

Canadian comment



Fall 2007

2007 All Canada Progress Meeting

The All Canada Progress Meeting was held August 28th – 30th, 2007 in beautiful Victoria, BC. Delegates from all across Canada came to meet in record numbers to discuss matters important to their members and to the IBEW.

Prior to the Progress Meeting, the Membership Development Conference was held which was attended by 77 organizers and union activists. In addition, a training course on "How to Conduct a Hearing" was presented to 101 participants in which they learned the appropriate process and methods to hear and decide charges occurring within a Local Union.

International Vice President Phil Flemming along with the Local committee, hosted the Progress Meeting proceedings with Councilor of the City of Victoria Dean Fortin welcoming all of the delegates. Speeches were presented by International President Ed Hill, International Secretary-Treasurer Jon Walters, Canadian IEC Member Rick Dowling, and CLC President Ken Georgetti. The Director of Canadian Affairs

for the Canadian Building Trades, Bob Blakely spoke to conference delegates about ongoing labour issues and focused on the need to organize and be politically active.

Other speakers included the Executive Director/CEO of the Electricity Sector Council Catherine Cottingham, MLA of the BC New Democratic Party Carole James, Karen Sasko of the Canadian Joint Grievance Panel Inc., MP of Victoria Denise Savoie, the President of the BC Federation of Labour Jim Sinclair, and a motivational presentation was widely accepted by Robert Harris.

Sector caucuses representing Utilities, Construction, Railroad, Government and Telecommunications, Paper mill/Mining and Manufacturing met and focused on matters directly affecting their membership and the industries they represent.

Special thanks goes out to Local 230 Staff, Staff Reps, Social Committee Members, Executive Board and Officers who did an

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INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
FIRST DISTRICT

PHIL FLEMMING
International Vice President

EDWIN D. HILL
International President

JON WALTERS
International
Secretary-Treasurer

RICK DOWLING
International Executive
Council Member
8th District



Pictured above are International Vice-President Flemming, International President Hill, Secretary-Treasurer Walters and Delegates from across Canada that attended the All Canada Progress Meeting in Victoria, BC.



editorial



Phil Flemming
*International
Vice President*



The IBEW launched the National Electrical Trade Council (NETCO) in partnership with the Canadian Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) last year. NETCO embodies a model of Labour-Management cooperation and its mandate is to develop training, promote apprenticeship, provide continuous learning for journeypersons, and develop national standards for the electrical industry in Canada. It also plays an advocacy role on key issues of importance to the industry. NETCO holds tremendous potential to move the IBEW's training agenda forward and doing so will positively impact progress in other areas, such as organizing.

NETCO's board of Directors is made up of IBEW representatives Business Manager Rick Dalton from Local 2330, Business Manager Sol Furer from Local 773 and Business Manager Ron Stecy from Local 2085. CECA Contractors are represented by Gerry O'Brien, Garry Fitzpatrick, and Brian Leverick. Eryl Roberts from the Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario (ECAO) is the Treasurer and Vice President Phil Flemming is the President.

Watch for the update on NETCO's 2007 National Training Symposium.

Greetings:

Sisters and Brothers we all realize as Trade Unionists that an important factor in our survival and continued success is the mobilization of our membership to become politically active even at the most basic parallel of getting out to vote.

We all know that because of Unions we have weekends, 36 hour work weeks, pensions, benefits, the middle class, employment insurance and government sponsored health care. And of course we know that all of that and more was created through Unions by hard work and union density to back it up. Politicians listen when they know we have the votes.

But let me give you a few facts about engaging our members in political action:

- A recent Angus Reid Strategies Poll determined that 48% of Canadians felt Unions have too much influence in Canadians' lives. That figure rose to 72% amongst those intending to vote Progressive Conservative in the next election.
- Now it gets more interesting in that 72% of those polled agreed Unions were the main factor in improving the salaries and working conditions of all workers and even 65% of the Conservative voters agreed.

I think any reasonable person realizes that we as a Union and we as Union members must influence our elected municipal, provincial, and federal politicians if we are to represent our members in a positive, proactive and responsible fashion. So the reality is that we must involve ourselves to be a determining, significant factor to even maintain what we have achieved.

