



## **PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW**

### **January 21, 2019 – January 27, 2019**

Hello all,

Last week kicked off with a review of our services contract with Point Blank media. Once this contract is finalized, we will begin our work toward a media campaign to raise public awareness on issues of front line abuse of Ferry Workers, and in turn hope to persuade management to take a stronger stand on abusive passengers.

On Tuesday I got caught up in a bunch of administrative work, including responding to a request for a meeting with MLA Scott Fraser regarding concerns with emergency ferry service on Denman and Hornby Islands. Meantime, I'll be looking to bring in one of our people as an expert, and look forward to the conversation (scheduled for February).

On Wednesday I spent some time parsing a decision letter from the Labour Relations Board. The decision sided with the position of the Union, and provides some closure for that file. Also on Wednesday, after much discussion and consideration, the Union received notice that Deas Dock President Rob Martin intends to step away from his position so that he can spend more time focusing on family and career development. While we are saddened to hear this, his decision is understandable and his years of dedication and service to our Union stand out. Rob has committed to staying on in the interim until a smooth transition can be made.

On Thursday and Friday, our Executive and I sat through the pilot of our Advanced Shop Steward training. This training was universally well received, and we are excited to be rolling it out formally later this year (hopefully Spring 2019). Many thanks to Chantel O'Neill and Anthony Jones for all of their hard work on this exciting project. With the completion of this piece, the BCFMWU will be looking to activate a multi-tiered education program for its members that will provide targeted, high quality education for whatever level they may be at.

Friday came with confirmation of meeting dates for a Northern UMC. With that in hand, me, SOC President Kimmerly, Deck Rep Sigurgeirson, Engineering Rep Spencer, and LROs Hall and Jones were able to confirm travel dates for a Northern Tour in March (March 8-13). Also on Friday, and on a personal note, I took a couple hours of lieu to duck out of our training early to go door to door canvassing with Minister of Transportation Claire Trevena – it was a lovely and informative opportunity.

Saturday saw a few of the Provincial Executive in the office cold calling members to confirm their contact information and to do a brief survey. If you didn't hear from one of us then, expect to hear from one of us over the next 3-4 weeks.

Next week: Discussions about the Pacific Coast Maritime Council, a day off for the Nanaimo by-election, an afternoon with the Lieutenant-Governor, and the usual humdrum of office life.

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 "G Johnston", written over a white rectangular background.

Brother Graeme Johnston  
Provincial President