



Canadian Boilermaker

A newsletter for Canadian members of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

Volume 5 Number 2 | December 2018

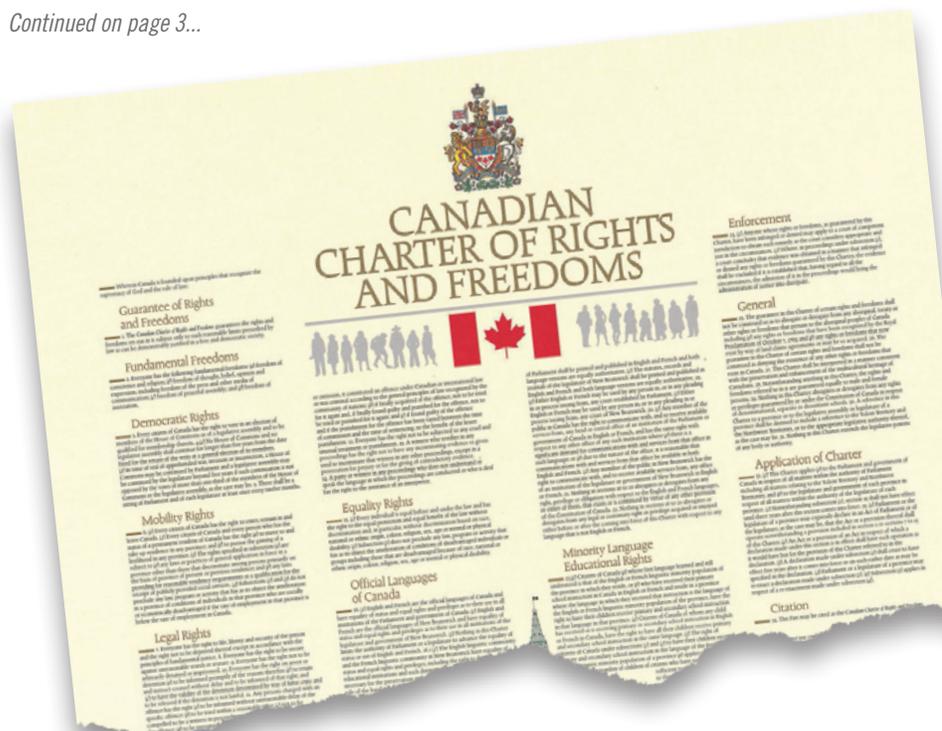
Alberta Boilermakers lead court fight for constitutional rights

Alberta's Boilermakers are leading a fight to overturn the province's construction bargaining law and defend their constitutional right to free collective bargaining.

The Alberta *Labour Relations Code* sets out a bargaining process that prevents unions from bargaining effectively on behalf of their own members, says a court claim filed by Boilermakers Local 146, the Boilermakers international union and Operating Engineers Local 955.

That's a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which guarantees the right to free association, the unions say. Recent Supreme Court of Canada rulings made it clear that the Canadian Constitution protects free collective bargaining and the right to strike. A similar ruling was made affecting Alberta healthcare and public service employees by the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench in 2015.

Continued on page 3...



Thoughts on 44 years as a Boilermaker



by Joseph Maloney, M.S.C.
International Vice President for Canada

After 44 years as a member of the International Brotherhood of

Boilermakers, this will be my last column as international vice president for Canada. At the end of the year, I'll retire from the union and step into a new role, as executive director of Helmets to Hardhats (H2H).

I've long believed we owe a special debt of gratitude to our veterans. It's been very satisfying to have helped found H2H in the US, when I was Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department and then to help establish the program in Canada. Since 2011, H2H in Canada has helped find careers in the building trades for hundreds of veterans who returned to the civilian workforce.

Looking back on my time with the Boilermakers, I don't regret for a second my work with all the fine people in our trade. I look back with pride on all the accomplishments we've achieved together and the barriers we've overcome.

The union will be in the best of hands with my successor as IVP. Arnie Stadnick is an excellent leader and has devoted his career to helping his brothers and sisters in the union and the trade. A member of Local 146, Arnie has a wealth of experience on both the bargaining side and in areas that have assumed so much importance over the years, like government relations and lobbying.

I am always blown away when I look back over our accomplishments as a trade and as a union over the four and a half decades of my career.

Continued on next page...

Our accomplishments as a union are a source of pride

...Continued from page 1

The advances in wages and benefits are astounding, but they're only one part of the equation.

