



NextGen News: Focused on the Future

Schedule 17: An Attack on the Trades

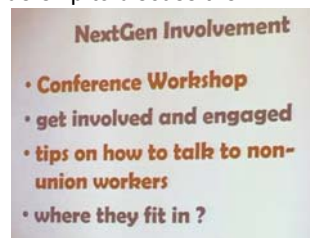
On November 30, thousands of IBEW brothers and sisters, along with fellow skilled tradespeople, took to Queens Park, where the Ontario Legislature is located to protest Schedule 17. Schedule 17 is hidden in Omnibus Budget Bill 70 put forth by the Liberal Government which effectively will diminish the value of a certificate of qualification in a compulsory trades including electricians, steam fitter, plumber, sheet metal worker and sprinkler installer. Find out more, by [clicking here](#).



Membership Development Conference: Organizing and the IBEW

The Membership Development Conference took place in Las Vegas, NV November 15-17, bringing together organizers and local union leadership to discuss the challenges and success of organizing, as well as strategies to increase our ability to organize. The annual Conference focused on communication and getting our message out, including a presentation at the Canadian Caucus from Local 353 Organizers Jason Mitchell and Derrick Smith who gave a presentation at the NextGen Conference in October.

Click here for more. Organizing has long been called the lifeblood of the IBEW. It is outlined in the objectives of our Constitution as ***“To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry in the United States and Canada, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions”***



NextGen Thoughts from 39th IBEW International Convention

Selected as a NextGen delegate my first task in St. Louis was our IBEW day of service, where we volunteered our time at various locations around the city. With the help of St. Louis local halls for material and Milwaukee Tools donations we completed over \$100,000 in upgrades in four short hours, in one community. Smiles on faces are worth more than any payment, we should do something like this back home, and show what a difference organized labour makes in our communities.

As a NextGen delegate (member under 35) I learned what an important role we play in the IBEW. In 10 years' time we [NextGen] will make up 75% of our workforce. The very first caucus I attended was the RENEW/NextGen where I learned that if we don't get involved and make things happen, we won't have a NextGen to pass this amazing organization on to. We need young workers to see the benefit of joining

committees and being involved. The Political Caucus outlined just how much your PAC (Political Action Committee) can help and make a difference. Like Canadian speaker Matt Wayland, who reminded us that every vote counts; showing Canadian ridings which were decided by a mere 561 votes in the last election.

The Women's Caucus reminded me that women still only make up two to four per cent of this industry. This convention made history by concurring with resolution number 42, which encourages each local to develop women's committee's; to mentor women in the workplace and to ensure we reflect on our diverse membership and build on the success of women's and electrical workers minority caucus. In the EWMC, I was fully aware women only make up part of the minorities in the IBEW. By 2020, minorities will represent the majority and our body, locally and internationally should represent that - but it takes involvement and dedication, which I know we have.

I want young workers to realize we are the future, we need to get involved and make a difference. This convention invigorated me, it showed me that one person with an idea can change the world. Henry Miller did it, six score and five years ago...125 years. But he didn't do it alone. He had nine other brothers who stood with him. Who gathered in that boarding house in 1891, our first convention, now the proud location of the Henry Miller museum.

Watching our convention proceedings showed me just what an amazing democracy we have, taking place over five, long and busy days, 1938 elected delegates from 678 locals across North America. We heard issues that sparked debate, issues that were close to member's hearts and some obvious issues – like our rededication to organizing, since we're all organizers - but either way, everyone's voice was heard. We had a line up powerful speakers daily, Liz Shuler of AFL/CIO, Hassan Yussuff of CLC, and Roy Blunt, the senator for Missouri who keeps voting down the right to work and standing up for prevailing wage. I watched our delegates vote in our International President Lonnie Stephenson, International Secretary Treasurer Salvatore Chilia, IEC chair Christopher Erickson. I saw my first grievance and met our International VP's and our IEC. I realize now how much hard, tireless work my brothers and sisters do to keep this well-oiled machine we called the IBEW moving. Let me put this question to you as it was put to me this past week... Are you doing enough? Are you making a difference?

Join a committee, show up at events, come to a union meeting and bring a friend. Every single one of us can make a difference we just have to try.

Get involved and organize, god bless the IBEW.

Sister Jaclyn Oliver, Local 230, Victoria BC

Happy Holidays!

Over the coming weeks, many will gather to enjoy time with friends and family. We wish you all the very best for a safe and happy holiday season. It's a time to reflect on the year that has past and reconfirm our commitment to fighting for working families, getting more involved in our union, in our labour movement and in our communities to continue to fight for the kind of Canada we want.

NextGen Local Union Committees

Contact Kate Walsh (kate_walsh@ibew.org) to submit an article on your Local Union NextGen Committee for the next newsletter. We want to hear from you!

IBEW Canada
ivpd01@ibew.org
www.ibewcanada.ca