



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW September 30 - October 13, 2019

Hello Everyone,

Last couple weeks were punctuated by some heavy travel and a bunch of meetings, but the most interesting part of the last two weeks was a trip to InterFerry London as a delegate for the International Transportation Workers' Federation.

This trip served two functions. First, me and ITF representatives Ronny Oksnes (Chief Shop Steward, Norwegian Seafarers Union) and Steve Todd (Retired National Secretary, RMT) got together to finalize a survey and begin plans for a global Ferry Worker Round table. The second part was to get insight into the global future of the ferry industry, as seen from ship owners and vendors, by attending the InterFerry Conference.

In the first instance, we put some significant work toward polishing our survey for transport unions with Ferry Workers, and decided we did have enough substance to put together a working group.

The second instance, our participation at InterFerry, served to highlight the first, and provided some good information. Specifically, we were able to see how active employers and ship owners have been at regulatory bodies, including the International Maritime Organization, which sets the table for domestic regulators around the world. Secondly, by watching presentations from vendors and ship owners, we were able to see how ship owners envision emerging technologies being adapted and how regulations should be amended to contemplate that.

Two highlights I'll raise for your attention are:

- The future of fuel is electric, and is here right now. That said, we also saw great presentations about Hydrogen fuel and Nuclear (serious, but very unlikely);
- Autonomous vessel technology is here, and while significant regulatory hurdles remain, employers believe they can get necessary amendments to regulation passed at the IMO by 2028 (we see that as very ambitious).

For the dinner on the last night, I had the pleasure of sitting beside a man who runs a company on the leading edge of autonomous vessel technology implementation. He was not the person you would think, which is to say less of a dystopian capitalist and more of a star trek socialist. This fellow believes the voices of labour are incredibly important for his work, and expressed interest in talking to and listening to our Union about the future of autonomous vessels.

Next Week: Happy Thanksgiving; a call with ITF Inspector Peter Lahay; more worker abuse; and a Duty to Accommodate course in Nanaimo.

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".

Brother Graeme Johnston  
Provincial President