When I first started working on the tools, our methods might have been described as rough and ready. But consciousness of our health and safety has grown so much that the standards we enjoy now are an incredible achievement in and of themselves. Things like respirators, audiometric testing, strict safety standards and thorough health and safety training have become standard. And we've worked hard to enshrine our right to a safe and healthy workplace in both federal and provincial law.

Back in 1974, we weren't very active in the political arena. Now, a government of any stripe that tries to restrict our rights will hear about it, loudly and clearly. That means we get involved with issues that go beyond the boundaries of

our craft. International trade deals, for example, never appear in our collective agreements. But as a union, we've become a strong voice in support of trade that benefits workers as well as big companies. And we've defended our trade against measures, such as allowing the wholesale import of foreign workforces, that would kill Boilermaker jobs in Canada.

We've also become much more professional in our approach to recruitment and marketing our skills. Sophisticated forecasting tools tell us when labour shortages might occur. Programs like Job Ready Dispatch ensure that contractors get people with the skills they need, making it easier for them to hire our members. Our Job Ready mobile app ensures members always have their certificates of qualification handy and tells them about upcoming work. And we've heightened our outreach programs to industry, First Nations communities, women and young people.

As much as we can be proud of our achievements, however, we still have much to do. We need to recruit more members in a time of shortages of skilled workers. We must constantly defend our gains against the race to the bottom that some are so intent on promoting. We need to defend our rights to free collective bargaining, as our members in Alberta are doing now. We must keep up the effort to achieve compulsory status in the provinces where we don't have it. Our fight for our members' health and safety continues to move into new ground. And we have to be active to ensure our voice is heard on the national stage.

Despite our challenges, I am confident of our prospects. With leaders like Arnie Stadnick, our hard-working officers and staff, and the support of our members, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Boilermakers are well positioned to meet the challenges of the future.

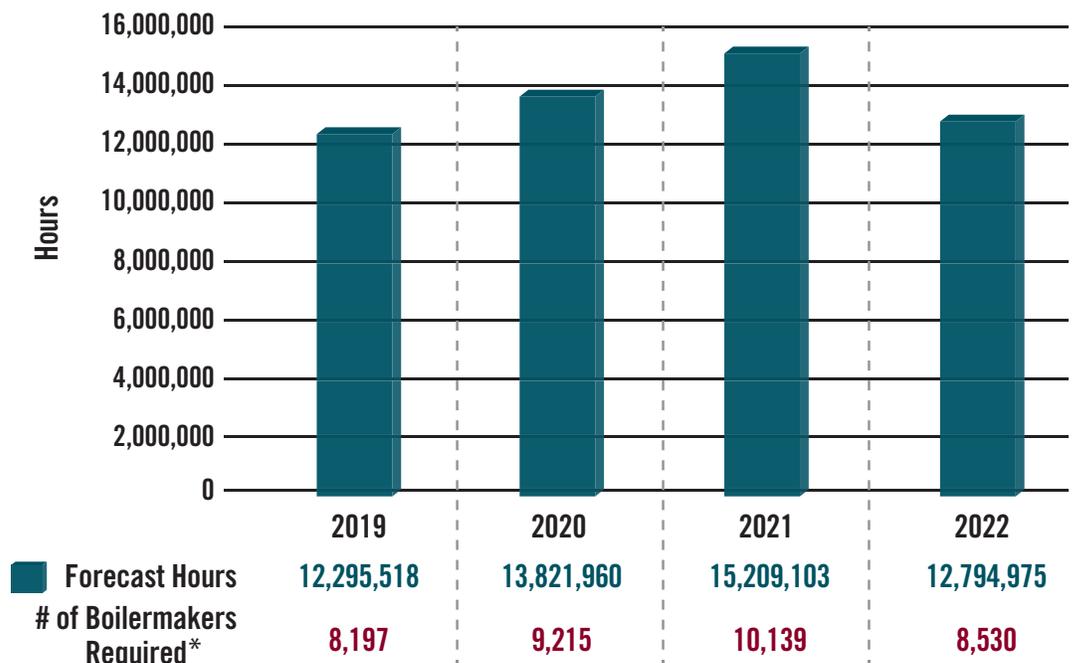
Work outlook expected to spike in 2019 – 21

Our forecasts indicate that work-hours will spike significantly between 2019 and 2021, meaning an increase in the need for available Boilermakers.

The projected rise in work-hours is due to a major increase in demand from the nuclear sector in Ontario, as it embarks on a \$12.8-billion refurbishment of the Darlington nuclear generating station, and upgrades to the Bruce power station.