Political action is about educating working people and giving them the tools they need so when they do vote they elect politicians and political parties who are on side with our issues. We need politicians at all levels of government that will pass legislation and adopt policies that are better choices for working people, our families and our communities.

We all have a stake in political action. Successful political action results in working under a favourable collective bargaining agreement, worker friendly legislation, continued government sponsored health care, and continuing to live in a country like Canada with all of the advantages that union membership creates.

Phil Flemming, IVP

Electricity Sector Council Report

An extensive Human Resource study by the Canadian Electricity Association in 2004 showed that by the year 2011, 17,000 jobs will become available in Canada's Utility industry due to retirements. All stakeholders realize there will be consequences if these jobs are left unfilled.

As a result, Human Resources and Social Development Canada (HRSDC) agreed to fund the Electricity Sector Council with the goal of making sure these job openings are filled with qualified people. Since the IBEW represents many of the utilities across Canada, it is incumbent upon us to make sure Canada's youth are aware of these opportunities.

To that end, the Sector Council is now forming committees and has received HRSDC funding for various projects, such as Powerline Technician Situational Analysis, Occupational Standards, Foreign Trained Workers, Labour Market Information, Labour Market Transition and Succession Planning. Also, the IBEW is represented on each of these committees as well as on the Board of the Electricity Sector Council. The First District is grateful to all of these members for volunteering some time from their busy schedules to assist in these worthwhile projects.

For more information on the Electricity Sector Council, please go to www.brightfutures.ca

2011 IBEW Convention

It has been announced that the next International Convention will be held in Vancouver, BC in 2011. This will be the 4th International Convention held in Canada and it certainly is an honour to play host to such an important event.

An International Convention 2011 Committee has already been meeting to plan the events, activities, and convention process. Each province is represented by a member on the committee; these members are:

John Briegel (Chair)	LU 254	AB
John Grimshaw (Secretary)	LU 105	ON
Rick Dowling	LU 213	BC
Ron Stecy	LU 2085	MB
Ross Galbraith	LU 37	NB
Rick Dalton	LU 2330	NL
Cordell Cole	LU 625	NS
Ray McBride	LU 1432	PEI
Michel Lachapelle	LU 568	QC
Neil Collins	LU 2067	SK
Cary Gryba	LU 1574	YT

The amount of work required to put on a convention for approximately 6,500 delegates and guests is significant but we are positive that history will show that the Vancouver 2011 International Convention will prove to be another successful Canadian event.

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excellent job of making the delegates feel welcomed. They certainly ensured a positive reflection of the City of Victoria and a taste of B.C. hospitality was realized.

Thanks again to all who worked so hard to make this another successful progress meeting. Congratulations to Local Union 230 Business Manager Phil Venoit for his hard work and leadership and dedication to the IBEW.

The speeches of IP Hill, IST Walters, IVP Flemming and IEC Dowling will be on the First District website www.ibew1st.org, in the near future.

Mechanical Allied Crafts (MAC)

The Mechanical Allied Crafts (MAC) was formed on February 28, 2006, by six International Unions, IBEW, United Association, Sheet Metal, Heat and Frost, Ironworkers and Elevator Constructors, and was formed for the purpose of furthering the interests of their members and the unionized mechanical industry. MAC functions as a division of the Building and Construction Trades Division AFL-CIO and believes it is in the best interest of our members to eliminate double-breasting by contractors and ensure that our members continue to receive high quality training that meets the evolving needs of our industry.

The first meeting, was held in Toronto in January 2007, when it was determined that, because Canada is so broad and vast, MAC should be regionalized to service three areas being Atlantic Canada, Ontario and Western Canada.

At the Western Canada meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, International Representative Laird Cronk was elected as Chair and Rob Kinsey, from the UA was elected Secretary Treasurer. In Ontario, International Representative Tom McGreevy was elected Chair and Fred Clare, from Heat & Frost, was elected Secretary Treasurer. This has also taken place in Atlantic Canada where International Representative Brian Matheson and (once again) Fred Clare have been elected Chairman and Secretary Treasurer respectively. In all three areas, subcommittees have been formed and meetings have been held, or are being held, to ensure that all Construction Local Unions are involved in their respective MAC Councils. At these meetings MAC is being explained as a marketing tool to ensure that our market share in the construction industry is second to none. As MAC continues to evolve the formation of Regional Councils is ongoing. Please watch for future updates.

