



A Brief Outline of the History of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers In Canada

1893 The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers was born on September 1, 1893.

On that day, at a meeting in Chicago, representatives from the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders (which had been organized on October 1, 1880) and the National Brotherhood of Boiler Makers (which had been formed in Atlanta in May of 1888) resolved to consolidate their organizations.

It was further agreed that the new organization, to be known as the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders of America, would make its Headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas.

At that convention there were five lodges from Canada; Lodge 107 Toronto, Lodge 112 Montreal and Lodge 104 Winnipeg for the National Boilermakers and Lodge 106 Toronto and Lodge 112 Montreal for the International Brotherhood.

1894 Lodge 107 and 112 were consolidated, Lodge 104 became 126; Lodge 106 became 128; and Lodge 112 became 134.

1898 The first organizational effort among boilermakers in British Columbia for the International Brotherhood, occurred in the City of Victoria and that resulted in the chartering of Lodge 191 on January 29, 1898.

The Yukon Gold Rush made Victoria rather prosperous and some of this business rubbed off on the members with the building of boilers and steamers for this trade. When this trade died off, the whaling fleet, using the facilities available in Victoria, provided employment for the early boilermakers.



- 1900** At the turn of the century, total membership of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers across North America stood at about 8,500 members.

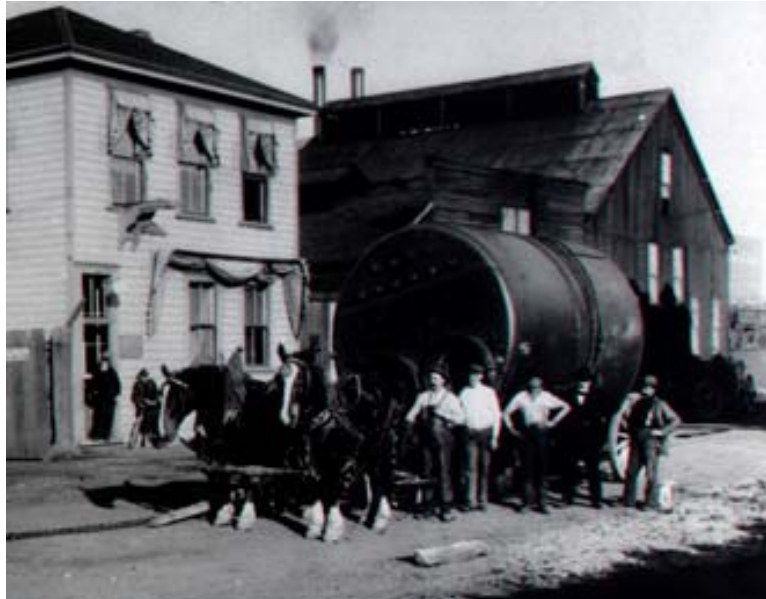


Figure 1 - Albion Iron Works in Victoria BC, started fabrication of boilers as early as 1862. Using 80 tons of pig iron a month; by 1875 the payroll has risen to \$1,000.00 per week with 60 employees.

- 1902** The Helpers division was formed. Due to the fact helpers were barred from sitting in the lodge room with mechanics, this new division had its own local unions and was entirely separate from the Boiler Makers. This would change a decade later when the Helpers Division would be consolidated with the Mechanics Division.
- 1906** In March 1906, at a special Convention in Kansas City, the name of the Union was changed to the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America in order to incorporate the newest division. Also at this time, the term "Boiler Makers" was condensed into one word, "Boilermakers."
- 1908** A Canadian District was created by the 8th Consolidated Convention held in St. Paul, Minnesota. Nick Quesnel of Lodge



128 was elected as the International Vice President of the Canadian District at the convention.

1917 Canada was divided in two Districts, Eastern Canada and Western Canada, with the dividing line being Fort William, Ontario; John Merrigan became the International Vice-President of Eastern Canada and R.C. McCutchan became the International Vice-President of Western Canada.

1920 Lodge 600 was a railway lodge when it first received its charter on July 10th, 1920 in Saskatoon. [Lodge 600 is the oldest continuous International Brotherhood charter in Canada.](#) Today Lodge 600 represents members who are employed at the Saskatoon Boiler Manufacturing Company Ltd.

