



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW August 20 – 26, 2018

Hello all,

The majority of my time last week was going through a fairly lengthy to-do list of small items. This was mostly just putting the finishing touches on outstanding documents and letters, and ensuring direction from the last Provincial Executive was followed up on.

Also last week, SOC President Dan Kimmerly and I attended the BC Ferries Annual General Meeting. This meeting was surprisingly sparsely attended, with no media coverage that we could see. The presentation was largely in line with what we expected, and focused on the "good news" stories. Suffice to say, BC Ferries' management did not spend much time talking about crewing shortages, overtime, or issues on the Salish class, Baynes Sound Connector, or the Northern Seawolf (which may now be delayed until next year).

We asked a few questions, including:

Can you please outline, given the current skills shortage in the Marine industry and tight labour market generally, and BC Ferries reliance on certified employees coming in on days of rest and increasing workloads because of traffic, what BC Ferries will do to ensure there is enough certificated personnel to keep the ships sailing?

To our dismay, CEO Mark Collins answered this question first by suggesting foreign certificates were the answers, and only after some time did he discuss internal development. Sadly, this seems like gross disordering of priorities. It is fairly obvious to us the three major hurdles are for getting certificated personnel within BC Ferries are: more money, seetime, and more paid education and development. This is something we will seek to address at every future occasion.

Finally, the Provincial Executive Officers had a meeting with consultant Joanna Gislason to get several projects moving forward. In this discussion, our eyes turned to bargaining, and we hope to have something to share on that front soon.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President