

## UNIT MEETINGS SEPTEMBER, 2011

**UNIT #1** (Alarms, Business Machines, Cable, City of Vancouver, City of New Westminster, Euro-Rite Cabinets, SPUDS, Trader Corp., Sears)

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Local Union Hall, 1424 Broadway Street, Port Coquitlam

**UNIT #2** (Wiremen & Apprentices residing in Lower Mainland, Marine, Neon, Ocean Construction, SFU, Maple Leaf Foods, Winders, Vancouver School Board)

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, September 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Local Union Hall, 1424 Broadway Street, Port Coquitlam

**\*\*BBQ to be held prior to meeting – 6:00 pm\*\***

**UNIT #3** (FortisBC (Gas) - Lower Mainland, Pacific Northern Gas)

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Local Union Hall, 1424 Broadway Street, Port Coquitlam

**UNIT #4** (FortisBC and FortisBC(Gas) members residing in Kootenays)

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Columbia Room, Castlegar & Dist. Recreation Centre, Castlegar

**UNIT #5** (FortisBC members, FortisBC Gas) members and Wiremen and Apprentices residing in Okanagan and Similkameen; Cities of Kelowna, Penticton and Summerland members; and Pattison Sign — Penticton members)

**DATE & TIME:** Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** CUPE Local 608, #207—69 Nanaimo Avenue East, Penticton

**UNIT #6** (FortisBC Gas) - Vancouver Island, Whistler and Sunshine Coast)

**DATE & TIME:** Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 4:45 p.m.

**PLACE:** FortisBC, Nanaimo

### STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS

Please respect the unions' picket lines in the following disputes:

**Teamsters, Local 51 - The Great Canadian Railtour Company (operating as Rocky Mountaineer Vacations)**

Major Issues: Seniority, Wages, Work Hours

Commenced: Locked Out June 21, 2011

**CMAW, Local 1928 - Cove Top and Flash Cove Employees**

Major Issues: Benefits, Wages

Commenced: Locked Out December 23, 2010

**United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW), Local 1518 - Extra Foods (Maple Ridge)**

Major Issues: Wages, Job Security

Commenced: December 15, 2008

**Construction and Specialized Workers' Union, Local 1611 - Wescon Enterprises Ltd. (Trivern) (Armstrong)**

Major Issues: Seniority, Benefits, Concessions

Commenced: July 25, 2001



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### A Message from the Business Manager.... MIKE FLYNN

SEPTEMBER, 2011

#### Jack Layton (1950-2011)

Through three decades of public service, and as Leader of Canada's New Democrats from 2003–2011, Jack Layton dedicated his life to building a better, fairer Canada.

Layton's torch will now be carried by every person who believes in a better tomorrow, every person who believes in dignity for our seniors and better opportunity for our youth— and by every person who believes through working together, we can make our great country ever better.

As Jack wrote in his final letter to Canadians:

*My friends, love is better than anger*

*Hope is better than fear,*

*Optimism is better than despair.*

*So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic.*

*And we'll change the world.*

I am happy to report after a year of planning and renovating at our new location, 1424 Broadway Street, Port Coquitlam, that as of last week we received our "final occupancy" permit. The culmination of our move from Norland Avenue now has the business office, and Health, Welfare and Pension office side by side on the same floor.

It has always been the dream of the Electrical Joint Training Committee to have the ability to "train" on site. This is now a reality with the EJTC having passed the final hurdle with their business licence being approved by Port Coquitlam on August 23rd.

I wish to thank the Business Office and staff, the Health, Welfare & Pension staff and the EJTC staff for the many hours of hard work preparing for the move from Burnaby to Port Coquitlam; a huge undertaking with thankfully, no injuries.