Boilermakers will also be in higher demand in BC as work will begin on the major liquid natural gas (LNG) facility in Kitimat..

WORK HOUR PROJECTIONS, 2019 – 2022



*Forecast hours adjusted by 25% for margin of error

Alberta Boilermakers lead court fight for constitutional rights

...Continued from page 1

The Alberta *Code* lumps construction unions and employers into groups for bargaining and striking purposes. Further, once 75% of the unions and employers the general construction sector collective agreements, bargaining ends. The contracts of the remaining unions are then sent to binding arbitration. The government-appointed arbitrators have pretty much always awarded the pattern that other unions and employers have established.

The law even hamstring strike votes, with rules and restrictions that make it virtually impossible for a construction industry strike to ever happen. The complicated rules prevent an individual union from developing its own bargaining plan and schedule.

“The Alberta law means that a union cannot bargain effectively on behalf of its

own members,” says Local 146 Business Manager Hugh MacDonald. “We’re only looking for the same rights as millions of other Canadian workers enjoy.”

MacDonald says the inability of a union to bargain on issues that concern its members not only violates member rights, but also causes problems for the industry.

“If our members can’t effectively solve workplace problems through the collective bargaining process, those problems will fester and become worse,” he says. “This has to change.” Member concerns range from health and safety to wages and work rules, he said.

MacDonald said the Boilermakers union made its concerns known to the government when it was undergoing its review of the *Code* in 2016. But although the province introduced reforms, they did not include anything related to

construction bargaining.

“Our contracts expire next April,” he said. “It’s crucial for us that the denial of our constitutional rights is on the table before we have to go through this sham of a bargaining process again.”

“Alberta is the only province in Canada to restrict our right to bargain freely in this way,” commented Boilermakers International Representative Arnie Stadnick. “This law was put in place three decades ago by an anti-union government. It has to go.”

“Alberta construction workers want nothing more than the rights their fellow members have in the rest of Canada,” he said.

Together, the Boilermakers and Operating Engineers represent more than 15,000 skilled construction workers in the province.

Members can get more details of the lawsuit, including a copy of the official filing, at albertaworkersrights.ca.

Boilermakers continue to work for compulsory status across Canada

The Ontario government announced it will close the province’s College of Trades (OCOT) but the union is pressing on with its bid to achieve licensed status. The status would mean only people who are certified Boilermakers would be able to work at the trade. OCOT is the body that declares a trade has compulsory status in Ontario.

IVP Joe Maloney responded to the announcement about OCOT with a letter to Premier Doug Ford.

“It is of vital importance that people working in the Boilermaker trade in Ontario be licensed,” he said in the letter. Boilermakers are currently recognized as being members of a compulsory trade in four other provinces, with an application pending in a fifth.

“When a trade is designated as compulsory or licensed, there is a certainty

that the people doing the work have the skills, abilities, qualifications and education to do the job properly,” Maloney wrote. “Compulsory certification of trades not only operates in the public interest in terms of safety, but also ensures that the work being done meets a standard of quality so that costly repairs are not required shortly after completion or start-up.”

Boilermakers first requested a classification review from OCOT in March, 2014. But the former government cancelled all reviews until a study of the issue was completed. Nearly five years later, the College is again considering a request for review.

“With the announcement that OCOT will be wound down, we are concerned that there continue to be a mechanism by which a trade can apply for compulsory

status and have that application reviewed,” Maloney wrote.

Meanwhile, a meeting of construction business managers and staff held at Local 128 headquarters in Burlington, ON, heard that an application for compulsory status in Newfoundland and Labrador, submitted in April, 2017, was in the final hearing stages.

“Although there is a perceived qualification overlap with some of Ontario’s 23 licensed trades, there are also key differences that make it imperative that the Boilermaker trade is also designated as compulsory,” Maloney wrote to Ford.

“A failure of an industrial component on which Boilermakers work comes with severe consequences. An accident or failure could be catastrophic for entire communities.”

Boilermakers' video aims to wake up audiences to the potential of Carbon Capture and Storage

Our planet's atmosphere is experiencing levels of carbon dioxide not seen for a million years. We know that 80 per cent of global energy is derived from fossil fuels, and that we emit about 54 billion tons of carbon dioxide every year. We need a solution that can reduce these emissions while doing the job of thousands of solar cells and hundreds of wind turbines. That solution is carbon capture and storage (CCS), as many experts agree.

Our union has embraced CCS as a technology that is pivotal for industry to make the giant leap from the high-emitting present to a non-emitting future.