Lodge 532 was chartered on August 23, 1920 as a railway lodge in Regina. Today, Lodge 532 represents members who are employed at General Electric Railcar Service & Repair shop and Russell Metals.



Figure 2 - Railroad repair shop



- 1927** Lodge 580 was granted a charter as a marine lodge in Halifax, Nova Scotia which represented our members in the naval dockyard. **Lodge 580 is the oldest continuous International Brotherhood charter in Atlantic Canada.**
- 1937** On October 15th, 1937 Lodge 271 was granted a charter as a construction and contract shop lodge, the first construction lodge in Canada. The members of 271 were very active in the construction of boilers and tanks throughout its geographic jurisdiction: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador.

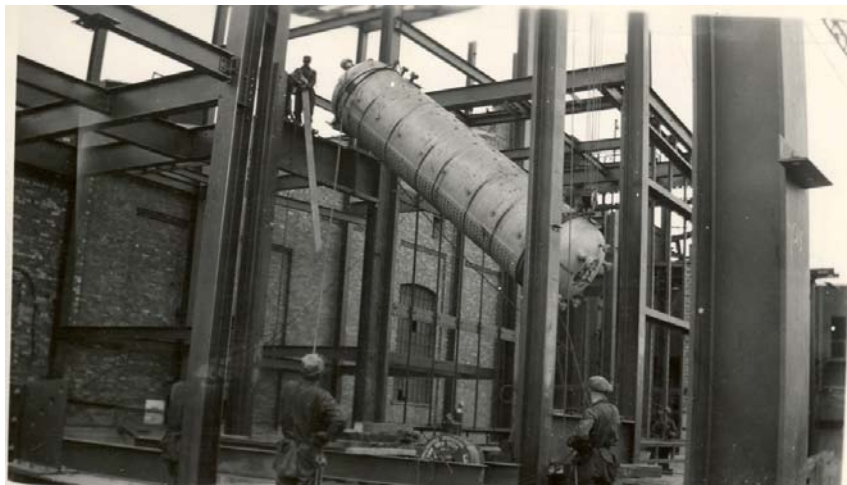


Figure 3 - Ocean Falls, B.C. 1938; the steam drum of a new boiler is on its way up. By 1944, due in part to dramatic increases in the shipbuilding, railroad, and fabrication shop industries during World War II, the Boilermakers numbered over 350,000.



Figure 4 - Charles MacGowan - International President 1944 – 1954

- 1944** In 1944, a Canadian, Charles J. MacGowan, was elected International President, a position he held until 1954. He came to Canada from Scotland in 1897, and at the age of 15 he entered into the trade of Boilermaking as an apprentice. During the years 1911 and 1912 Charles MacGowan was engaged in the first strike of railway shopmen in Edmonton. At the conclusion of the strike he was only permitted to work for a month when he was discriminated against and discharged. After traveling across the country looking for work in his trade, he discovered he was blacklisted in Canada and forced to go to the United States in order to work at his chosen trade. Charles MacGowan was appointed President Emeritus in 1954 until his death in 1960.
- 1944** Lodge 451 was chartered on September 15th, 1944. [Lodge 451 is the most northern Lodge in the Boilermakers](#) in the town of Flin Flon. The membership works for the Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting Company Ltd which produces zinc, copper, gold and silver. These Boilermakers work on the mining equipment, structural steel, and overhauling trucks, which may be under or above ground.



Figure 5 - In the early 1940's the skill of riveting was still in demand. Riveting required five men to close up a seam compare to one welder.

- 1946** The First National Tank agreement was signed by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in Canada.
- 1946** Local 359 was chartered on March 15th, 1946, after a group of Boilermakers working for C.C. Moore & Co were working on a boiler erection job at the B.C. Sugar Refinery in Vancouver. Lodge 359 was the second construction lodge in Canada. This lodges' jurisdiction covered the entire province of British Columbia. Later, the Yukon Territory was added. Lodge 359 original charter was in 1918 in Regina as a refinery maintenance shop.
- 1947** Lodge 128 was re-chartered as a construction lodge and contract shop lodge with its jurisdiction covering the province of Ontario. Lodge 128 history goes back to 1893 when it began as Lodge 106. There were a few lapses of the charter, however since 1947, [Lodge 128 has been one of the largest lodges in the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.](#)



