



## **PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW**

### **February 11, 2019 – February 24, 2019**

Hello all,

The last two weeks have been a bit hectic, with meetings, weather, and a new add to my extended family – a nephew!

Like much of the Island, Nanaimo was hit hard by winter storms. Following our policy to shut our office when Nanaimo School District closes, we spent the better part of the week closed. For those of you who braved the elements to make it into work, THANK YOU. If any of you feel you were put in an unsafe condition by coming into work, please talk to your Local President.

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, I met with Chantel O'Neill to run through the education programs she is developing. We are nearing completion on the project, with our advanced steward course scheduled to run in the spring, and a new intro to the Union course planned for fall (dates TBD). Excitingly, our Union now has education that starts from our members' first exposure to the Union through to advanced courses for our most engaged activists.

February 15<sup>th</sup> was our Sr. UMC. That meeting touched on the following topics and several others:

New Vessel Introduction: There was general discussion about the Island Class Ferries. We agreed to meetings about the technical specifications of the vessels and a "New Vessel Introduction" meeting per the Collective Agreement.

Passenger Abuse of Employees: The Company said they do not believe this is a labour relations matter.

New Stat Holiday: The Company confirmed it will add the new proposed statutory holiday to the payroll upon proclamation (currently looking like September 30 – See Bill C-369).

Car Transfer Service: The new car transfer service at Duke Point will, at least initially, run fully within the confines of BC Ferries' normal operation.

The next week was Family day, followed by the release of the Provincial Budget, which I attended at the Legislature. On the Wednesday, SOC President Kimmerly and I worked on a pressing regulatory matter involving Marine Engineering Certification.

On Friday, SOC President Kimmerly, Secretary Treasurer Lalli, LRO Ruhl and I joined the Minister of Transportation's conference call for the release of the Coastal Ferry Services Review [Redlin Report]. We were able to do a quick review, which comes off as largely positive, but we intend to do more in depth analysis over the coming days.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, my sister and family welcomed a 7lb 6oz baby boy into the world. Everyone is happy and healthy, and some more tired than others.

Next Week: The Provincial Executive meeting; a meeting about course development; coffee with BCGEU EVP James Coccola; and a deep dive on the Redlin Report.

Thanks for reading and I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

**BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION**

Brother Graeme Johnston  
Provincial President