CCS: Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future is a collaboration of energy, environmental, industry and labour experts exploring how CCS technology can solve the three oft-at-odds issues of energy, environment, and economy.

The truth is stark: CCS is the only clean technology that can decarbonize industry — steel, cement, fertilizer, petrochemicals, pulp and paper, as well as coal and gas-fired power. No other technology can do it.

The video explains how CCS allows reliable energy production through a realistic mix of renewables and clean fossil fuels — a solution that keeps the energy and

Just to store CO₂ in the ground is costly. Enhanced Oil Recovery can help pay for it. When more oil is extracted it is used to make more everyday products, while decreasing our carbon footprint. After all the oil is used from a reservoir, the CO₂ is left there to be stored. This maximizes the oil extraction and creates a new storage space for CO₂.

The CO₂ that is harming the earth's atmosphere is safe and secure with CCS. Without CCS, it's very difficult to reach the goals set in the Paris Agreement, by which 175 countries have pledged to drastically curb emissions. CCS technology has been operating successfully for 45 years, but has yet to be recognized for the vital contribution it can make to achieve climate change targets.

CCS is also an employment juggernaut. Through the *Bridge to a Cleaner Energy Future* video, the Boilermakers are waking up audiences to the fact that CCS is the greatest facilitator to a future of high-performing, high-paying jobs in what are often rural and regional areas.

IBB International Representative Cory Channon is featured in the video, explaining the benefits of CCS from a labour perspective. "I'm confident this video will convince viewers that CCS is a 'must do' clean technology that creates employment and economic opportunities for communities, regions and nations — all this while tackling climate change head-on," Channon says.

"As Boilermakers, we're at the leading edge of an incredible technology that can help us to meet the goals that were adopted by the Paris conference on climate change," says Channon. "In fact, chances are we won't be able to meet those goals without carbon capture."

Channon has embarked on an ambitious crusade to bring politicians across Canada onto the CCS bandwagon. "We've sent an urgent message with a link to the video to every MP and provincial legislator in the country," he says. "We're determined to pressure our politicians to embrace this amazing tool, for the sake of good jobs and to save our environment."

You can view the video online at www.cleanerfutureccs.org.



Cory Channon

Assistant Director of Construction Sector Operations (Canada)
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

International Representative Cory Channon makes the case for CCS in a new video by the IBB.

Already, Canada has become a world leader in the new technology. Canada has built three CCS facilities so far: Quest, located just outside of Edmonton, Boundary Dam in Estevan, SK, and the new NWR Sturgeon refinery in Alberta. All three were built by Boilermakers. The Quest facility and the Boundary Dam project are each taking a million tonnes of carbon out of the environment every year, equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off Canadian roads. We need to build on these achievements with further projects.

To make the case for CCS, the Boilermakers union has commissioned a short video that explains how CCS works, and how we are faced with an imperative to embrace it for the foreseeable future.

industrial workforce at work, and local and global economies strong.

CCS is the revolutionary process of capturing CO₂ from energy-intensive industries and securely burying it deep below ground. Simply storing the CO₂ underground is not the only option. The carbon dioxide can be used for pharmaceuticals, fertilizers, cements, and plastics.

Enhanced Oil Recovery is the number one use for captured CO₂. Pumped into underground oil reservoirs, the CO₂ helps to extract the oil more efficiently. The methods used to extract oil from the Alberta oil sands leaves some inaccessible oil behind. Injecting captured CO₂ charges the reservoirs and makes the oil more mobile, allowing more to be extracted.

Exciting times for First Nations Boilermakers

Opportunities are opening up across Canada for First Nations people working as Boilermakers. “There are a number of new long-term projects coming up that will require a lot of Boilermaker labour in construction and maintenance of large-scale industrial facilities,” says Cory Channon, the Boilermakers’ Assistant Director of Construction Sector Operations.

The Boilermakers, in fact, now have a full-time national Indigenous recruiter, Emile Gareau. “We’re very excited about the prospects for our members, and we’re actively recruiting Indigenous people across the country to bolster our numbers in anticipation of these new jobs,” says Gareau.

One key project that’s in the works is the new liquid natural gas (LNG) export terminal slated to be built at Kitimat, BC by LNG Canada, an international consortium. LNG Canada has committed to investing around \$40 billion in the facility, which will make it the largest single infrastructure investment in BC’s history.

