



PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW

November 5 – November 18, 2018

Hello all,

The last couple of weeks have had a brutal travel schedule, but have resulted in some good meetings and great opportunities for our Union to advance our issues.

My first meetings on Monday and Tuesday were in Ottawa for the National Union's Executive meetings. At this meeting I got to see where our affiliate dues are going and the success of the National Union's campaigns. In turn, the NUPGE Executive was supportive of both our Right to Strike case and committed to investigate any potential legislation on mandating random, mandatory drug testing. Through listening to the reports of other Unions, it became abundantly clear that Public Sector Unions around the country are becoming increasingly embattled with the rise of right wing governments east of Alberta, and that our affiliates in other provinces are looking to our BC NDP/Green Government as a beacon of hope.

On my return, I joined SOC President Kimmerly and LRO Hall for a meeting regarding LNG job classifications. We pressed a case based on the increased qualifications required for the job, the knowledge required for a Low Flashpoint Fuels certificate, and the qualifications and problem solving that flow from working with Low Flashpoint Fuels. This matter may require one more conversation with the Company to resolve; barring a resolve there, we will be going to arbitration.

Around this same time, Transport Canada released their draft Marine Personnel Regulations, a 182 page regulatory document.

On the weekend, SOC President Kimmerly, Engineering Representative Spencer, Mate Chris Cornwell, LROs Hall and Jones, and myself travelled to Ottawa for the ITF Canada coordinating committee meeting and the Canadian Marine Advisory Council (CMAC). At the ITF Canada meeting, we discussed holding a Canadian Seafarers section in the future for better coordinating the efforts for seafaring Unions.

The discussion about better coordinating Canadian Seafarers was well timed given the draft MPRs presented at CMAC, especially given the short turnaround time for consultations, with the BC Consultation happening the next week (November 19). For the greatest impact for the various causes in the MPR amendments, our Union is committed to working with a variety of Union allies, including the Guild and ILWU 400, the Western Maritime Institute, and BC Ferries (depending on the issue).

To be certain, plowing through this document in advance of the Monday consultation meeting meant a busy weekend for many of us.

Next week: Transport Canada Pacific Region Consultation in Vancouver, an LRO Job Search Committee, and drafting and compiling proposals for amendment of the MPRs.

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".

Brother Graeme Johnston, Provincial President