



PRESIDENT'S 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

Hello all,

2019 has come and gone, so I'm going to try to sum up my year's journey in a page or so by picking a few issues that have stood out to me.

The year started with some good news – the full implementation of our bargained registered massage therapy benefit provisioned through Great West Life. As a result, our members have been able to use this benefit as it was intended.

In March, I joined SOC President Kimmerly, Deck Rep Sigurgeirson, Engineering Rep Spencer, and LRO Hall at the Spring Canadian Marine Advisory Council in Ottawa. This CMAC saw the regulatory hurdles for Temporary Foreign Workers into the Marine Industry lifted, along with a clear message that Temporary Foreign Workers are coming to our industry. This issue has been evolving through the year, and our Union has had it on the front burner with high level interactions with Employment and Social Development Canada, and the Minister of Labour in BC. Through 2020 we will continue to assess all of our options to ensure the best outcome for our members and all Canadians...keep an eye on this one, it may get heated in the new-year.

In spring, we got a bit of good news and a bit of bad. The bad: our case at the Supreme Court of BC to regain our Right to Strike was unsuccessful. As a result, we will be going into bargaining in 2020 without that lever, and will instead have binding interest arbitration as the alternative dispute resolution process – as many members may remember with the Ready Award, this process can be troublesome. The good: our efforts to lobby government bore fruit. The Alternative Service Provider provisions of the Coastal Ferry Act were removed, making contract flipping of our services (e.g. Dogwood Princess / Kona Winds) legally impossible.

The summer started out with a bit of excitement with our [Stop Ferry Worker Abuse Campaign](#). This campaign caused a significant reaction from BC Ferries, who threatened legal action multiple times, and is still pursuing resolve in this matter. That said, we have seen a jump in reporting from our members, a stronger response from BC Ferries' management, and positive and lively reaction from the travelling public where this issue resonated. Were this issue not under threat of litigation and/or grievance, I would share with you the extent to which this campaign landed...but since I've been legally advised not to, I'll just leave you with this – the numbers are astonishing and overwhelmingly successful. Many thanks to our partners at Point Blank Creative for their work on this, and to you for helping us move this issue forward.

Our Union has taken a step forward in our presence globally. In the late summer and fall, I travelled to London, England to help move forward a project for the International Transportation Workers' Federation that focuses on the Ferry Industry. The focus of this project is to bring together Unions that represent Ferry Workers in the same way ship-owners do so that we may better co-ordinate our response to global issues like regulation and labour supply. To this end, SOC President Dan Kimmerly will be representing Ferry Workers on behalf of the ITF at the United Nations' International Maritime Organization's 102nd Maritime Safety Committee in May of next year.

2020 will surely be interesting times for Ferry Workers. From internal to the international, Ferry Workers will continue to make our issues heard, and I am honoured to play a role in that.

Next year: Temporary Foreign Workers (continued), the introduction of the new Marine Personnel Regulations, working toward a safer and dignified workplace, Bargaining Conference and Bargaining.

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

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION



Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President