With the firm support of local communities and the Haisla First Nation — on whose land the plant will be built — the endeavor will employ up to 10,000 workers by the peak of its construction phase in 2021. The economical benefits will be colossal for Boilermakers, who will be key players in building the infrastructure, including the massive twin storage tanks that will need 500 workers to erect. Preparatory dredging of the harbour in Kitimat has already begun.

Liquid natural gas is unique among fossil fuels — both cleaner and safer. In order to be exported by ship, natural gas is turned into its liquid form by cooling it to -162 degrees Celsius. This reduces its volume 600-fold, for easy and economical transport. The resulting liquid is colourless, odourless, non-toxic, non-corrosive, and non-flammable. LNG doesn’t spill; rather, it warms and evaporates in the event of an accidental leak. There is no danger of toxic spillage damaging BC’s sensitive coastal waters.



Emile Gareau, the Boilermakers’ national Indigenous recruiter, aims to bolster the union’s ranks with more First Nations tradespeople.

LNG’s use is growing worldwide. There are already 400 carriers shipping LNG, and the new Kitimat terminal aims to be the most advanced of its kind — the cleanest in the world, producing less than half the emissions of the average LNG facility.

Even ships are converting to using LNG as fuel, and Boilermakers at the Victoria dockyards are front and centre in making it happen. Already, one ship has been converted there, and more are planned. With more and more ships taking advantage of cheaper and cleaner LNG, there will be more work to do building safe LNG refueling stations along the Pacific coast — great news for Boilermakers and for the environmental goals we as Canadians hold dear.

Meanwhile, further east, Ontario Power Generation has begun a \$12.8-billion refurbishment of the Darlington nuclear generating station which will create up to 11,000 jobs annually. Much of the upgrading of the giant facility will be done by Boilermakers.

Cory Channon says, “We Boilermakers are integrally involved in nuclear energy projects across the continent, and with our impeccable safety standards, state-of-the-

art training, and work ethic, we make sure they’re built precisely to spec. There are so many opportunities for our members in sprucing up both Darlington and the Bruce Power station, and the results benefit everyone in the form of more efficient electricity.”

Emile Gareau, the Boilermakers’ new national Indigenous recruiter, is eager to entice First Nations, Métis and Inuit youth to take advantage of the blossoming opportunities awaiting them in jobs like these across Canada. Boilermakers in the construction trades face great challenges in their work, but the rewards — in both pay and job satisfaction — are well worth the effort.

Those who enjoy adventure, meeting new people, and being a valued part of a team are the kind of people that Gareau wants in the Boilermakers’ brotherhood.

“Qualified Boilermakers can earn \$50 or more per hour, with extra for overtime, which is a major incentive to the right kind of young men and women,” he says. “Besides that, the training offered by our union is amongst the best in the world. You’re always growing, meeting new challenges, when you’re a Boilermaker.”

Pensions & Benefits:

Getting more from your benefits in 2019

by Susan Bird
Benefit Plan Administrator

Looking back on 2018, I think of services I wish members of our plan took more advantage of. Our plan is one of the best in the country and offers such a range of benefits that members may not even know about them all.

This year, the benefit I wish more members would use is our Family Services Employee Assistance Plan (FSEAP). This program provides free, at-the-moment crisis and other help to members and their families. It is completely confidential. Help is provided on the phone, online or in person.

FSEAP provides counselling help for concerns ranging from financial planning, nutrition, addiction, depression, suicide prevention and much more.

Members might need counselling to help them deal with financial impact of a work injury, for example. The cost of such services can run to thousands of dollars. Thanks to our plan, however, a member in this situation need not worry about additional financial pressure. That's an important relief on the road to recovery.

Our FSEAP can also help with one of the biggest strains on family life: the household budget. How much strife is caused in families across Canada by financial pressure? Experts say it's a leading cause of family breakups. Thanks to your plan, a counsellor can help you put your budget to rights. And, as a free service, it won't put any further financial strain on your family relationships.

Even your teenaged children can contact the FSEAP about problems with

school, friends, drugs and alcohol, family relationships, and more.

These are only a few examples of how the plan can help. There's much more information available on the plan's website, at boilermakersbenefits.ca. Look under the "Health Benefits" icon.

My hope is that members use the FSEAP program more and more and talk about it with other members and their families. It has helped hundreds of IBB members.

You can contact the FSEAP toll-free at **1-866-990-1113** (or at the TTY number: **1-888-234-0414**) 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Constant improvement

Your plan is always being updated to reflect the continuous change in the health-care environment. In 2019, the plan will launch the new Early Retiree Health Plan. This new plan is one of the many initiatives taken to ensure the benefits the plans provide respond to member needs.

