



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902

Shore Power At Canada's Busiest Cruise Ship Port



Left to right: Kale Anguish, Marine Rep Local 230, Jim Noon BM Plumbers & Pipefitters, Shane Scott ABM Local 230, Minister Fleming, Phil Venoit BM Local 230, Ron Wickett BM Machinists, and Rob Taylor BM Boilermakers

In April, Local 230 alongside the Plumbers and Pipefitters, Machinists, and Boilermakers, had the opportunity to attend the Chamber of Commerce 2022 AGM. The event featured Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure.

On December 2, 2021 we wrote an editorial letter in response to Darron Kolster's article, *Record-high cruise-ship visits schedule for Victoria in 2022 after two-year absence* in the Times Colonist.

We welcomed the return of tourism and cruise ships to Victoria but also highlighted the issues of pollution that accompany these visits. Currently, cruise ships dock at Ogden Point, the busiest cruise ship port-of-call in Canada. These ships are essentially floating cities, and when they're docked, they're polluting by ways of diesel exhaust fumes, engine noise, and more. Cruise ships undeniably contribute a portion to air and water pollution.

On January 17, 2022 I sent a two-page follow up letter to the Minister of Finance and cc'd the letter to 7 other Ministers and the CEO of Greater Victoria Harbour Authority. Available here: <http://www.ibew230.org/newsletter>

"First we talked about global warming, then climate change, and now **'climate crisis'**. The year 2021 brought unprecedented tragedies, causing thousands of deaths, and completely disrupting the way we live. The heat wave literally boiled the shellfish in our ocean shores and killed nearly 600 people. Level 4 droughts allowed wildfires to run rampant and burn down entire towns and forests. Our air quality at one point was the worst in the world and 12 times above the exposure level recommended by the World Health Organization.

We've recently endured catastrophic floods that have wiped out homes, farms, highways, railroads, and other infrastructure. This winter, regions in BC were under extreme cold warnings and Arctic outflow warnings, breaking 21 low temperature records.

It is simple, and it is clear. We can no longer use excuses like lack of 'finances' to delay or halt progress towards environmental sustainability for the reasons listed above. The Climate Crisis has truly become a matter of life or death and will continue to be exacerbated by human activity. We need to recognize what others are doing and aspire to be innovative leaders, invest in clean energy, create green jobs, and develop sustainable practices around our marine environment".

The letters gained attention and at the AGM, Minister Fleming called upon me to ask my question: "In recognition of climate change, it is our combined responsibility to make the necessary changes in our own backyard. With tourism on the rise and the return of cruise ships to Victoria, Canada's *busiest* port-of-call we have an opportunity to make that shift by installing much overdue shore power at Ogden Point, reducing noise and air pollution for James Bay and Victoria's residents. Will the BC Government commit to helping with the reduction of pollution and British Columbia in reaching our climate goals?"

Short answer, "yes" they have structured a deal with the Victoria Harbour Authority with an announcement coming soon.

We will continue to advocate for green shore power throughout Vancouver Island which our members are more than qualified to manufacture and install.

Lastly, the topic caught the attention of CFAX 1070 and we had an on-air interview with Ryan Price.

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Member's Dues Auto-Deposit

To send dues payment via e-Transfer, email 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 and Notes

We are excited to announce we are moving! The new office is located at Shoal Point, 21 Dallas Road. The move will take place the day after Labour Day and we expect to be fully operation.

Upcoming Training (in-person)

Victoria

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| Oct. 14 - 16 | Fiber Optic Splicing |
| Nov. 19 | Level 1 Conduit Bending |
| Nov. 20 | Level 3 Conduit Bending |

North Island

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Oct. 29-30 | Fire Alarm |
| Dec. 16-18 | Fiber Optic Splicing |

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Business Manager's Report



Phil Venoit, Business Manager/Financial Secretary

The IBEW-BC Construction Bargaining

Committee vetted our provincial proposals as our BC Labour Relations Board prescribed May dates to determine what would be Main Table proposals, and what will be Trade Table proposals. On June 1st, we exchanged our Main Table proposals with the CLRA bargaining team which covered all of BC's union construction workers. The BC Labour Relations Board has set aside 97 days for bargaining over the next year, however, keep in mind there are 48 separate Collective Agreements with the Building Trade unions covering our 40,000 members in the largest set of private sector negotiations in BC. This is my 7th round in bargaining and 6th round as the IBEW Bargaining Chair.