**Please be advised the Health, Welfare and Pension Office and Electrical Joint Training Committee Office have direct lines, as follows:**

**Joint Training Committee Direct Telephone: (604) 571-6540**

**Welfare and Pension Office Direct Telephone: (604) 571-6545**

#### 38th International Convention

The 38th International Convention is being held in Vancouver, September 19th–23rd. As the host local along with Local 258, the responsibilities are picking up for our services as the time nears,

The biggest challenge we have is supplying nearly 100 volunteers between the two locals to commence duties from September 13th through to the final day, September 23rd. Duties could involve anything from airport greeters, handling luggage to and from buses both at the airport and at any of the ten hotels with registered delegates and guest to working the floor of the Convention Centre. If you are able to volunteer some time, please contact Adam Van Steinburg at (604) 571-6512, Cell (604) 290-1136 or e-mail at [avansteinburg@ibew213.org](mailto:avansteinburg@ibew213.org). or Glynis Jones at (604) 571-6518; email [gjones@ibew213.org](mailto:gjones@ibew213.org).

Local 213 also has the distinctive honour of being the first chapter in Canada of the "Electrical Workers' Minority Caucus" (EWMC). There are twenty three chapters across the United States with the first chapter being chartered in 1974. The EWMC is issuing Local 213's charter at their convention caucus meeting on September 17th. I have been asked to welcome the seventy delegates to Vancouver and the Convention and to receive the charter.

#### Motorcycle Run

There will be a one day motorcycle run to Whistler and back on September 24th. A few of the IBEW International Office Representatives indicated a desire to see more of BC than the Trade and Convention Center. If you are interested in joining us, contact Harry Van Beest by e-mail. ([hvanbeest@ibew213.org](mailto:hvanbeest@ibew213.org)) Responses are needed by September 7th. Here are some details for the West Coast ride. Breakfast at central hotel (to be determined) at 8:30 am, leaving hotel by 9:30 am for Whistler. Brothers Scott Ashton and Harry Van Beest from Local 213 will lead and run sweep for the ride. Arriving at Whistler Village for 11:30 a.m. (with bathroom break/photo op at Shannon Falls). Board Whistler Village Gondola at 12:00 noon to the Roundhouse Lodge (25 minute ride to an elevation of 1835 meters or 6020 ft). Board the Peak 2 Peak Gondola for an 11 minute ride from Whistler Mountain Roundhouse Lodge to Blackcomb Mountain Rendezvous Lodge. The record-breaking Peak 2 Peak Gondola is an engineering marvel that links Blackcomb and Whistler Mountains together at their peaks; boasting the longest unsupported lift span in the world (3.024 kilometers or 1.88 miles). It is also the highest lift of its kind with an elevation of 436 meters/1,427 feet above the valley floor - gain an entirely new perspective on sightseeing from 6,000 feet above sea level. The cost for the Peak 2 Peak will be no more than \$43.00 + tax per person. Once Harry knows the number of people attending he will attempt to negotiate a better price. Lunch at Christine's on Blackcomb Mountain for approximately 1:00 p.m./1:30 pm. The cost at Christine's is affordable for all. Ride the Peak to Peak back and forth a few times if Brothers/Sisters wish to and time permits. Leave the Roundhouse Station by 2:30 p.m./3:00 pm for the two hour ride back to downtown Vancouver. This makes it a seven hour day approximately. However, it's only four hours saddle time. Don't forget your camera!!



## Assistant Business Manager, Gord Van Dyck Reports

This month the Union received two arbitration awards concerning grievances at **FortisBC Gas Operations** ("FBC Gas"). The first concerns a grievance filed by Gary Pearson because FBC Gas denied him anything more than six weeks of paid sick leave on the grounds he was not totally disabled. The second concerns a grievance filed by Neil Komant because FBC Gas discharged him for not making himself reasonably available and failing to respond in a timely way to a call while he was on standby

## Assistant Business Manager, Rav Ghuman Reports

**NCR**—Arbitrator Brian Foley has been selected by the parties to hear the matter of the shift premium grievance dealing with article 17.06 (a) and (b). The union has alleged that NCR violated the provision by not pay a four hour shift premium to those employees who work a Sunday shift. The arbitration is scheduled for November 22 and 23. The parties are still waiting to hear back from the Company pay rate grievance, which has been referred to arbitration. The union alleges NCR failed to provide the same wage increase (5%) to the members of the bargaining unit as they provided to all the other

## Assistant Business Manager, John Pesa Reports

**Vancouver School Board (VSB)** – Negotiations for a renewal to the collective agreement have stalled for the summer. The council consisting of nine craft Unions representing maintenance employees at the VSB intends to invite the employer back to the bargaining table to resume talks in September. CUPE BC and the BCTF are also trying to negotiate

## Assistant Business Manager, Mirko Varga Reports

At **Delta Cable (Eastlink)** the company postings are continuing for installers. Any members that require more information should contact the Union Office.