Canadian Membership Development Update

At the 2006 37th International Convention held in Cleveland, Ohio, International President Edwin D. Hill launched a bold new membership development initiative. This was in response to a steady decline in the IBEW "BA" membership over the last 30 plus years. This initiative received the enthusiastic support of the delegates in attendance.

The BA membership is generally our members outside of the construction branch, and is known as our Professional and Industrial division. This division of the IBEW Membership Development department was divided into seven different regions. Canada comprises two of those regions. On April 1st of this year, Bill Martindale was appointed Coordinator of Region 6, which encompasses Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. On March 1st, 2007, Jerry Larson was appointed as

Coordinator of Region 7, including Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the north.

These regions have been divided into organizing councils, and the funding approved in Cleveland allows for the hiring of lead organizers in each of these councils. Coordinators Bill Martindale and Jerry Larson have been laying the groundwork for this to happen, through meeting with Local Unions and identifying targets and opportunities. The process of hiring lead organizers has begun, and with the support of the Local Unions, this initiative has the potential to strengthen our share of our traditional markets as well as expand into new areas. Knowing we can count on your commitment and support, we look forward to getting on with the job of increasing our Local Unions, and expanding the IBEW.

New FR Clothing Fabric

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From the makers of Nomex®, DuPont™ Protera™ fabric offers durability, comfort and excellent, inherent protection against electric arc hazards, meeting NFPA 70E Category Two requirements.

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For more information, please call Ken Robertson at 204 294-7207.

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IBEW FIRST DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS

The **IBEW 1st District Office**, in conjunction with **AIL Canada, Union Savings and MWG Apparel** is pleased to announce that five (5) Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be made available to all IBEW members and their families in full or part time studies in pursuit of a post secondary diploma or degree.

The **IBEW 1st District Office, AIL Canada, Union Savings and MWG Apparel** realize the importance of continuing post-secondary education and skill development and are offering these scholarships to help interested union members and their families achieve their educational goals.

Members who are interested in being awarded one of the scholarships for themselves or their family member, may

complete the form below and then forward it to the IBEW 1st District Office.

All applicants are required to submit a brief essay, outlining the benefits of belonging to the IBEW. These essays will become the property of the IBEW and following a validation of each candidate, the successful applicants will be decided by holding a random draw.

All entries must be received by January 31st, 2008, the draw will be held on February 8th, 2008.

Only successful candidates will be contacted. Good luck to all those who apply.

If you require further information call the First District office at (905) 564-5441.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

_____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOMETEL#: _____

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: _____

COURSE(S) TAKEN: _____

NAME OF PARENT: _____ LOCAL: _____

SIGNED BY APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED BY PARENT: _____ DATE: _____

Please return application by mail or email to the following address:

IBEW, First District Office • Att: Phil Flemming • 300 - 1450 Meyerside Drive • Mississauga, ON L5T 2N5 • Email: ivpd_01@ibew.org
Can also be found on the 1st District Website www.ibew1st.org

TILMA Update

As reported in the August Edition of *The Electrical Worker*, the Trade Investment and Labour Agreement (TILMA) came into effect between British Columbia and Alberta on April 1st, 2007.

Since being announced, TILMA has been of great concern to the IBEW and other Building Trade Unions for multiple reasons; not the least of which was the process (or lack of) by which TILMA was created. Essentially, the agreement was negotiated between the Governments of BC and Alberta, without public consultation, and was signed as a direct agreement between the Provinces, meaning that the deal was immune from the scrutiny of either Province's Legislature. TILMA is not a Statute Law or Act, which would have required a vote of each Province's Legislature, but rather a Premier to Premier deal, that bypasses the normal

legislative check and balance system Canadian citizens would typically expect.

Beyond the flawed creation process, TILMA presents other serious concerns for union members, particularly given the ambiguous mandate to eliminate restrictions contained in public policy, statutory laws and regulations that could be deemed harmful to inter-provincial trade and labour mobility. One of our main concerns about TILMA's mandate is that like other trade deals, TILMA provides tools for corporations to challenge and dismantle restrictions that corporations think are harmful to trade.

