



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW August 27 – September 2, 2018

Hello all,

Last week ended up being busier than I expected with a near tragedy on Friday.

On Friday, the Spirit of Vancouver Island's rescue boat and two crew members fell some 50ft into the water. This happened because of a failure involving the ("old school") davit, with the ultimate cause remaining unknown. The two crew who fell were not seriously injured, however our thoughts remain with them and their families, and their wellbeing.

This incident, echoing the Queen of Cumberland incident earlier this year, has our Union Executive deeply concerned. In response to this incident, and like the Cumberland incident, Transport Canada, WorkSafe, and Transportation Safety Board are investigating, and BC Ferries has launched a Divisional Inquiry. For the SOVI Divisional Inquiry, our Union has selected 2nd Officer and Local 13 President Andrew Conley as its representative. To date, the investigations into the Cumberland incident are incomplete.

BC Ferries has also issued a directive that all davits are not to be used except in emergency situations until further notice. The BCFMWU will be submitting a member for a risk assessment on this mode of operation. As of writing, we have not yet determined who our appointment will be. This incident led to a flurry of phone calls with Company and Union officials, and a spate of media inquiries.

Also from last week was a review regarding the new M47 vessels coming in the fall. Initial numbers sent to us indicate those vessels sit right on the cusp of minor and intermediate classifications as measured by the vessel classification matrix. This may have some interesting labour relations ramifications from a pay scale perspective, and may also initiate other discussions regarding crew profile. However, until the final numbers are set, the potential issues remain undefined.

Finally, my weekend saw a somber event in Powell River. First Vice Lee, Engineering Representative Spencer, Local 4 President Pelly, and I attended the funeral mass for Sandy Fraser, wife of Local 6 President Mike Cafik and tremendous friend of the Ferry Worker and will be missed.

Next week: Labour Day, a UMC with the BCFMWU Servicing Staff bargaining unit, an Executive Education review, an education round up, and "Taking it to the Streets" ball hockey for the Surrey Food bank.

Thank you for reading, and I hope to see you soon.

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President