



NextGen News: Focused on the Future

Ontario NextGen Conference: Powering Up Your Membership

On October 28-30, NextGen IBEW Members from Local Unions attended the NextGen Conference in Mississauga, hearing from labour leaders, including Canadian Labour Congress President, Hassan Yussuff and our International Vice President Bill Daniels, as well as activists, elected officials and safety advocates. Delegates participated in workshops on Building your NextGen Committee, Organizing 101, Municipality Matters, IBEW History and Structure, and understanding the role of the Ontario College of Trades.

“It was incredible to be a part of something so much bigger than I had ever imagined. I received a lot of clarity on what exactly the IBEW is about, to which I knew nothing of before. I got to speak to a lot of amazing people, that clearly have such a passion for the IBEW and care enough to show me what the future of the IBEW needs to be, and how I can help protect it, and contribute



to it. I intend on sharing my experience with everyone who can benefit from it. Everything we were exposed to, was such an incredible learning experience, with names of people I probably won't forget (Spencer Beach was my favorite guest speakers). It has made me consider my own future, and want to do more. I will encourage anyone that can be a potential Next-Gen to attend something like this, and I hope one day, I will be fortunate enough to be able to attend again.”



Jennifer Neath, Local 636

NextGen Thoughts from 39th IBEW International Convention

I was daunted and honored by being asked to represent my Local and Ontario at this year's International Convention in St. Louis. As the NextGen Delegate, I would be a non-voting member, but I had the opportunity to sit on the floor and participate in the proceedings. For those who have never experienced this convention, I can only attempt to give some perspective. Imagine walking onto a convention floor larger than a hockey arena, seating almost 2000 delegates from across Canada, the United States and beyond. I know that the members reading this understand how our meetings run once a month in each of our Units, now take that and imagine it five days long, eight hours a day!

At the NextGen/RENEW caucus, I was afforded the opportunity to speak prior to the opening of the convention. After my talk, many members from across the country approached me asking if I knew this person or that person from Local 353. I was proud to realize that our members have traveled across our nation, making an impact from coast to coast, demonstrating the highest standard of our trade. It gave me an amazing feeling of unity for what the IBEW stands for.

Part of why I was asked to attend was the continued encouragement of the NextGen initiative, the engagement of new and younger members. This not just on the shoulders of members under 35 years old, this is for EVERY MEMBER. In conjunction with the NextGen initiative, we are all tasked with the responsibility of organizing. Every time we wear an IBEW t-shirt, speak to our neighbors or even the stranger in the grocery line, we are growing the awareness of the strengths of unions. We are all representatives, called to grow our strong Sisterhood and Brotherhood. International President, Brother Lonnie Stevenson said, “if we each organize just one person, we double our numbers!”

It is safe to say, that I was invigorated, and returned knowing both where I came from, and where I have to go. I am proud to be a member of IBEW and even more proud that I had the opportunity to carry the torch for Canada at the IBEW International Convention.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Aaron Zboch-Alves
IBEW Local 353, Toronto

CLC Young Worker Summit + RiseUp!

The Canadian Labour Congress held back-to-back Conferences in Ottawa, the RiseUp! Conference, focused on Human Rights, followed by the Young Worker Summit which brought together four hundred young trade unionists to talk about their issues. The IBEW had a delegation at each Conference, which were able to hear from activists including Danny Glover and Wab Kinew, and participate in workshops designed to give them the tools to bring back home to their Local Union to enable the IBEW to become more inclusive of all of our members and get active beyond attending a Conference. Check out the CLC's website for full coverage (www.canadianlabour.ca).



NextGen Charters

The International Office has created NextGen Charters to recognize NextGen Committees in Local Unions across the IBEW. To start the process contact **Kate Walsh** for next steps.

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!

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