



# International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902

## IBEW Local 230 in the Community



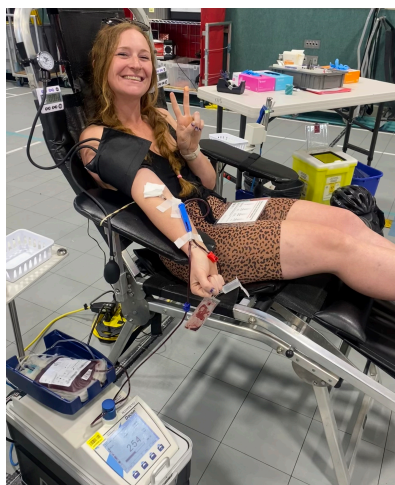
**Al, Victoria Unit Chair & Cory, 230 Rep**

The Victoria Labour Council hosted their annual Labour Day picnic for the first time at Memorial Park in the township of Esquimalt. The event was a great success with many union folks and their families enjoying the long weekend. Several guest speakers addressed the crowd such as MLA Mitzi Dean, City of Victoria Mayor Marianne Alto, Sooke Mayor Maja Tait, and more. Along with IBEW LU230, other labour groups participated such as BCGEU, CUPE, SEIU, and many others.

On August 12th the Baskin family hosted the 40th Anniversary of the Baskin/IBEW Local 230 Pig Roast. The event was a big hit with a live band, horseshoe tournament, chicken chit bingo, raffle prizes, kids games and so much more. It was great to see a successful turnout and Rep Shane Scott, Marine Rep Kale Anguish, and Campbell River/Courtenay Unit Chair Shane Varney joined in on the fun. We look forward to events like this where Local 230 members have the opportunity to connect outside of work and create relationships that last years.



**The Baskin and IBEW Local 230 Annual Pig Roast**



**Outgoing NextGen Chair, Lauren SM**

On July 22nd, our NextGen Committee hosted a Blood Drive spear headed by NextGen Chair, Sister Lauren SM. Did you know 1 in 2 Canadians are eligible to donate blood, but only 1 in 81 actually do! The COVID pandemic resulted in the smallest donor base in a decade and created a national blood supply shortage in Canada. A huge thank you to Local 230 donors for making a difference! We are excited that the NextGen Committee is looking into making this an annual event.

This summer was also the 30th annual Michael Dunahee Slot-Pitch Tournament of Hope. Our Local 230 team played on August 5th to 7th at MacDonald Park in James Bay. The tournament had been cancelled for two years during the pandemic but returns with union-sponsored teams raising funds for Child Find BC, an organization that works with police and families to reduce incidences of missing and exploited children. FMF Bolts also had a good season playing against 19 other teams in the Naden hockey league. The league has 4 different divisions with the FMF Bolts in 'A Division'. Bolts played in B Division and won the title in 2019. Formerly the FMF STARS the Bolts have been playing for 5 years now.



**Local 230 Live Wires Slo-Pitch Team**



**Marine Rep Kale Anguish and FMF Bolts Hockey Team**

## Volume 3: 2023

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### Member's Dues Auto-Deposit

To send dues payment via e-Transfer, 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 and Notes

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

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

### Business Hours

Main Office: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Training Centre: 8:00am - 5:00pm

### Upcoming Training

Oct 13-15	Fiber Optic	Nanaimo
Nov 18	Conduit Level 1	Victoria
Nov 19	Conduit Level 3	Victoria
Nov 24-26	Fiber Optic	Victoria
Dec 9-10	Residential Wiring	Nanaimo

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# Business Manager's Report



**Phil Venoit**  
**Business Manager/Financial Secretary**

Well summer seemed to blow right past me. Hopefully, you all had some R&R, plenty of time at the lake, out on the boat, on the golf course, or just time surrounded by friends and family. First, I want to thank the members who participated in our Local Union elections this summer. This was my 8th election as Business Manager/ Financial Secretary for Local 230 and the weight of your standard of living and your work-life continues to be an incredible humbling responsibility that stays with me every day. On a personal note, with over 21 years, this election also provides me the honour to being the current longest serving IBEW Business Manager in Canada today.

I'm happy to report there was wide-spread approval from the members of the Construction Agreement ratification, the first raise this year June 2nd of 7.5% went onto your wage (Vacation/Holiday pay), and your next raise of an additional 2.5% coming in October will also be going on to your wages to help offset the increased costs of inflation. On the current inflation, there are economists out there now blaming inflation on wage increases.

That is nothing more than a steaming pile of bullshit. This recent inflation is a consequence of corporations from making a product and storing that product, to shifting to real-time needs manufacturing to sale, of the same products, saving on their warehousing costs.

During normal times you can dial-in purchasing trends to ensure the supply chain isn't upended. But, COVID-19 wasn't "normal times" on a global scale. Manufacturing plants around the world shuttered due to outbreaks, and concerns of outbreak, and economic uncertainty. Then Putin decided to invade Ukraine, one of the largest grain producers on the planet. Grain is the foundation for our food, not just our bread, but feed for our meat and poultry. Climate change is another cause driving our current inflation, fossil-fuel policy shifts so we are not building refineries to turn our oil into gas and diesel here at home. Instead, relying on other countries to do that, increases the cost to filling up your gas tank to get to work. Then, as we came out of C-19 every government in the world decided to help restart their economy by investing in new and long-forgotten infrastructure (construction) projects, which of-course resulted in increased demand and increased value and costs. And finally, good old fashion corporate greed is another major factor in driving inflation. When the 3 largest grocery outlets in Canada are increasing their profit margins, while consumers are economically forced to buy inferior products off their shelves, they are at least in part to blame. But nobody mentions that.