Like the benefit plan for members over 65 (which we call the Retired Member 65+ Health Plan), the Early Retiree Health Plan may subsidize the cost of your coverage. Depending on your total lifetime hours of service as a member of the plan, you could pay less than the actual costs.

We've posted a video presentation on the new Early Retiree Health Plan that will give you all the information you need. It can be found on the plan website at boilermakersbenefits.ca. Click the "News & Education" icon at the top of the page, then choose "Educational Seminars." You have to be registered with the website to access the documents. (Signing up, if you

haven't already, is a simple process and we encourage all plan members to do so.)

Annual reports and updates

Your 2017 annual reports will reach your mailbox soon. The annual reports are an excellent look-back on 2017 and they include the audited financial statements and actuarial information filed with the regulator in September 2018.

During 2019, members will be asked to update their personal information to ensure the plans' records are accurate. The update will also ensure that the plans have the most current information about members' dependants, beneficiaries and other health plan coverage. Please consider it as an important maintenance item in your household's financial plan.

Another important update, this time from your pension plan, is also available on boilermakersbenefits.ca. (Click the "Pension Benefits" icon, then scroll to the bottom of the page.) This update outlines the success we have had in achieving a 102% funded status for the pension plan. This is partly due to the outstanding investment return of 10.3% that the plan achieved in the year ending December 31, 2017. More information is available in the report, and I urge members to download it.

I have really enjoyed meeting with hundreds of plan members over 2018. Member meetings are already being arranged for 2019. Your local will inform you when meetings will be held in your area.

In closing, please accept our best wishes for the new year from all your Plan's trustees and administrative staff.

fseap Now we're talking.

Your Member Assistance Program

Help when you need it,
24 hours a day, seven days a week.

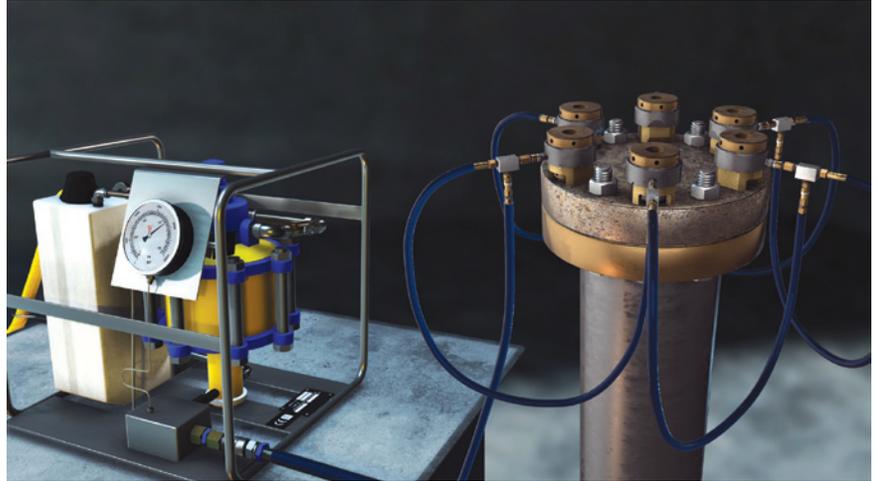
Call **1-866-990-1113**
(or TTY **1-888-234-0414**)



National Training Boilermaker Virtual Campus: Animated hydraulic torquing and tensioning video

by **Grant Jacobs**
Director of National Training

If you haven't done so yet, please visit the **boilermaker.ca** website and, under the members section, check out all the courses and general interest items the site has to offer our members. This year, National Training added to our training courses an animated video of the hydraulic torquing and tensioning process. This completes National Training's Hydraulic Torquing and Tensioning program developed to meet the training needs in the apprenticeship schools and our local union training centres. This is a fully animated version of hydraulic bolting and tensioning. This allows us to illustrate the process in a time frame that is substantially shorter than watching a recorded video of the same process. The animation is not a substitute for the actual hands-on training, but is a valuable aid to it. Check it out!



A new video available in the Members' area of the Boilermakers website provides an animated review of the hydraulic torquing and tensioning process.

2019 Project Management Course

The annual Project Management course will take place next year in Toronto, Ontario. The program has confirmed sixteen supervisors registered. Representation was from the construction locals and several contractors this year. For information about this program, and to register, contact your local union Training Coordinator.