Of particular concern within TILMA's mandate are: skilled trade and occupational qualifications; employment and labour laws and regulations; health and safety laws and regulations; and environmental standards. To this end, the IBEW has been active on the TILMA issue from the start, including spearheading and supporting

resolutions at the BC Federation of Labour Convention and the Canadian Building Trades Policy Convention aimed at sounding the alarm bells set off by TILMA's potential dangers and calling on Governments across the country to reject TILMA and any further spreading of this type and style of detrimental Agreement. In addition, IBEW members and representatives have joined with other Building Trade Unions to actively lobby hundreds of Provincial and Federal politicians from all political parties with the aim of educating them on the dangers inherent to participating in TILMA, now or in the future. Since that time, both the provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba have rejected TILMA.

In a parallel strategy, the BC Building Trades Council has been highly active in holding the BC Liberal Government's

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UNION SAVINGS

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International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers



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For more details, please visit www.unionsavings.ca



September 2007

Building Trades 2007

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The The First Canadian Triennial Policy Conference of the Building and Construction Trades Department was held in Ottawa April 29 through May 2 and attracted almost 300 Delegates from across Canada. The participation indicates that there is a keen interest in promoting the policy agenda of the Building Trades in Canada and coming together to collaborate on the issues facing the organized construction industry across our country.

Many resolutions were debated by the Delegates including conditions of employment, the Canadian Armed Forces and the Building Trades new project "Helmets to Hardhats", Safety, TILMA (see article), power generation and pension matters. In addition, political leaders from every Federal Party and Premier Dalton McGuinty from Ontario addressed the delegates and spoke directly about how their

party policies affect working people in Canada.

Lobbying Members of Parliament (MP) in a concerted effort is an annual trek to Parliament Hill for the Building Trades in the form of our Legislative Conference and this year 195 Delegates from the Policy Conference met with MP's from all parties to discuss relevant issues face to face. Relationships that will last throughout the calendar year between the politicians and the affiliates will lay the groundwork for future consultation and issue focus.

The Building Trades Legislative Conference is one of the best ways for our Local Unions to participate in the political arena and we are looking forward to a bigger and better Legislative Conference next year to set the stage to engage members from all affiliates for political action.

'feet to the fire' regarding TILMA. By issuing a thorough submission, which challenges the government to answer specific questions about TILMA's effect on labour relations and working conditions, the Building Trades Council has gone a long way towards cutting through the vague wording of the agreement as it relates to all working peoples concerns. Although it does not replace the public scrutiny opposition parties can apply to governments through the legislature, the BC Building Trades submission has been effective in forcing the government to respond to awkward questions and thereby positioning the IBEW and other Building Trade Unions to play the most effective role possible in persuading the government to interpret TILMA's vague wording in the best possible way for our collective memberships.

As with all political issues of concern to IBEW members, the most effective weapon we possess is the ability to educate and mobilize our members, representatives and our partners in the labour community across this great Country, to utilize our collective strength in the political process that shapes the laws under which we live our lives and earn our livings.

The IBEW will continue to challenge TILMA and any negative implications it may have on our members as it is implemented. Of equal importance is the education and perspective our members receive in knowing about TILMA, and participating in the political action processes we use to hold proponent governments of such policies accountable come Election Day. Stay tuned for further information and action alerts on TILMA in future.

IBEW 1st District Website

We are pleased to announce that the IBEW Canadian website has been updated and is designed to help any online visitor understand our union and we focus on making them feel welcome by allowing them to browse our site with ease. For example, there is a map of Canada identifying all the provinces and Local Unions within that province as well as a list of International Representatives that represent the Local Unions; another example of its simplicity is that 'Apprenticeship and Training' is clearly identified and can walk any online visitor through the appropriate training and apprenticeship contacts.

We also focus on our members' goals when visiting our site; a mem-

ber's goal when browsing on the 1st District website is to access information quickly and easily on the inquiries and/or services they want, i.e. training, purchasing merchandise, conference registrations, etc.

With simple navigation, clear text and an enjoyable look and feel, our improved web design can help improve our online visitors' knowledge and awareness of the IBEW.

www.ibew1st.org