Figure 6 – Cat cracker in Sarnia, Ontario for Imperial Oil, 1956

- 1948** Lodge 146 was chartered in May 1948 with a complement of 60 members. The employees of Sparling & Davis Ltd, who were working out of the company's shop on Edmonton's south side, were organized by IVP Archie Milligan. [Lodge 146 is currently the largest Lodge in all of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.](#) Lodge 146's original charter was in Prince Rupert shipyard in 1917 for World War I. After the war the shipyard closed and the charter lapsed.
- 1949** Lodge 271 played host to the 18th Consolidated Convention of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron-Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers in Montreal.
- 1951** Local 191 was re-chartered on October 23, 1951, as a Shipyard and Shop lodge in Victoria. As with the early years of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers in Canada, Local 191 also lost its charter a few times. In 1951 another union was in a long and bitter strike that was not doing anyone any favours. Members of that Union requested a meeting with the IVP of Western Canada to see what the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers could do for them. On October 4th, 1951 a special meeting was held to discuss the matter of re-affiliation with the Boilermakers International. At the end of the meeting the members voted to join the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.



Figure 7 - William Calvin - International President 1954 – 1962

- 1954** William A. Calvin from Saint John, New Brunswick, was elected International President until he retired in 1962. He was the son of a Boilermaker who served his apprenticeship as a Boilermaker in a Canadian Pacific Railway shop in his home province. It was during his Stewardship that the Brotherhood put in place some important milestones in the US. The National Health & Welfare plan in 1954, and the National Pension Plan in 1960. In 1957, National Standards of Apprenticeship for Boilermakers in Field Erection was formulated.
- 1954** October 6, 1954 Lodge 555 was granted a charter. The work at the time was a new smelter in Thompson, a steam plant in Winnipeg, McArthur Hydro-Dam, and oil refineries. [Lodge 555 has the largest geographic area in the whole Brotherhood](#), which covers Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwestern Ontario and Nunavut.
- 1954** The Boilermakers merged their organization with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers and Helpers. The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths had been organized in 1889 and added “Helpers” to both their



membership and their name in 1901. A 1919 merger with the Brotherhood of Drop Forgers created the Union that, on June 29, 1953, merged with the Boilermakers to create the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers. A year later, a new International seal was adopted to include all crafts.

- 1955** The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers signed the first National Construction Agreement in Canada.
- 1957** Lodge 680 is re-organized in Port Dalhousie as a shipyard lodge with 173 Charter Members. In 1955, Lodge 680 consolidated with Lodge 128. Lodge 680's original charter was granted in 1941 as a Shipyard lodge with 28 charter members. Port Weller Dry Docks is located just above Lock One on the Welland Ship Canal.
- 1963** Lodge 359 was the first to initiate the training of construction boilermaker apprentices in Canada.
- 1969** Lodge 203 was granted a charter on July 7, 1969 with jurisdiction over Newfoundland & Labrador as a Shop and Construction Lodge. In the 1950's and 1960's, Newfoundland had major construction projects in progress - a phosphorous plant, kraft line board, oil refinery and hydro-electric projects. It was the work picture which inspired the chartering of a construction lodge in Newfoundland, taking over from Lodge 271 that previously had the jurisdiction.
- 1971** The National Benefits Fund is established by IVP's Don Whan and John Carroll giving Boilermakers across Canada a Pension and Health & Welfare plan for all members and their families.



Quality Control Council of Canada Conseil du contrôle de la qualité du Canada

The Quality Control Council of Canada was founded on January 19th, 1973 in Edmonton. The Boilermakers and United Association agreed to a constitution and elected the table officers, as required by the constitution, for the purpose of representing nondestructive testing technicians.

- 1973** Lodge 73 was granted a charter with jurisdiction over New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, originally part of Local 271 in Quebec. Lodge 73 was chartered in 1973 with 152 members. [New Brunswick is considered to be the "birth place of labour unions in British North America" by many historians.](#)
- 1974** The first Interprovincial Red Seal Certificate of Qualification for the Boilermaker trade is granted to Robert MacIntosh of Lodge 359.
- 1974** Lodge 128's Joint apprenticeship Committee proudly released the first ever, print-shop produced, Construction Boilermaker Training Manual.
- 1977** Lodge 359 & 191 played host to the 25th Consolidated Convention of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers in Vancouver. This was the second time the convention was held in Canada. The delegates at this convention agreed to establish a Construction Division at International Headquarters for the purpose of servicing those members with employment in, or related to the construction industry.