Awards Banquet honours top Apprentices

The 2018 Boilermaker Apprenticeship Awards were held in Ottawa this year in conjunction with other International meetings and training programs. The National Training Trust Fund (NTTF) sponsors the awards banquet each year. The purpose of the award is to recognize the top graduating Boilermaker Apprentices from each lodge across Canada. Top Apprentices are chosen by their local lodge based on three criteria: their technical in-school achievement, their on-the-job performance, and their demonstrated character qualities.

Director of National Training Grant Jacobs opened the evening by introducing each of the graduate apprentices and reading a short description of why their respective local lodge recommended them as their choice to represent the best of their apprentice training program participants.

The Awards Banquet also recognized leaders in the industry, who receive the Industry Award of Excellence for distinguished service related to



The graduate apprentices of 2018. Standing (left to right): Scott Howarth (555), Jeremy Gordon (146), Brett Smith (146), Colin Robertson (359), Matthew MacLellan (73), Geoff Eves (128), Jason Chizen (128), Bruce Caissie (73), Brian Handy (555) and Charles-Antoine Courchesne (271). Seated is Grant Jacobs, Director of National Training.

apprenticeship training. This year the award recipients were Henry Gusse, founder of Edmonton Exchanger and Refinery Services; Don Lenny and Dale Green, both long-term employees of Edmonton Exchanger, and instructor Ed Hoffman of Local 128.

Henry Gusse of Edmonton Exchanger was awarded the Boilermaker Bronze by incoming IVP for Canada Arnie Stadnick. Brother Gusse passed away this year and the award was accepted by his son Larry Gusse, President of Edmonton Exchanger.

Steward Training enriches members and the union

Steward Training has been taking place in various locals in Canada. The classes have been led by International Representative Richard MacIntosh. Assistant to International President Cory Channon instructed the jurisdiction portion of the training. Health & Safety section was presented either by the National Director of H & S Jason McInnis or H & S Representative Blair Allin.

The steward is an important position of leadership within the Boilermaker Industry. The Steward's role in safeguarding the members of the union is by assisting the members and Employer with the collective agreement. Members are encouraged to contact their local lodge.

Lodge 146: February 28 – March 1, 2018



Bottom row, left to right: Jason Manfind, Antony Somers, Richard MacLean, Iavr Pederson, Caroline Guay. Top Row, left to right: Jason Wiebe, Chris Mueller, Chris Goddard, Channel Thompson, Curtis Manning, Jeff Denard and Brian Pake. (Missing from photo: Angle Combs.)

Lodge 555 Winnipeg: January 16 – 17, 2018



Pictured are: William Dubois, David Duelk, Stuart Zoroneck, Anthony Monkman, Brandyn Rheault, Joseph Lambourne, Chad Benson, Joe Wood, Jeff Reuther, Mike Stefak, Jayce Fiddler.

Lodge 555 Regina: January 18 – 19, 2018



Pictured are: Brian Handy, Catlin Fitzgerald, Tim Stratton, Jillian McIntosh, Tyler Ogle, Jason Benchanski, Sean Dixon, Kyle Hauser, Brandon Gaudet, Shawn Soclaski, Brett King, Jason Koews, Travis Englesmar.

EPSCA agreement boosts wages, secures work

A five-year extension of the Boilermakers' collective agreement with the Electrical Power Systems Construction Association (EPSCA) in Ontario will provide wage increases and crucial job security for members working in the nuclear industry.

"The current Ontario Government has made it clear that it wants to lower electricity rates," said IVP Joe Maloney. "When you combine this with the signals about opening up union-exclusive agreements, I felt very strongly that negotiating an early agreement would show our commitment to provide cost and labour-relations stability to the electrical power sector during a very critical time."

The agreement provides increases of 2% per year on the full monetary package for all classifications, as well as increases to travel and board allowances for workers

at both Ontario Power Generation and Bruce Power. Measures were also taken to equalize compensation between workers on different shift schedules. Despite intense pressure from the employers, the agreement preserves double-time for overtime after 50 hours and on weekends.



EPSCA
ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEMS
CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

"The job security this agreement provides is very important," commented Local 128 Business Manager Roy Grills. "We're very pleased that it also preserved double time for overtime."

In a letter to members, Maloney thanked

Grills, EPSCA representative Stirling Munn and International Representatives Arnie Stadnick and John Petronski for their help during negotiations.

Union Boilermakers will continue to have exclusive jurisdiction over their work scope, a crucial factor in extending the agreement. The Ford government has made it known to other unions that it wants to end union exclusivity in other areas. The new agreement will protect Boilermaker jobs from non-union contractors in the nuclear industry.

