



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW July 1 – July 14, 2019

Hello all,

I've been away on vacation since the end of June, but there is still much to report.

I hope all of you have had a chance to see our "Stop Ferry Worker Abuse" campaign – <https://www.stopferryworkerabuse.ca/>.

This important awareness campaign seeks to de-normalize worker abuse for the Employer, the travelling public, and Union members – abuse is never part of the job, should be reported by employees and travelling public immediately, and acted on swiftly by the Employer.

To that end, our anti-abuse campaign has created a tremendous response from both the travelling public and membership, and has led to increased action and discussion by BC Ferries. This increased action includes the issue of abuse being included in recent toolbox discussions, anti-abuse signs going up, the employer publicly discussing their zero-tolerance policy, and the public and workers saying together that abuse is never part of the job.

The response from BC Ferries also includes a bulletin to all employees by CEO Mark Collins that sought to undermine our Union's raising of this important issue.

Since the Union began its efforts to bring this important issue forward, there have been incidents where abuse of Ferry Workers has led to long term time-loss injuries, often both psychological and physical. Further, there are many reports that ongoing abuse of Ferry Workers has impacted mental health and damaged personal lives.

Our Union's public campaign against Ferry Worker Abuse may not have been needed if stronger action to address abuse was undertaken jointly or by the BC Ferries alone, but years of asking and waiting for simple measures to protect our members while abuse was on the rise demanded action. In turn, we are glad to see Mr. Collins and BC Ferries finally addressing this issue with more energy, both publicly and with the membership.

In the past week, on return from holiday, I attended an ITF meeting in London regarding global issues facing Ferry Workers. The issue that was top of conversation was protecting domestic ferry worker jobs from international seafarers. For example, in Ireland ferry workers have been displaced by cheaper international labour, while in Canada we see our Government and Industry veering toward allowing, and perhaps even fast tracking, foreign seafarers (particularly foreign officers). This issue was also the topic of a meeting of the ITF Canada co-ordinating meeting that SOC President Kimmerly and I attended on July 18th.

Next week: Responding to a letter from the Company, working on a few timelines, compiling applications for a 34.02 panelist, and welcoming back LRO Horvat.

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