



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter

Since 1902

Local 230 Office Has Moved!



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 office space for the Local Union. That was five years ago.

We 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 at about 100 years ago. 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 the 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 in one of the prominent concrete buildings in Victoria, Shoal Point, at 21 Dallas Road. Our staff continue to settle in with the move, and take on the challenges of our

staff that have moved on. Cory will be joining Cassidy over at the Training Centre in Esquimalt where he will continue on with his Training Coordinator role, and some instruction of our members safety training. While Cassidy will take on the role of Apprenticeship Coordinator, so our members seeking training and/or answers to their Apprenticeship can go to Esquimalt, to get the help they need Monday to Friday.

Please be patient with our offices, as we had difficulty with the ITA training and hours getting uploaded. Meanwhile, if you are an apprentice and you should be getting a term change, this should NOT BE DELAYED IN ANY WAY. If you are please email me directly and I will rectify that with your Employer.

Brother Rich LeBoutillier has started work with our office as the new Dispatcher, Cory has been showing Rich the ropes, and Allie has joined Lilja in the clerical front end to help handle dues, filing, mail, and so much more.

I know this is a change for the membership, but I know these changes will make us a better local union. For example, I'm pleased to hear our members' positive feedback on the new financial services we offer from our office with CBPP, and we have a few more irons in the fire to expand those services into next year. I am asking for your patience over the next few months, so we can finish unpacking and get back to a smooth-running organization.

Volume 4: 2022

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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 pleased to announce our office doors are open to the public. Thank you all for your patience during the last two years.

Unit Meetings are back and held in-person. Please check our Facebook page for updates!

Holiday Closure

Closing on Friday, December 23rd @ 12:00pm
Re-Opening on Tuesday, January 3rd @ 8:00am

Upcoming Training

Feb. 18 | Conduit Level 1 | Courtenay

Feb. 19 | Conduit Level 2 | Courtenay

Apr. 1-2 | Residential Wiring | Nanaimo

FOLLOW US ON



Business Manager's Report

Many non-union construction workers throughout Vancouver Island are being paid piece rate, and misclassified as "independent contractors" with no contributions to their Canadian Pension Plan, Workers Compensation, Employment Insurance, and more. This isn't prevalent in the electrical industry yet, but it is not that far away if it's happening with other trades. There are several other ways we've seen non-union electrical contractors paying weekend work with expense cheques, working a second shift with the same company but under a different name, working weekends for tools, stereo installations, and even getting your driveway paved. This is the cash and trade market that exists prominently in the non-union construction market.

We met with Labour Minister Harry Bains proposing the government put together compliance teams to take a hands-on approach to shining a bright light on the underground construction economy in BC. All of this is with the hopes in 2023 the BC Government will establish that task force so we won't have to compete against this unlawful behaviour.

It was my complete honour on September 22nd to attend the Mesothelioma Asbestos Memorial unveiling as the first artwork to depict the Magic and Lethal principles of Asbestos. BC is the first geographic jurisdiction in North America to establish a memorial, which is significant as we are also the first region to establish regulations in worker credentials and contractor licensing, and it was an honour to work on the pre-consultation team on the coming legislation to make our jobs a safer place to work.

This is a long-overdue, hard-fought win, by many allies and advocates who have typically lost friends and family to this horrible infliction. We continued on with our members' education with two more Code of Excellence Classes, the SPARQ program was established in 2007 when Local 230 embraced it and helped put together the Canadian version.

Our Local 230 staff Reps Shane Scott, Cory McGregor and Kale Anguish, continued to provide "Be More Than a Bystander" Training for our members. This is where our male leaders are taught to stand up for our female and minority members as our Local changes to better mirror our communities.

And, our retirement experts provided financial training with their Money Matters training, while our old friend Jim Watson from our International Education Department provided a full day session of "Mental Health Awareness" Training so we can better understand our thoughts and feelings, and be considerate of other members on the job and their own thoughts, feelings, as we all just try to adapt to the circumstances that come our way each and every day.

This training will make us a better and more professional Local Union, and I recommend all members eventually take this training when offered and you are available.



IBEW Construction Business Managers join BC Federation of Labour President Brother Laird Cronk at the unveiling of the Mesothelioma Memorial.

We met with BCIB over the upcoming Cowichan Hospital project, and although the successful construction team has NOT been officially announced yet, we have our billboard hanging in Duncan featuring Cowichan Tribes Brother Will R., highlighting our Island Building Trades support for the Community Benefit Agreement. This will become a major job for us beginning next year and throughout 2024, and into 2025.

Chris Erikson, Business Manager of Local 3, New York City and IEC Chairman developed his "Wake the "F" Up!" initiative as the United States headed into their mid-term elections. And although the discussion is U.S. centric, the same discussion can be held in every democratic country around the world including Canada. More and more political parties around the globe are being bought by multi-national corporations to do their bidding, which includes an anti-union anti-worker sub-living wage agenda. We need to "wake-up" to that agenda as the reality rarely lands on point with the political script of those right-wing parties. It's a spun world order to suppress our world's workers, and, THAT IS US!

