

# BIO

## Eric McNeely

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Born in B.C., Eric's first paid job aboard a vessel was for the department of fisheries and oceans. He later joined the Canadian Armed Forces with progressively senior positions over more than 22 years of service, all in the combat arms.

After leaving the army in Manitoba, Eric returned to the marine sector aboard tugboats in Canada's arctic ocean with another union. Nearly 20 years ago, Eric joined BC Ferries first in the navigation department and then moved to engineering, becoming a BCFMWU member in the process.

A self-described complainer-optimist, Eric sought to correct inequity in the workplace prior to becoming a union rep and as a result of some success was recruited as a local shop steward and executive member. Following successive democratic progression through local vice-president and local president, Eric had the privilege and responsibility of being elected provincial president in 2021. He describes union activism as the most challenging work he has undertaken to date.

Eric is married to a union rep working in healthcare and has school aged daughters in the Nanaimo area. He enjoys time with his pets and riding his motorcycle.

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