



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Vancouver Island

Quarterly Newsletter Since 1902

Bill 9 and the Right for a Provincial Worker to Respect a Federal Picket Line

On April 13th, 2023, our members working around the Island for seven Local 230 employers at seven different locations owned by the federal government and employing members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), were met with various picket lines as they showed up for work. The PSAC had been in bargaining for almost 16 months, and they weren't getting what would come close to the inflation we were seeing running rampant across the country. Our members were working under 3 collective agreements, one was federally regulated, while the other two were working under the provincial code and regulations.

Our construction contractors were mostly understanding and chill, this wasn't their first labour dispute, and in this case, they were collateral damage. They moved members around on to other jobs where they could, so wherever possible, the picket lines didn't cut too deep into their pay cheques, however, that was not the case for the rest of our members.



We had our FMF members under the direction of management rally at the Tillicum Mall, miles away from their place of work, held there, and signed in to provide the Employer evidence they showed up for work and were re-directed. I think it's safe to say, beyond "show up, or go to the mall" management provided very little clear direction beyond that, our FMF members losing just over a week's pay, which resulted in 163 grievances by Local 230 members, and we are coming to a close on those hearings.

Victoria Shipyard was a different scenario altogether. After being directly impacted by the Merchant Seamen's Guild strike in Vancouver months before, Seaspan (Victoria Shipyard) decided to utilize a narrow portion of the BC Labour Relations Code, that recognition of a striking workforce would only be legally observed if the striking workers were Provincially regulated. PSAC is a federal workforce. So, Victoria Shipyard took our Victoria unions to the Labour Relations Board and received a favourable Decision.

Then, they warned the unions, if you don't show up and tell your members to cross the picket line, they would sue us for breaching a Board Order and hold us responsible for the loss of production. In response, we launched a Canadian Charter challenge, which declared the Board Order legally wrong, and the Seaspan suit was over-reaching and heavy-handed. The strike was over a few days later, and the unions and Seaspan both agreed to withdraw from each of our/their legal pursuits in the matter. The unions believed we could present our position to the BC government, and they would see the common sense and legal position of the unions and make the necessary changes without the long-delay or high-costs associated with going to the Supreme Court (then possible further Appeals).

I'm proud to say that, a year later, on April 25th, 2024, our Provincial NDP Government did just that, they understood the language was unfair, it was likely illegal, and regardless of the angry and harsh push-back from the other BC right-wing political parties and the anti-union business community, they passed Bill 9 which changed the definition of strike in BC, so this scenario should never happen again.

I know we have members that may not like my politics, but there is only one political Party in BC that routinely stands up for workers, the others stand with business and big money which is often used against our interests, and this is just one more example of our BC NDP standing with us.

Volume 2: 2024

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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

Please be advised, as of July 1st, 2024 there will be an increase of \$1 for the per capita that is paid to the International's General Fund, therefore, the rate for all members shall increase.

"A" Members = \$55/month
"BA" Members = \$33/month

News and Notes

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

Business Hours

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

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

Upcoming Training

June 15-16 | Fire Alarm | Victoria

June 22 | Code Update 2021 | Zoom

July 20 | Code Update 2021 | Zoom

Aug 27, 28 | Code Update 2021 | Zoom

Sept 24, 25 | Code Update 2021 | Zoom

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BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT



Business Manager Venoit meets with Labour Minister Bains to discuss the importance of redefining "strike" in the BC Labour Relations Code

Earlier this year, we held another successful 2-day construction and industrial Shop Steward Class for 18 of our newer stewards from all over the Island, with the International Educational Staff Jim Watson. We also ran two more full Code of Excellence classes in Victoria, and we are in line to do more Code of Excellence classes mid-Island this coming Fall.

We had 3 more days of negotiations on behalf of our Fleet Maintenance Facility members working at Esquimalt, Rocky Point and Nanoose, and although we couldn't get where we needed to be for our members the bargaining team let the Employer know without hesitation, that we are too far apart, and we believe the only way forward is through Arbitration.