This could be a tough round as the Labour Board has provided the union's council with more power, but for those who follow pop culture "with great power comes great responsibility." Yes, I apparently just quoted Uncle Ben from Spiderman.

This basic sentiment used in negotiations is no different, and so we may have to be realistic and responsible in our bargaining. Some of our partner unions, who have been kicked in the pants over the last 3 decades in unregulated trades, are working in an ever-growing underground cash and trade economy that continues to diminish working family's ability to maintain a standard of living we had through the 1970's and 80's. Avoiding paying taxes and the social safety nets set-up to protect working people is only hurting themselves and everyone else that works in the same industry.

We've been lucky from the oversight of Technical Safety BC, who have kept some legitimate scrutiny in the electrical industry, and so the competitive market-share and wage gap are not as pronounced in the electrical industry than in many other trades, and of course, the other major deterrent to the unqualified working in our industry is dying a painful and fiery death from electrocution. Don't get me wrong, our non-union competition is still \$10 to \$20 an hour below us.

They rarely pay benefits or contribute to a retirement plan, and that causes us grief on many jobs. I've seen non-union electrical contractors pay workers to work Saturdays for tools, then turn around and claim they were stolen from the job, in stereo equipment, and even getting a driveway paved. There is no stretch in the creative way the construction industry attempts to evade paying taxes and increasing their profits with no sense of moral scruples. We are looking at an unprecedented amount of construction work, the unfortunate piece is we still have to compete in the same industry where cash and trade are king.

We attended a retiree gathering for our Dockyard Members. Over the last couple years, we've not been able to come together to celebrate their combined lifetime of work within the IBEW and Local 230. Bill Vincent put in 43 years with Local 230 and worked the past 17 years at Dockyard. Bill is well known for his No-BS view on life and I will personally miss him during my visits to the yard. We also recently met with our IBEW Stewards at Dockyard to begin prepping for their upcoming negotiations as well. Many of our older stewards have moved on into other roles and retirement and we have some important education and relationship building to do with many of these new stewards.



5th from the left front row: retiree Brother Bill Vincent in a black T-shirt raising a glass to his retirement

We met with the Baggage Screeners, our newest group of members, at Victoria International Airport to help answer any questions they had of their new union. This will require some extra work as we reach out to the those working in the softer tech industries.

We are moving again. It was 12 years ago we purchased and moved into our own business office on Jacklin Road, we had set aside enough money to purchase the small 1728 square foot office space and paid it off about 4 years ago. In some cases, we've shared office space over the last five years, and even used our boardroom to provide space for staff. We've been strained for space for years, and so the Directors of the Local 230 Building Society requested the Treasurer and the Business Manager/ Financial Secretary to seek out alternate accommodations for the Local Union. That was five years ago.

We've waded through 6-foot-high grass, climbed mountainsides, walked through grow-ops, visited most city and town planners and mayors to seek out suitable municipal lands, we even stopped to admire the view under a tree on one property that the Queen literally had tea about 100 years ago, (not the same Queen). We were tied up in two of the most prominent real-estate deals on the South Island at the same time in 2021, the Metchosin Boys and Girls Club and the Western Speedway lands, we had offers on both properties at the same time during their runs through the media. Unfortunately, both became unworkable from our perspective. Many of these site walk-throughs were on our weekends and evenings, and so, I'm proud (and relieved) to say we finally found a new office that has made most sense over the past 5 years. At about half the price tag of new unfinished space across from a hockey arena. We are moving back downtown into the city to 21 Dallas Road and 4 blocks from the BC Legislature Buildings. Some of our members believe we should be politically disengaged, however as I've often stated, when our members begin their apprenticeship, they sign that contract with the government. When they go to trade school it's under the curriculum set by government, as well as the grants and scholarships. Your Bursary limits are set by government, when you go to work, it's under the

health and safety laws established by government, as well as other laws as highlighted earlier this year with the creation of our new 5 Day Sick Leave, and the new BC Skilled Trades Certification, which will require all electrical workers to be registered apprentices or Journey electricians to work in our trade. If you get injured on the job, how you get paid and even how much you get paid is established by the government. When you are laid-off, the Employment Insurance you get paid and the regulatory umbrella of E.I. also set by government, when you retire your pension is overseen by government, and right up until

you're laid to rest six feet underground some of the costs are paid for by the government. Jiminy Cricket! We have about 200 members who work directly for the federal, provincial and municipal governments!