**Shaw Cablesystems** - the technical field representatives (TFRs) attended a scheduled card called meeting August 3.

and subsequent dishonesty.

Mark Thompson's award regarding Gary's grievance answered all the questions the Union hoped it would answer. Arbitrator Thompson found: (1) FBC Gas is not entitled to anything more than a medical certificate as a pre-condition for sick leave benefits (i.e., FBC Gas is not entitled to additional certificates or examinations); (2) The test for sick leave benefits at FBC Gas is an "own occupation" test not a "total disability" test (i.e., FBC Gas cannot deny sick leave benefits be-

techs across Canada.

**Trader Media** - The collective agreement has now been signed and copies will be made available to our members shortly. Rav along with Scott Hazelton and Kuldip Gill will be meeting with the union's lawyer on September 12 to prepare for the arbitration scheduled for October 19, 20 and 21. There are two issues being grieved, the first one alleges Trader has failed to set reasonable and attainable budgets and the second one alleges the company has failed to pay the quarterly bonuses in a timely manner.

**Small Potatoes Urban**

agreements for their members. Some consultation with these Unions has taken place to date via conference calls. These consultation sessions are expected to continue in the fall. Additionally, a fall provincial election is looming which may delay negotiations until after the election.

**Anixter** – The Union has filed a grievance alleging that Anix-

ter hired an employee without first obtaining a clearance from the Union. A stage 1 meeting to try to resolve the matter will take place once the HR manager returns from vacation.

**Pattison Sign Vancouver** – Members employed at Pattison have been busy working on the new BC Place sign package installation. Pattison has placed several calls for wiremen and

John McConchie's award regarding Neil's grievance stands for the proposition discharged

**Delivery (SPUD)** - On August 16, Rav met with the members of the bargaining unit to review the list of proposals to be presented to the Company. The scheduled dates for bargaining are September 29 and 30.

**Sears** - The labour management meeting scheduled for August 11 had to be cancelled as management forgot to put it in their calendar. The next meeting will likely be set when a new manager is hired to replace the departing Dave Vacing.

**Johnson Controls (Abbotsford Hospital)** - The maintenance employees at the hospital have asked if they can alter their hours of work from what is in the collec-

tive agreement. Instead of working five - eight hour days the workers would like to work four - nine hour days.

**Electrical Workers Minority Caucus of British Columbia (EWMC of BC)** - The following Members have been appointed to these positions:  
President – Rav Ghuman  
Vice President – Ticha Albino  
Recording Secretary – Maria Sousa  
Treasurer – William Maarsman

Otherwise, contact your shop steward.

At **CityWest Cable** dates have been confirmed for September 21 and 22 for training as well as grievance/ mediation with Kathy Peters, Conciliation Officer, Pacific Region – Federal Mediation.

At **GE Canada** the Union is still

employees cannot repeatedly lie to their employers and expect to be reinstated. In a comprehensive and detailed 98-page analysis, Arbitrator McConchie found Neil persisted in misleading and untruthful statements and accordingly he, Arbitrator McConchie, could not restore the employment relationship. Neil's grievance was denied.

Copies of these awards have been sent to all the shop Stewards at FBC Gas

On Saturday September 17, the national body will officially be recognizing the EWMC of BC as the first chapter of its kind in Canada.

apprentices in the past month to assist in the BC Place installation.

**Vancouver Shipyards** – Bids for the Federal Governments National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) are in. An announcement from the Federal Government of the successful proponents is expected in late September.

trying to resolve numerous issues and grievances. Any questions regarding these matters should be directed to the Shop Steward.

The Netcom trustees will be meeting on August 23 to plan for Fall seminars. All CATV members may register online at netcom-training.org.

## Assistant Business Manager, Rod Russell Reports

**Pattison Sign Penticton** has informed Rod that members previously laid off have been called back to work and the outlook for business is positive. The parties have agreed on Arbitrator Germaine and the date of October 31 to hear the dispute over lay-off/recall language.