The nuclear industry has become Ontario's biggest employer of Boilermakers with the multi-year refurbishment of both the Bruce and Darlington generating stations. The industry will provide over 50% of Boilermaker working hours in Ontario for most of the next decade.

Irish welders spread the word on positive Alberta experience

A few years back, Cathal McGee of Ireland's Donegal Educational and Training Board (ETB) and Mick Murphy of Waterford ETB went on a fact-finding mission to Fort McMurray, Alberta, the heart of the oil production in Canada. They spent ten weeks on the job in the Athabasca oil sands, surrounded by boreal forest.

They got their Red Seal in welding — which allowed them to weld in Canadian oil refineries — through IBB Lodge 146.

Cathal brought his learning and insights back to Ireland. In 2015, he started running an upgrade programme for welders in Donegal ETB. The Alberta government's Apprenticeship and Industry Training branch oversaw the examinations, which 13 welders passed.

To date, 14 Donegal welders have been to Canada to work in the oil refineries. Many have completed the B Pressure courses — recognized by the Alberta Boilers

Safety Association — that qualify them to weld in the refineries. Currently, there are seven Donegal welders in Fort McMurray, all performing well in the challenging conditions.

One of the former learners, Paul McMenamin, has just returned home from Fort McMurray. "The conditions in Canada were excellent in terms of safety, payment, and how costs such as accommodation, food and flights are all taken care off, Paul said. "I really enjoy the travel and being out and about, having been stuck in a corner of a factory for 14 years."

"I haven't looked back since I did my intermediate welding and pipe-welding with Donegal ETB," he said. "Previously, I had worked for years in a manufacturing company without any qualifications. I was made redundant and couldn't apply for any jobs, as I needed the papers and the welding codes. The welding course improved the

speed and quality of my work.

"Due to the papers, I now have flexibility, choice and freedom. I can pick and choose where I want to work, the projects I want, and how long I want to work. It also means that on my days off I can fish in the lakes at home or climb Muckish," he said. "This makes me feel fully alive."

In Canada, Joseph Maloney, Boilermakers IVP, gave his seal of approval for the quality from Donegal ETB. "In union there is strength, and this is a union that will continue to offer lucrative opportunities to our welders."



Explosion at Irving refinery brings Boilermakers together

Thanksgiving was a mixed blessing for members of Local 73, who were working on a maintenance shutdown while a huge explosion rocked the Irving Oil refinery in Saint John, NB.

Several hundred Boilermakers were working on maintenance at Canada's largest refinery but only a few suffered minor physical injuries, according to Local 73 Business Manager David Noel.

But the longer-lasting damage could prove to be psychological, he said. "You could see people needed to talk about it, and they were talking about it a lot in the lunchroom" following the explosion.

Some members took advantage of the employee assistance plan counseling offered through the union's National Health and Welfare Plan. Others used a similar service offered by one of the contractors, Noel said.

Both Noel and International Representative Kent Oliver praised Irving Oil's quick response and offers of help to members that needed it.

"You could feel it right through your body," Boilermaker Terry MacEachern told CBC News. "It was pretty intense. There was a big mushroom cloud. There was about 160 feet of flames.

"Where we walk up [for lunch] was very close to that area and it was almost that time," he said. "Six minutes [later], we would have been walking across in the wide open and may have been exposed to the explosion."

The explosion originated in a diesel treatment unit that was not part of the maintenance program at the refiner, Noel said. "We were very lucky that no one was working on the unit," he said.

"Something like this makes us realize how we are a coast-to-coast family," said IVP Joe Maloney in an article for the Local 73 newsletter. "I know I'm speaking for every Boilermaker in Canada when I say we stand in support of our fellow members in Local 73."

A previous explosion in 1998 killed one worker and injured two others.

WorkSafe NB, the agency that oversees New Brunswick's health and safety law, was investigating to find the cause of the blast.



"Something like this makes us realize how we are a coast-to-coast family," said IVP Joe Maloney of the explosion.



Canadian Boilermaker

The *Canadian Boilermaker* is published by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers & Helpers

Joseph Maloney M.S.C., International Vice President for Canada

Canadian offices:

10059-118 St., Suite 204
Edmonton, AB T5K 0B9

115 Prince William St., Suite 101
Saint John, NB E2L 2B4

Need more info? Check our web site

Much more information for Boilermakers and the public is available on our web site, www.boilermaker.ca.

Members can sign up to be part of the members-only section of the site, with the latest news on the trade and the union.

The site also contains a great deal of information for the public on the Boilermaker Advantage and how to become a Boilermaker.