



PRESIDENT'S WEEK IN REVIEW May 6 – 12, 2019

Hello all,

Last week started in Juneau Alaska, where I joined our Brothers and Sisters from the Inland Boatmen's Union in their fight against the defunding of the Alaska State Ferries. Right now, our Ferry Worker family to the North is facing a life or death struggle to ensure that their ferry system isn't destroyed by regressive legislation from a Right Wing Governor that removes the majority of funding for the system. If that happens, the best case scenario is a privatization like we saw at BC Ferries back in 2003, awash with service reductions and changing imperatives from passenger service to customer service. In the worst case, the whole system fails. In my two days there, I assisted the local bargaining committee, did several ships tours, helped organize a rally, participated and spoke at that rally, provided research, helped lobby State Representatives, and lent my voice to strategy and planning. It was amazing to work with a solid and committed bunch. For my part, I'd like to thank IBU President Marina Secchitano for inviting me, and Regional Director Trina Anderson for hosting.

Here is a link to coverage of the rally: <https://www.juneauempire.com/news/union-to-rally-for-ferry-funding/>

If you want to lend a hand helping in this fight, please write Alaskan Governor Mike Dunleavy, care of the Office of Governor Michael J. Dunleavy, PO Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811, and let him know how your experience with reduced funding and privatization was here in BC. On the part of the Union, we are sending 2nd Vice President Carl Campbell up to Alaska for a week to provide material support in this fight.

On returning back to Nanaimo, I spent a day in the office digging out from being a way, and promptly getting the worst summer cold in memory.

I spent the weekend wallowing in man-cold misery.

Next week: Sign off on a variety of Point Blank Creative campaign planks, a meeting with integral leadership coach Joanna Gislason, a review of education and servicing work with Relief LRO Chantel O'Neill, arranging a few critical meetings with the Employer, and an office cleanup.

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

In Solidarity,

BC FERRY & MARINE WORKERS' UNION

Brother Graeme Johnston
Provincial President