**Black and MacDonald** management and the Union discussed the two outstanding grievances regarding the lay-off of a senior employee. The Union is considering its options. Members have expressed their frustration with

## Assistant Business Manager, Scott Ashton Reports

management to the Union and the Union is looking into courses of action to improve communication and the relationship as a whole.

Rod will be looking at setting up a meeting with members of the **City of Kelowna** to discuss bargaining.

Rod has met with members of the bargaining committees for **Summerland and Penticton**. Rod has been approached by the employer to meet without committees and attempt to reach a deal. The committees have agreed to

come of the union's grievance. ADT has been notified that we will take this matter to arbitration and we await their response. The Branch 79 and 80 vacation payout grievances were close to being settled until the company informed the Union they would not pay the interest on the amount owed. The interest is part of the settlement of that grievance so this matter too will be referred to arbitration.

I am working on setting a Labour/Management meeting with upper management at the **City of Vancouver** for the workload

## Dispatcher/Assistant Business Manager, Adam Van Steinburg Reports

This month we had 29 journeymen book in and 65 were cleared to work. We had 14 apprentices book in and 55 were cleared to work.

This month has been busy in dispatch with calls going to a broad range of projects and contractors. The majority of local contractors seem to be busy now. Calls have gone out to various local contractors as well as Endako and Regina.

IBEW Local 529 recently

## Assistant Business Manager, Harry Van Beest Reports

Wire contract negotiations are proceeding at glacial speed. The Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) is insisting on having our dispatch and mobility policies as hard collective agreement language. The IBEW Bargaining Council was willing to work with this concept by going from the traditional one person (typically a Foreman) crossing

attempt this approach and Rod will be meeting with the employer late August. As a reminder any deal reached will be vetted through the bargaining committees and must be ratified by the members.

Rod has recently referred two grievances to arbitration and has suggested they be heard in conjunction by the same arbitrator. Rod is awaiting a reply. Both grievances stem from the Company use of management to perform duties in the jurisdiction of the bargaining unit. The parties

issue that is hitting the Electrical Inspection members hard.

The next Labour/Management meeting at the **City of Vancouver EOB** will be held on September 7 at 2:00 pm. These meetings have been a challenge to coordinate during the summer months. Hopefully with fall approaching we will have a more stable meeting schedule.

The Victoria Shop Stewards course was attended by a couple of members from **Chubb Edwards** and **Troy Fire and Life Safety**. The meeting went well and there were some good discussions. Our next

meeting is in Kelowna on August 31 which will occur after this report has been received. No matter where you live, if you are interested in attending one of these informative courses, which are open to all members, please contact us at the Union Hall and get your name on our contact list for the next dates.

Drive safe and watch out for all the little ones returning to school.

informed Adam that in the next week or two they have several projects starting and will be requiring a good number of travelers in their jurisdiction.

According to the local contractors it seems the construction industry has loosened up a bit and regained some of its investment confidence. The housing starts have been on the upswing and this helps our contractors in the commercial and industrial markets.

jurisdiction boundaries to four members crossing into another Locals jurisdiction, excluding industrial jobs and a couple of other reasonable triggers. The CLRA pushed back wanting industrial mobility; we said no and the CLRA countered with wanting eight members without industrial between jurisdictions. The IBEW Bargaining Council rejected that

counter and left, informing the CLRA to contact us when they were serious. The CLRA could not grasp the concept that we simply could not give them that much mobility.

There are no future dates set as of the printing of the newsletter. Volunteers needed for the upcoming Provincial Election. If interested, please contact Harry

at hvanbeest@ibew213.org. Also, Shop Stewards are needed on all sites - please contact Harry.

the information and training necessary to follow Worksafe BC regulations and company safety policies.

To members acting as safety representatives on site, please contact Adam to exchange information and to make arrangements for him to sit in on safety meetings and/or to drop by your jobsite and see how things are going.

Please contact Adam if you have any questions or concerns about safety. There have been a growing number of members receiving discipline in the last while over real or perceived safety infractions. The problem is that often there are inferior incident/accident investigations happening. Please try to contact Adam or Harry at the outset of these investigations so they can be involved in the process. We need to ensure members are receiving

at hvanbeest@ibew213.org.

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