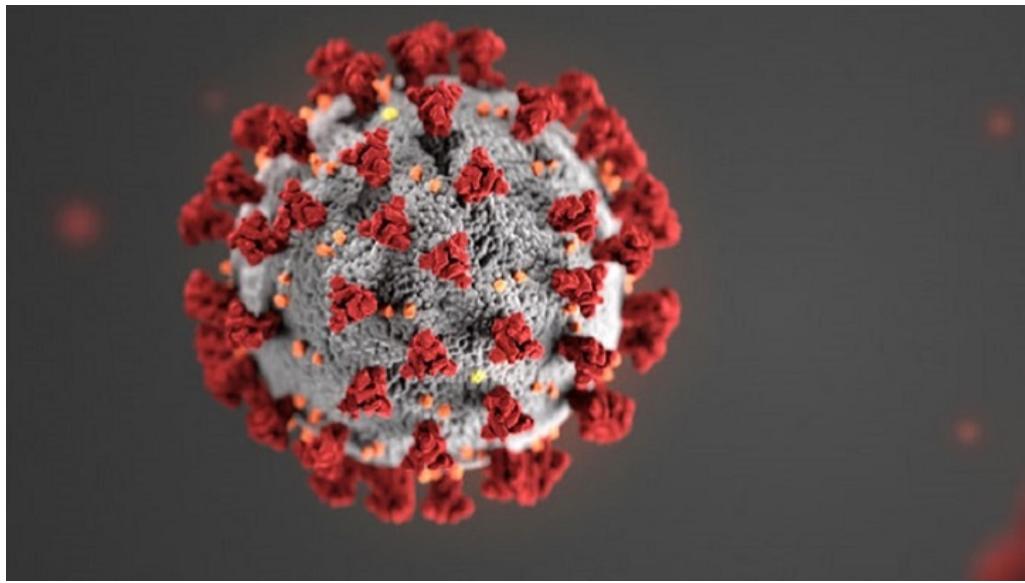
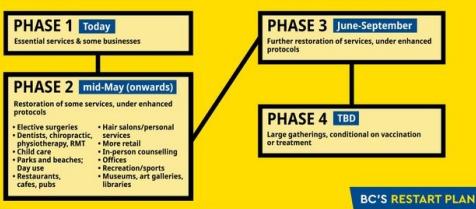


Photo taken by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Islanders have truly been doing their part in trying to curb the spread of COVID-19 as we see 0 people hospitalized and 0 in ICU as of August 7th (CDC, 2020). In total, Canada is reported to have 6,567 active cases with 371 of those cases in BC. Let's continue to heed the advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry, that we should "socialize safely by keeping our groups small, using the layers of protection and giving everyone enough space to stay safe." On August 7th CTV News reported that there were 53 additional cases of COVID and that one is in the Island Health region. This is the largest single day spike seen since April. As more long weekends are ahead, we urge you all to be mindful of your surroundings.

On May 6th, Premier Horgan outlined BC's Restart Plan to begin lifting restrictions in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity. The BC Government decided on August 5th to extend our state of emergency for the 11th time since mid-March. Below you will find the phases and the basics of each phase:

## BC's (careful) Restart Plan



### Phase One:

- Declared a public health emergency and a provincial state of emergency
- Essential services have been operating during COVID-19
- Essential travel only

### Phase Two: Ended June 23rd

People were asked to stay close to home and avoid travel between communities.

- Small social gatherings (6-8 people) with physical distancing will be allowed.
- Elective surgeries resume.
- Dentistry, chiropractic, physiotherapy and in-person counselling resume.
- Provincial parks will open for day-use
- More retail businesses to re-open, supported by WCB (including restaurants, hair salons and pubs)
- Expanded in-person schooling for K-12 (voluntary)
- Recalling the Legislature in the coming weeks

### Phase Three: June 24th and onwards

People can take part in smart, safe and respectful travel within B.C.

- BC Parks campground opened June 1st
- Faith based organizations can operate
- Preparing K-12 in-person classes for September
- Cinemas preparing to reopen
- Restaurants and pubs allowed dine in groups up to 6 people
- The guidelines and extra safety precautions for sectors in Phase 2 are still in place

### Phase Four:

Phase 4 will only be achieved when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent.