They have Ministers of Labour, and that is WHO WE ARE. Labour. As long as they have their nose in our business, we must have our nose in theirs. That is how working people have always gotten ahead, establishing a working relationship with government, and communicating our struggles with an effort to raise the standards of our lives and community.

So, our location is important to our very future as a Labour Organization, and that was one of the decisive reasons we landed on returning back down town for our business office, while our new Training Centre is established in Esquimalt.

IBEW Local 230 Youth Conference & Steward Education



Stewards participating in a Blanket Exercise facilitated by Kairos Canada

Youth Conference/NextGen

Five years ago, in 2017 Local 230 held its first ever Youth Conference. We applied for and received our NextGen Charter from the International, but beyond that we became the first Local Union to imbed the Youth Conference into our Policy Manual and provide the elected Chair of the Youth Committee a seat at the Executive Board. Along came 2020 for our 2nd Conference, but so did COVID which set the Conference back. Two years later and (conference) life returning to quasi-normal conditions we set out to hold our 2nd Youth Conference.

About 50 youth members came from all over Vancouver Island to participate at this event held in Victoria in early June. Members received Indigenous Awareness Training through a Blanket Exercise by KAIROS Canada, Financial Planning; Knowing your Financial Wellness,

Number and “Everything your rich Uncle never told you about finances, provided by Manulife and Canada’s Best Pension Plan, IBEW Labour History provided by Brother Jim Watson from the International’s Education Department, Stress Management and Naloxone Training by the Construction Industry Rehabilitation Plan Counsellors. They received Labour leaders’ comments from Brother Laird Cronk, President of the BC Federation of Labour and Sister Brynn Bourke, Executive Director of the BC Building Trades. Brother Cory McGregor spoke to them about how the Dispatch Procedure functions, and Brandon Dyck from the International Organizing staff spoke to them about Organizing. Trevor Botkin from Heroworks talked to the 230 youth about the importance of giving back to the community we live and work in, Freeyelle Mehari from Union Savings presented to the group on available discounts to union members, and Izabelle Allouche from the Western JETS spoke to the group about Apprenticeship Supports, and Lee Kupiak owner of Thomis Electric spoke to the group about the importance of positive attitudes on the job.

The group received a multi-government political panel made up of Victoria City Councillor (and Mayoral hopeful in this year’s municipal elections) Marianne Alto, MLA and Parliamentary Secretary on Apprenticeships, Andrew Mercier and IBEW political lobbyist Matt Wayland (as the MP’s in Ottawa were sitting in session

at the time of the Conference). The panelists were open and transparent in their answers and engaged with our youth. At the end of the 3rd day of Training and Education the Youth Committee elections were held, and the outcome of the vote resulted in Sister Lauren Scott-Moncrieff returning as the Chair, Brother Evan Dickinson becomes the Vice-Chair and Brother Austin Foster becomes the Recording Secretary. The 3 days of training and education is in keeping with the commitment we intended in our Policy Manual additions to help shape these great young members to keep our local union engaged and moving in the right direction for years to come. Thanks to the Local 230 staff allowing the event to run seamless throughout the 3 days and thanks to our youth members who were able to participate.

Please spread the word to other local 230 youth so we continue on the success of this important event come 2025!



Youth Members putting in their ballots for NextGen Chair, Vice-Chair and Recording Secretary



Richard Hughes, Certified Financial Planner for CBPP and Mark Macool, Financial Education Specialist for Manulife deliver financial training to the Youth Conference



Youth Members at Labour History Course

IBEW Local 230 Training Society Buys New Training Centre!



IBEW Local 230 Training Society AGM will be held following the regular Unit Meetings in September.
September Unit Meetings

Victoria Unit 1 September 8th 7:00 PM
Local 230 Training Centre 859 Viewfield Road

Marine Unit 4 September 14th 5:00 PM
Local 230 Training Centre 859 Viewfield Road

Courtenay/Campbell River Unit 3 September 15th 7:00 PM
Halbe Hall 8369 North Island Hwy

Nanaimo Unit 2 September 21st 7:00 PM
306-477 Wallace Street

IBEW Local 230 Building Society AGM/Special Called Meeting will be held following the Training Society Meetings in September (as noted above).

The "Special Called Meeting" portion of the AGM will include a motion to, "list suite #103-2823 Jacklin Road Property when practicable/as soon as possible" for the purpose to sell that subject property. After a five year search the Local 230 Building Society Directors found and purchased a new larger property within the City of Victoria, providing for much more needed office space, making the Jacklin Road property redundant.

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Shop Space at the New Training Centre



Class Space at the New Training Centre