Figure 8 –Constructing, maintaining and repairing the Industrial landscape of Canada is the work of the Construction Boilermaker.

1984 On March 15, 1984 the delegates of the Special Merger Convention of the United Cement, Lime, Gypsum and Allied Workers International Union voted to merge with the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers. The merger of the CLGAW (formed in 1936, with ten thousand members who dominate the building products and supplies industry) and the Boilermakers forged an organization with a greater ability to provide services to its members.

1984 District 11 was chartered on March 15th, 1984; D-11 is made up of 13 Local Lodges in Western Canada. The members work primarily in the cement, wall board and quarrying industries.



Figure 9 - Donald G. Whan - Elected International Secretary-Treasurer in 1986

- 1986** Western Canada International Vice-President Donald G. Whan was elected International Secretary – Treasurer until his retirement in 1989. He was appointed Secretary-Treasurer Emeritus in 1989 until his death in 1996. Whan became a member of Lodge 146 in 1951 as a welder. By 1960 he was elected Business Manager. In 1964 he was appointed International Vice-President of Western Canada.
- 1992** The Canadian Boilermaker Training Trust Fund was established, leading the way for increased participation by both the Union and Employers with regards to apprenticeship in the Boilermaker and Welding trades. In 1993 the first Canadian National Coordinator, Bruce Ashton was hired.
- 1994** The [first Canadian Boilermaker Apprenticeship Competition](#) was held at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Brett McWilliams of Lodge 555 was awarded the Boilermaker Award of Excellence.



Figure 10 - Lodge 191 members return to the shipyard in 1994 after the previous ownership go out of business. Lodge 191 holds the certification for all the trades that are employed at the shipyard. The company today is known as Victoria shipyards Co. Ltd.

1994 On October 1, 1994 a merger was consummated with the Stove, Furnace and Allied Appliance Workers International Union, a skilled trade union that was organized in 1891. The Stove Workers, with 5,800 members, became a Division of the International Brotherhood known as the Stove, Furnace, Energy and Allied Appliance Workers Division. The word energy was inserted to give special recognition to the coal miners within that Division. The Division had its members employed primarily in the manufacturing of stoves and various types of appliances.

During the same period, merger talks were also being carried out with an independent union known as the Western Energy Workers. This one-local union, formed in 1978 with members employed in the coal strip pits, signed a merger agreement with the Boilermakers effective December 1, 1994.

1996 In October 1996, a merger agreement was made with the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Allied Workers International Union. This union was also an old line, skill trade union that was organized in 1892. This merger brought 4,000 new members to



the Boilermakers. These members are employed primarily in plating and polishing shops within the United States and Canada.

2003 On July 24, International President Charles W. Jones resigned his office, and the International Executive Council elected Newton B. Jones to complete his unexpired term. Newton Jones joined Lodge 203 in 1972 while working in Come-by-Chance, NL.



Figure 11 - Group of Boilermakers in Powell River BC

2005 A new position, the Canadian National Director of Health and Safety, is created by the IVP's of Canada, Richard Albright and Sandy MacDonald. The objective of the newly formed position is to promote health, safety and wellness on all construction, maintenance and repair projects within the Canadian jurisdiction of the International Brotherhood by working closely with the owner/client community, BCA contractors and the local lodges. Some major activities include on-site inspections and evaluations of boilermaker worksites, assist in developing/updating OHS training, research/respond to requests for technical assistance and to maintain resource materials on various job hazards and their control. Jason McInnis is hired as the Director.



- 2006** In February International Vice Presidents of Canada Joe Maloney and Ed Power initiate the development and release of the web site www.boilermaker.ca. The website was developed to keep the membership of Canada up to date on news, events, information concerning contractual agreements as well as Pension and Health and Welfare benefits. They also initiated the online Travel Card Pool which increases employment opportunities for the membership and helps fill the workforce requirements across Canada.
- 2006** In July at the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers 125th anniversary consolidated Convention the award winning History book “Grace Under Pressure” is released and dedicated to Robert “Bob” MacIntosh a member of lodge 359 and Assistant to International President Charles W. Jones for his significant contribution to the creation of “Grace Under Pressure.”