- Large Public Gatherings (conventions, concerts, international tourism, live audience professional sports)

## CONSTRUCTION AMIDST COVID-19

### Boston Construction Market

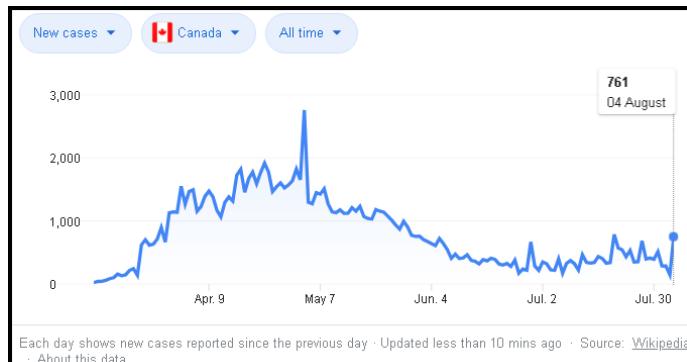
On March 17th Mayor Walsh first ordered the limit of construction activity to essential work only which included emergency utility and road repairs, work at public health and healthcare facilities, and shelters. Transportation systems and small residential construction projects of three units or less were also permitted. The pause on non-essential construction was extended indefinitely by the Boston Public Health Commission on April 24th. Between May 18th and May 25th, the city allowed essential construction only after projects filed a COVID-19 Safety Plan and signed an affidavit. On May 18th the City of Boston announced the reopening of construction in a phased manner in conjunction with the Reopening Massachusetts Plan. May 26th the city began permitting any construction type that is allowed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### San Jose Construction Market

Santa Clara County has been the worst affected in the Bay Area since the onset of COVID. Several shelter-in-place orders have disrupted the market by imposing moratoriums on construction work. Originally the March 16th order exempted market rate, but a new county-wide order sent many workers home on April 1st. The city has been adapting to new safety measures where workers are not allowed to share tools or ladders. Restrictions loosened on May 4th as workers are required to wear gloves and masks on site and social distancing protocol is six feet apart. As of late June 2020, construction workers are getting back to work.

### Vancouver Island Construction Market

Deep and thoughtful consideration kept the BC construction market open along with pressure by construction unions including the IBEW 230 to make sure construction sites stay safe through BC's Essential Services orders. Our Premier and Minister of Labour were willing to listen to us and push WorkSafeBC into taking a serious look at construction site sanitation. Over 1100 job sites visits were conducted by WorkSafeBC resulting in 84 violation orders related to COVID. The effort of IBEW 230 members both at work and at home kept the spread of COVID-19 low on Vancouver Island. Let's all stay diligent so we can stay working!



# Nomination and Election Call

Our Executive Board has been meeting and discussing a way to hold our Local 230 elections this year. Below describes the process they have decided for the Local 230 2020 elections only.

President Greg Gyrofi has appointed Shane Scott as the Sergeant of Arms for the purposes of all nomination meetings and election venues for both counts.

Nominations for Officers of Local Union 230 will be held consistent with the IBEW Constitution, the Local 230 Bylaws, and any variation as described herein as follows: Anyone desiring to be nominated must be present during the special called meetings to hold nominations, or provide a written and signed statement of willingness that they will accept the specific nomination. No member may be a candidate for more than one Office. Anyone nominated to more than one Office must declare the Office for which they will be a candidate.

In order to be nominated, a member must have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous good standing in Local Union 230. Good standing means that the member is current in their payment of dues and has been for the two (2) years preceding the nominations. Apprentices are not eligible to hold Office in the Local Union.

Nominations will proceed in the order of Offices as listed in the IBEW Constitution whose term of Office shall be the balance of three (3) years (to July 2023).

For smaller venues, nominees will be asked to wait outside of the meeting space until their respective Office is called, then they may enter the space to register their nomination(s).