So, workers wages are NOT the cause, they/we are the effect. Especially, when you're in a union, because we are the only ones who can stand up and do something to counter inflation's effects. And the lucky non-union workforce hitches their cart to our horsepower.

## Health and Welfare

For members working under the construction agreement, as well as the members working on the Cowichan Hospital, private Shipyards and Motor Winders collective agreements, the Trustees of locals 230, 993 & 1003 decided upon the following benefit increases:

- Vision Care from \$500 to \$750 per family member, every two years for prescription glasses, or towards the costs of laser surgery.
- The para-medicals (like massage, acupuncture, and chiropractic work from \$1000 to \$1500 per family member, per year.
- We also agreed to discontinue putting the dispensing fees on the members, and so the costs of the dispensing fees will now be borne by the Plan.

*All these changes came into effect July 1st.*

## Apprentice Bursary

Apprentices will have to show their 4 union meetings per year as of 2024 to receive their bursaries and book reimbursements. So, as the weather turns and the evenings turn darker and colder, it would be great to see the members coming out to their unit meetings throughout the Island again.

Check out our Facebook page for upcoming meeting dates.

Good news from the federal government!

Trades workers can now deduct up to \$1,000 of their tools on their taxes each year. Buy tools, and claim the costs of those tools on your taxes.

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## IBEW Local 230 Election Results 2023

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I would like to begin by thanking those members who put their names forward in this year's election of officers of the Local Union. There is a good deal of responsibility, work, and understanding of the importance, and what is in the best interests for the Local Union and the Local 230 membership always in focus for the Officers.

I would also like to thank the members who participated in our democratic process, with their due care and consideration of electing leaders to continue to move our Local Union forward.

Finally, my task would have been much greater if not for the help and hard work of our two Election Tellers Brothers Jon Gable and Daniel Nelson, and Sergeant of Arms Brother Shane Scott.

Fraternally, Chris Baker  
Local 230 Election Judge

The Election Results are as follows;

### Executive Board

President - Raj Takhar  
Vice-President- Jackie Oliver  
Recording Secretary - Lauren Scott-Montrieff  
Treasurer - Adrien Livingston  
Victoria Unit Chair - Al Sotkoway  
Nanaimo Unit Chair - Dave Lambert  
Courtney/Campbell River Unit Chair - Shane Varney  
Marine Unit Chair - Jeremy Switzer

Business Manager/Financial Secretary - Phil Venoit



# Retirement & Savings Plan Perks



We are happy to announce that the IBEW Local 230 Retirement & Savings Plan has been enhanced for all plan members. This includes low fees, financial planning services, and multiple avenues of support.

## Reintroducing the Bonus Program from Manulife – Lower fees = more money for retirement.

As we continue to make enhancements to our Retirement & Savings Plan, we would like to remind everyone of the low investment fees available to all plan members.

For example, the average balanced fund in Canada, like the ones you find at a bank, have an annual management expense of 2.15%. With the IBEW Local 230 plan, the fee for the balanced fund is 1.16%, and as low as 0.91% when your account is over \$60,000.

Account Balance (\$)	Adjustment to IMF (%)
0 – 24,999	0.00
25,000 – 39,999	- 0.10
40,000 – 59,999	- 0.20
60,000 +	- 0.25

## Introducing PlanRight Financial Planning Services by Manulife – Now included with your plan.

Manulife PlanRight advisors are fully-licensed financial advisors - salaried employees with no commission. That means they will review your savings and investment options and help you make decisions that are best for you. They can help you get the most from your savings plans and help make decisions to maintain your lifestyle now and in the future. To book a time with a Manulife PlanRight Advisor, scan the QR code and fill out the form. A PlanRight advisor will respond within 3 business days to set a meeting time with you.



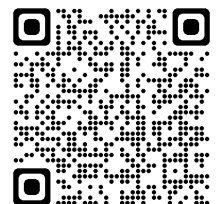
## Introducing the New Plan Information & Enrollment Hub - Now with TFSA online enrollment.



Manulife has launched a new hub for information about the IBEW Local 230 Retirement and Savings Plan. This includes plan details, a list of available investment funds, educational resources, contact information, online enrollment, and a link to sign in. The new TFSA is now available for online enrollment as well for all members. Scan the QR code for instant access.

## Introducing the New Frequently Asked Questions – Now with direct access to all required forms.

Wondering how to deposit or withdraw money from the plan, change your address, update your beneficiary, withdraw money to buy your first home, or any other administrative kinds of issues? Manulife has introduced a comprehensive FAQ page to help you get things done quickly and efficiently, including links to any forms that you might need. Scan the QR code and scroll down the page to get instant answers.



## Additional Contact & Support Options

You can call Manulife directly for account inquiries at 1-888-727-7766, 5am-5pm Pacific Time, M-F.

If you have questions about the status of contributions into your RRSP or RPP, please contact DA Townley toll-free at 1-800-663-1356.

And if you require additional support, if you aren't getting the answers you need, or if you're just not sure who to contact, please email details to [ibew230@cbpp.ca](mailto:ibew230@cbpp.ca) and we will respond ASAP.

# Congratulations to our new Red Seal Electricians!



**Top-left:** Erin D., Edmundo T., Logan G.

**Middle-left:** Kevin T., Austin C.

**Bottom-left:** Kyle S., Sebastian H., Josh W.