



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW

September 10 – September 16, 2018

Hello all,

Last week started in Vancouver with an arbitration over missed meal breaks on the MV Kuper. This is an issue that has been ongoing for five years, and has been in arbitration for nearly three years. There had been an additional day scheduled for Tuesday, but this was cancelled because of an emergent issue. Despite our frustrations, there is still dialogue on this matter. Failing a mutual resolution, there is no clear end in sight with both sides committed to going the distance, which in this case would likely mean secondary venues.

Also early last week, our counsel set out new dates in November at the BC Supreme Court for our right to strike case. Many of you will remember this from May, with the original dates being rescheduled because opposing counsel's untimely and tragic passing. As some of you will know, this matter has been going on for over three years now, and any decision on this matter is fundamentally important for our Union. I will keep you aware of any major updates.

On Tuesday and Wednesday I spent some time putting the final touches on some internal policies, including work on our Grievance Appeal Committee process. We've only seen a few since this language was introduced in April, but are already getting the hang of it.

Over these two days, I was also able to work on some correspondence. One was an email to the incoming and outgoing (interim) Regional Director for Transport Canada Pacific Region. In this email, our Union expressed our dismay at a Company proposal to meet the "no passenger on enclosed decks" regulation as it applies on Route 3 (Langdale) c-class ferries by sailing with the stern doors open.

I also penned a letter to the Vancouver Airport Sheraton advising them they would not have our business unless they started to bargain fairly with their union (UNITE HERE! Local 40).

On Thursday I had the pleasure of attending Local 8 (Richmond Stores) and chatting with that group – they even had a cake with our Union logo on it! Big thanks to Local 8 President Alex Blackburn for inviting me out.

As for Friday and the weekend, I took a day off to spend with family and friends. With lots of changes in my family, it has been difficult to keep up with it all, so it felt good to catch up if only for a couple days.

Next week: Meetings in Toronto with ITF affiliates and Jackie Smith and Thomas Abrahamson of the ITF regarding, among other things, foreign tickets, a meeting in Victoria on BC Ferries Cannabis Policy come legalization next month, and a meeting with the BC Federation of Labour Executive Council in Vancouver.

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

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GMA', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President