



PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW August 19 – September 1, 2019

Hello all,

I'm covering two weeks here after a week of limited cell service and a couple days off without any service.

First and foremost, I'd like to congratulate our longest tenured admin employee, Jenny Rouse, on her retirement after 13 years with BCFMWU. Her last day was August 30th.

Over the past few weeks I've been working with outside counsel, other Unions, and SOC President Kimmerly about a response plan for what we do when an application for Temporary Foreign Workers comes to BC Ferries. In undertaking this work, we will look to build a response kit that will be made available for other Unions in the Canadian Marine Industry – in the case of opening the door to Temporary Foreign Workers in our industry, an incursion in one part of the country will have an effect on the entire labour market.

At the start of last week, I took the Northern Expedition to Prince Rupert, and then the Northern Adventure from Prince Rupert to Haida Gwaii. It was good to connect with some of the crew and hear some of the issues on the Northern Service, and very exciting to hear about member interest in the upcoming Bargaining Resolutions Committee, and round of Collective Bargaining next year. Some common questions were when is Conference (March 2-3, 2020), when is Bargaining (proposals are scheduled to change hands August 2020, with the Agreement expiring on October 31, 2020), and how do I get involved?

Check out our website for details about all that and more:

<https://www.bcfmwu.com/event/bargaining-conference-2020/>

While on Haida Gwaii, I took a few hours to meet with the crew of the Kwuna to discuss their feelings about upcoming changes to their hours of work. The feedback was constructive, and the core message was crew who are already there want to stay there, so long as the terms and conditions remain fair given their isolated work environment.

Last week also saw the New Vessel introduction meeting with the Company for the Island Class and a follow up on the Northern Seawolf. Right now, the staffing levels for the introduction of the Island Class vessels to Alert Bay POA and Texada POA has not yet been determined, but are anticipated to be close or the same to current establishment, and will include Bargaining Unit Captains and Chief Engineers.

Finally, Happy Labour Day! On Labour Day we celebrate the hard fought victories of trade unions, like weekends and stat holidays. I hope you were able to enjoy the day with family and friends, and special thanks to those working so others could better enjoyed the holiday.

Next Week: BC Federation of Labour Executive Counsel; BC Federation of Labour Regional Conference (Prince Rupert) with 1st Vice Kevin Lee; and a return journey to Nanaimo.

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

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION



Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President