



PRESIDENT'S WEEKS IN REVIEW

November 4-17, 2019

Hello all,

This is another two for one – my last two weeks have been busy with out of province travel and a horrible plague like flu that I'm still suffering.

The week of November 4th started off in Ottawa with SOC President Kimmerly, Deck Rep Sigurgeirson, Engineering Rep Spencer, and LRO Hall for the International Transportation Workers' Federation [ITF] Canada Marine co-ordinating meeting, Canadian Marine Advisory Council [CMAC], and Canadian Labour Congress [CLC] Transportation Working Group.

The ITF meeting was the first meeting following an ITF Canada National Meeting in Montreal, where affiliate leadership was strongly promoted. For our part, this was a positive development and lines up with the work we're currently doing with several global ferry worker affiliates.

The next three days were all about the Canadian Marine Advisory Council. The most important takeaway here was around Section 89 of the Canada Shipping Act and the door opening to temporary foreign worker seafarers. Currently, Canada has signed reciprocal agreements recognizing the equivalence of foreign certificates from France and Norway and we understand reciprocal agreements with labour supply countries like Panama, Poland, Philippines, Ukraine, and India are coming up next. Over the next few months, BCFMWU will work with other Canadian Marine Unions to better understand this process and how to ensure our membership is not damaged by it. Where this push is coming from was clear – CMAC was given a presentation in the opening plenary about the Seafarer shortage from the *Canadian Marine Industry Foundation*, which is by the *Canadian Marine Industry and Shipbuilders Association*, a private association of industry players.

On Friday, SOC President Kimmerly and I attended the CLC Transportation Working Group. Foremost on the agenda there was the continued slide toward regulatory capture of Transport Canada by Government. At that meeting, I read into the record comments from ITF Canada Inspector Nathan Smith along with correspondence from ITF Canada Co-ordinator Peter Lahay regarding the practice of lashing while underway on the Saint Lawrence and the death of a 32 year old Sri Lankan Officer engaged in that practice.

The rest of the next week was cut significantly short by the Remembrance Day stat (many thanks to SOC President Kimmerly for laying a wreath on our Union's behalf), and a debilitating flu/cold/cough. However, I was able to attend a meeting with BC Ferries VP of People (HR) John D'Agnolo. At this meeting we had some constructive conversations around the upcoming bargaining session and some open conversation about areas of mutual interest, including career development and casual regularization.

Next Week: Catching up on correspondence from being away / sick; finalizing new privacy policies; some file management review; a quick chat with MLA Sheila Malcolmson about BC Ferries and Emissions targets.

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

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President