## **NOMINATION CALL FOR IBEW LOCAL 230 UNION OFFICERS**

IBEW Local 230 Nominations for the positions of President (also a Delegate to the IBEW 40th International Convention if held within this/their term of Office), Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/Financial Secretary (also a Delegate to the IBEW 40th International Convention if held within this/their term of Office), and Treasurer will occur at the following special called Meetings during the month of September 2020.

These special called meetings are called in consideration of Article 15, Section 1 of the IBEW Constitution, and the only business to be conducted are nominations for the Local 230 Elections. Only those members seeking nominations for the aforementioned positions will be allowed to attend.

### **Marine Unit 5 - September 9th**

5:00pm PM IBB Lodge 191  
802 Esquimalt, Victoria

### **Victoria Unit 1 - September 10th**

7:00pm PM Pro Patria Legion  
411 Gorge Road East, Victoria

### **Nanaimo Unit 2 - September 16th**

7:00pm PM Nanaimo Office  
306-477 Wallace Street, Nanaimo

### **Courtenay/Campbell River Unit 4 - September 17th**

7:00pm PM Halbe Hall  
8369 Island Highway, Black Creek

## **NOMINATION CALL FOR UNIT OFFICERS**

IBEW Local 230 Nominations for the positions of Unit Chairs/Executive Board Members, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary for each of the Unit Meetings will occur at the following special called Nomination Meetings during the month of October 2020. Members are permitted to vote only once for their respective Unit Officers. For the purposes of determining a member's Unit, the Executive Board determined that those who live south of the Cowichan River and live on Salt Spring and Pender Islands to be members of the Victoria Unit. For those who live north of the Cowichan River but south of the Little Qualicum River, Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Tofino and Gabriola Island are members of the Nanaimo Unit. For those who live north of the Little Qualicum River, Denman and Quadra Islands are members of the Courtenay/Campbell River Unit. Regardless where you live, if you are currently employed by the public or private shipyards, or your last employer was the public or private shipyards, you are a member of the Marine Unit.

These special called meetings are called in consideration of Article 15, Section 1 of the IBEW Constitution, and the only business to be conducted are nominations for the Local 230 Elections. Only those members seeking nominations for the aforementioned positions will be allowed to attend.

### **Victoria Unit 1 - October 8th**

7:00pm PM Pro Patria Legion  
411 Gorge Road East, Victoria

### **Marine Unit 5 - October 14th**

5:00pm PM IBB Lodge  
191 802 Esquimalt, Victoria

### **Courtenay/Campbell River Unit 4 - October 15th**

7:00pm PM Halbe Hall  
8369 Island Highway, Black Creek

### **Nanaimo Unit 2 - October 21st**

7:00pm PM Nanaimo Office  
306-477 Wallace Street Nanaimo

## **THE ELECTION**

Dates: November 6th, 2020 for the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Business Manager/ Financial Secretary and Treasurer. December 11th, 2020 for Unit Chairs/Executive Board members, Vice-Chairs and Recording Secretaries for each of the four (4) Local 230 Units.

Time: The Election Judge, Tellers, and IBEW International Representative (if available) will pick up the ballots from the designated PO Box at 10:00 AM on each of the aforementioned election dates.

Place: The ballots will be counted in the David Slater Auditorium at Pro Patria Legion located at 411 Gorge Road East, Victoria BC.

Any ballots coming into the Post Office Box later than stipulated above will not be counted for their intended respective elections.

Nominees yet to be decided for Office may attend in person or have a designate attend in their place.

Designated areas will be set up to provide proper physical distancing rules, and any members wishing to stay must comply with the rules set out by the election judge. Non-compliance with the rules as set out by the Judge could result in the member(s) ejection from the election venue(s).

The installation of Officers will occur at the December 2020 Executive Board Meeting.

The balance of Local 230 Delegates to attend the IBEW 40th International Convention will be decided by the Local Union six (6) months prior to the Convention in holding with past practice.

This is the plan as decided by the Local 230 Executive Board to hold the Local 230 2020 elections in a timely manner while we deal with COVID-19 restrictions. Timelines and/or procedures may change due to COVID-19, but notification will be provided and proper care will be taken to ensure that the IBEW Constitution is followed and the rights and safety of the membership to a fair election are upheld.