Over the last few months, we've seen provincial attacks on front-line teaching staff in Ontario bumping them to the back of the line by the anti-union Doug Ford government. We've spent the better part of the last 3 years working as essential workers, but all too often treated as expendable when it comes to our health and safety during a global pandemic. While we continue to fight for better bathroom conditions, better asbestos legislation, and better work and life standards, we can't ignore we're constantly fighting governments, industry heads and employers to obtain that better life.

Workers everywhere are wanting to join a union, whether it be Starbucks or Apple stores, workers are wising up and rising up.

And it's about time.

It's been workers that have built our country and we need to recognize that labour must, mobilize and organize if we are going to hold our own as the work around us on the Island expands. If we don't expand with it, we will lose ground when it contracts, and that is why I hired Russ Alexander and Rob Mangat to help us with those goals up and down-Island. So, if you can help them, help you, contact them for any organizing concerns or opportunities.

And, finally, as we settle into the final days of 2022 seeing the snow blanket much of the Island, from my family to yours, wishing you all the best of the Holiday Season and what is looking like a very prosperous New Year!

Thank You Premier John Horgan



Premier John Horgan shares a moment with Business Manager Phil, from Vic-West

An open letter to John (from Langford)

Dear John,

I want to deeply thank you for the legislative work you focused on to make life better for workers throughout British Columbia, and more specifically I want to thank you on behalf of the IBEW members of Local 230. Your time, energy, and devotion to making British Columbia's working-class lives better is unrivaled by any who have served as Premier before you.

You have truly been the people's Premier.

I would like to thank you for the changes to the Medical Services Plan, taking the responsibility of paying that off worker's backs (and our Health & Welfare Plans), which was never the intent envisioned with Universal Health Care. It was the heartfelt and financially responsible position to take, which resulted in putting more money into workers' pockets, helping to stimulate the economy rather than their employer's setting aside a little bit more into their profit margin. Employers would have never spent the same value of expendable income throughout BC, as their own workers would with that increased disposable income. This single move helped provide more money for working families to spend in small and medium businesses, which resulted in across the board hiring throughout BC.

I want to thank you for sidelining the politics on the COVID-19 file and trusting the subject matter experts from the medical community.

Our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, served as a mental and emotional soothing force of nature that put the health and safety of British Columbian's first. While other provinces and nations floundered, we flourished, and we served as a beacon of hope by putting our faith in science.

Thanks for providing 5 days of Sick Pay for all of British Columbia's workers, it took a global pandemic and the risk borne by broader essential workers who went to work every day not knowing the health impact COVID would have on them and their families, to highlight the importance of paid sick leave for workers. Five days sick leave for our members working in construction and private shipyards is an incredible new benefit they would likely never receive from their employers without taking significant money out of their pockets to achieve.

Thank you for renewing the status associated to being a "Journ'ee" by re-establishing the Skilled Trades BC and Compulsory Certification for the 3 electrical trades of: construction electrician, industrial electrician, and powerline technician. This change renews the commitment to safety and apprenticeship for all workers in electrical crafts, which is where the origins of, and the *raison d'être* for which the IBEW was instituted.

Thank you for Asbestos Abatement Credentialing of workers and Licensing of Employers. Asbestos has inflicted more pain and suffering on our IBEW membership,

construction, and shipyard workers than any other workplace product or illness. Making our workplaces safer for our members going forward, due to making the abatement industry better regulated, is the best response to a centuries old problem that has caused countless and unnecessary heartbreak for all trades workers and their families.

Thank you for introducing Community Benefit Agreements putting local trades to work on public projects in their own backyards and allows for shorter commutes to work, creating more time to spend with family and friends. Making key infrastructure projects work to the benefit of communities throughout British Columbia, while respecting their work in paying them a respectful wage and benefits supporting families is a holistic approach and use of government funds.

Thank you for making the environment a major priority of government by signing onto the multi-platform CleanBC Initiative, and deciding on the continuation of site "C" Dam construction, providing cheap renewable power for generations to come, for realizing that LNG is a transformable resource that BC is rich in, and that will help develop our wealth to become an economic power-house to position BC for the next best environmental change for the planet.

Thank you for making the changes to the BC Employment Standards Act, building the foundation of the basement floor and not allowing employers to pay less than the minimum as established by the ESA. Thank you for removing the self-help kit, which pitted workers' concerns of getting ripped off by their employers, that were literally ripping them off! And then having to face their employer to rectify their unbalanced actions.

Thank you for bringing forward positive Labour Code changes allowing workers an easier pathway to joining a union of their choice.

Thank you for introducing \$10 Day Care, increasing the minimum wage to \$15.65 per hour, and so much more in the focus to building a better BC for IBEW members and all British Columbians.

Wishing you, Ellie and the kids the best Holiday Season ever!

Congratulations to our new Red Seal Electricians!



Top-left: Owner of Aines & Tyler Electric presents Red Seal ticket to Dylan H., Shay E.

Middle-left: Zach C., Kurtis S.

Bottom-left: Nic P., Korey H.