



PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW September 9 – 22, 2019

Hi all,

Last couple weeks have been very busy, and marked by loads of travelling for work.

First off, I'm happy to announce an arbitrator has been set for our LNG arbitration, and that matter should be proceeding in the next few months.

Over the past two weeks, I attended the Victory at Arbitration course in Vancouver, and heard some great presentations about the Duty to Accommodate, provision of benefits and human rights, a review of emerging case law, a presentation from John Rogers QC about his 40 years in Labour Law, and much more.

The following day I headed to the Canadian Ferry Association Meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick along with SOC President Kimmerly, SOC Deck Rep Sigurgeirson, SOC Engineering Rep Spencer, LRO Hall and Local 12 President Deanna Knezevich. The conference itself was mostly the usual industry affair with a few gems mixed in. We had some enlightening conversations with Transport Canada's Acting Executive Director, Marine Personnel Standards and Certification Elisabeth Bertrand about the upcoming draft Minister's document that will form the basis for Minimum Safe Manning determinations, replacing the current matrix.

Also, CFA held a workshop appended to the back end of the conference that focused on hiring and retention of women in the marine industry. This sort of focus from industry is LONG overdue, and is in part the result of a multi-year push from our Union to get industry more involved, and to help facilitate solutions to the current officers' shortage.

As a footnote, a Local President asked me to include remarks from BC Ferries' CEO Mark Collins upon his election as Chairperson for CFA. To paraphrase, Mr. Collins said that CFA must continue to its work to tear down regulatory barriers because those regulations stand in the way of what Ferry Operators could otherwise accomplish. Needless to say, BCFMWU members in attendance found those comments problematic.

The Friday that week was the Operational Safety Meeting. The following items were discussed: LNG Operations, Cargo, Fumigation and Tackle Regulation 152 – No Passengers on Closed Vehicle Decks, *Northern Sea Wolf* Update, Rescue Boat Update, Keeping Abuse out / Passenger Compliance to Crew Direction, Lowering of Minimum Safe Manning, SEA Training, Vessel Handover, Watch Handover, *Queen of Surrey* Stern Doors Update, Alcohol Service, Standardized Education and Variances in the Engineering Clearances of Similar Vessels, Future Build Design and Passenger Seating Capacity.

Next Week: The PEO and Provincial Executive Meeting; a presentation of the BCFMWU Organizational Audit and associated recommended changes to our Office Organization; a phone call with government; a whole lot of Chinese food with members of the Provincial Executive.

Thanks for reading, and I hope to see you soon!

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Johnston".

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President