The bargaining team has made application with the Federal Public Sector Labour Relations and Employment Board, and we are continuing to lean on Lawyer Ron Pink for guidance on the particulars. As our members work for the same Employer, on the same vessels, with the same Trade's Qualifications, there remains a significant compensation gap, we will be focusing on that gap between our members working on the west-coast, and those working at the Fleet Maintenance Facility in Halifax on Canada's East Coast. The last time our members went to Arbitration, the Arbitrator awarded our membership an across the board 5.2% market adjusted increase, only a few months later the

CITY OF VICTORIA:

Currently working at Ships Point Event Power Upgrades and Pop-Up Stage Installation, Quadra/Topaz & Douglas/Pembroke Traffic Signal Upgrades, and Bastion Square Lighting and Safety Improvements. With work coming soon to the Blanshard Transit Corridor Upgrades (Fort to Caledonia), and the Blackball Ferry Terminal Beautification and Roadway/Sidewalk Lighting Improvements.

CONSTRUCTION:

Aines & Tyler – is staying busy with Service & Maintenance, and small projects.

Ainsworth Inc. – is staying busy with projects on the Nanaimo General Hospital, service & maintenance at Nanaimo area schools and Vancouver Island University.

ARRM Electric – is currently working on The Sequoia Residences at Marigold, a six-storey, 64 Unit condominium and townhome project in Central Saanich.

Aurora Electric – is currently busy with City Gate in Langford 132 residential Condo units, North Grove Apartments 149 units in Nanaimo, and Wembley Condo Complex 116 units in Parksville.

Black & McDonald – is busy with the A/B Jetty project in Esquimalt, and crewing up for the Campbell River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Canem Systems – Scianew Stelitel Elementary School a 480-seat elementary school on Latoria Road, in Langford projected to open fall 2025.

The UVIC Engineering Expansion project consists of two new state-of-the-art academic buildings: the Engineering Computer Science Building expansion, and the High Bay Research and Structures Lab with about 80,000 square feet more floor space.

Daeco Installations – picked up work on the Gorge Street lighting project in Victoria, as well as Service & Maintenance for the City of Nanaimo.

Emery Electric – The Salt Spring Island Rainbow Recreation Centre – Electrical Upgrades including, replacement of existing main service, distribution panels, transformers, and motor control centre. Pender Island Magic Lake Estates – Upgrades to and new construction, and equipment installation and commissioning of the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Cannon Pump Station, Schooner Pump Station, and Galeon Pump Station, and the City of Victoria's Chatham Sewage Lift Station Upgrade.



Members at the Nanaimo Correctional Centre

M A R K E T

Evitt Electric – is staying busy with Service and small projects.

Houle Electric – is currently wrapping up the new Duncan Highschool, while beginning to seriously crew-up for the new Cowichan District Hospital project which will see up to 200 members at some point this year, The new Telus Ocean project in Victoria which will serve as their new Headquarters on the open lot across the street from the Victoria Conference Centre. The North Island College Student Housing, the Wedge Condo in Victoria, and District of Saanich Fire Station re-development.

Island Technical Installations – is reporting busy with work throughout the Province, ITI will be moving into a larger shop space to handle expanding work opportunities.

Island Temperature Controls – picked up the Controls for the Sidney Centre for Plant Health, the new Royal Roads Westshore Campus, and Seniors Care Buildings at Nigel House.

FMI – is supplying 230 members to assist Aecon at the John Hart Dam seismic project. The Annual shut-down at Harmac, preparing for the intake/spillway operating gates at Puntledge Dam in Courtenay, and continuing to crew up at the Site "C" Dam project.

Federal Conservative Government legislated that market-based increase away from them, and for those members who are wondering how Pierre Poilievre voted? He voted to take your 5.2% away from you. That's all on record, and we should all be acutely aware, he could very likely do it all over again, if he becomes our next Prime Minister. We submitted the IBEW's Labour Code proposals going forward to the Provincial Government, which focused primarily on first Collective Agreements. Whereas the Building Trades Unions in BC agreed to take on the Safety Training for our respective trades in the last round of bargaining, and as we continue to lay the groundwork to do this the right way, we've purchased a new JLG and Scissor-lift for our

Local 230 Training Centre for our aerial work platform course, as well as our Fall Protection Equipment. IBEW International President Ken Cooper has initiated a new Policy "Membership Day One" there isn't a lot of specific information that has come out on this yet, however it is clear in the name alone Local 230's six-month probationary period (or "membership day one-hundred and eighty-three") will clearly not fly. And, as IVP Shewchuk's follow-up letter on the Policy, stated he expects Canadian Locals to be in compliance within 30 days, I had the Local 230 Staff run around the Island and swore most of our members who have worked for us over the past six months, that will bring in about 100 new members into Local 230.

As the Member Day One Policy specifics become crystal clear we will be updating our Local 230 Policy Manual to mirror International President Cooper's intent.



OVERVIEW

Fettback & Heesterman – has been awarded Phase 1 of the Legacy Gathering Space Project for the Pauquachin Nation in the south Island. These are two mass timber buildings, the Band Hall and Long House intended to hold 400 people.

Kobalt Systems – is just wrapping up a large security intrusion and door access project at Camosun College Lansdowne Campus, and is busy with service and security projects around the South Island.

LeeMac Electric – is busy with Service work and residential projects.



Prep Energy – is busy working on the Nanaimo Hospital power upgrade, Regional District of Nanaimo basement MCC project, and small HVAC controls work.

Prime Engineering – is reporting busy with the manufacturing of equipment for various upcoming projects. They will be moving early this summer to another location with a larger footprint allowing them to take on more work.

Raylec Power – is busy with ongoing Highways maintenance, BC Transit - Island Highway Transit Priority Project, Roadway Lighting & Traffic Signal Upgrades. City of Nanaimo Midtown Gateway Project Roadway Lighting & Traffic Signal Upgrades. City of Courtenay 1st Street Lift Station Upgrade a new Deep Well, Pump Station, Power, Controls Kiosk & Generator.

Royal Jubilee Hospital – is crewing up for a re-lamp project replacing over 1,000 LEDs.

SASCO – is busy with the LABS Canada project, and currently negotiating a number of other projects to begin this year.

Shaw Electrical Services – is busy with lots of Service work and City of Nanaimo contracts.

Thomis Electric – Two 6 storey buildings at "Telus Living" adds 195 new rental homes within easy walking distance of Nanaimo's downtown harbour front and historic uptown neighbourhoods. The Cowichan Hospital Controls portion, work at Nigel House, and the new CREST building in Langford.

Western Technical Installations – is busy with work on the mainland and is looking forward to winning more work on the

Island. They have recently had a change in ownership to Dan Mott of Mott Electric and the new General Manager is Shaun McBride.

Motor Winding Shops – are reporting busy at Emery Motors and Beaver Machinery, and both have ratified a new 3-year collective agreement, while Duncan Electric Motors and North Island Pumps are due to begin negotiations soon.

MARINE:

Emery Electric – is working on the CCGS Grenfell Alongside Refit as well as the CCGS Neocaligus all electrical work and testing involved in these refits.

Victoria Shipyards – Members are busy working on Frigate HMCS Calgary, with a re-lamp to LED's, Underwater Warfare Suite Upgrade, the Multi ammo soft kill system, Naval remote weapons system, HVAC system cooling fan repairs. VISSC (HMCS Victoria) steel preheat to support the boilermaker's production, switchboard survey repairs, and propulsion system.

Railway – South Vancouver Island Railway is still doing all they can to revitalize Rail transportation, the workforce there also has a new 5-year collective agreement, to provide some security in the short-term.

Out of Jurisdiction – We currently have about 100 members working on the LNG Canada project and we are awaiting the clients announcement on whether they will proceed with Trains 3 and 4 which will extend the project another 3-4 years, and another 100 members cleared to the Site "C" project.

Congratulations to our new Red Seal Electricians!



Top Left: Chace S., Isaac H., Clayton H.

Middle Left: Ashley D., Jack M., Kamiya C.

Bottom Left: Jacob H., Devin C., Evan B.