

*International Brotherhood of*

**BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS**

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RE: Rebuttal to Phillip Hochstein's Article of September 30, 2013

Normally we don't respond to such articles by the ICBA as they are usually ridiculous in their content but since Mr. Hochstein has focused on the Boilermakers in British Columbia he leaves us no choice.

To start with the Boilermakers is one word not two. This demonstrates his total lack of knowledge regarding our trade. The Boilermakers organization in British Columbia, and throughout Canada, works primarily in the heavy industrial, ship building and related industries. For over 117 years our union has been supplying qualified Boilermakers to various construction contractors working in these sectors.

We are very proud of the fact that we are highly paid, highly trained, safety conscious and committed to our industry. We control our apprenticeship system so we can determine how many intakes are required at any given time to satisfy demand. We have established apprentice to journeyman ratios so the apprentice can be properly trained and mentored. Please keep in mind that when an apprentice joins our system they are starting a career not just a job for a certain period of time and then moving on. Apprentice pay rates and benefits are established through our negotiated collective agreements so they cannot be paid on the merit system that Mr. Hochstein likes to promote. This is not a race to the bottom. We treat people fair and proper. When an apprentice completes our program they are extremely proud of their accomplishment.

Our organization uses temporary foreign workers in various parts of Canada during high peak demands in our maintenance industries. It takes us four years to fully train a qualified, competent boilermaker journeyman. As we build our Canadian membership in supplying the demands facing our industries we use TFW's intermittingly only when every qualified Canadian boilermaker is offered work first. When a TFW comes to work for one of our fair contractors they are paid and treated exactly the way a Canadian boilermaker is. There is no abuse, no exploitation of these workers and when their work is complete they go home, we appreciate and value their assistance.

Our system works and to have Mr. Hochstein say different is insulting.

Yours truly,

Joseph Maloney  
International Vice-President  
(Representing all Boilermakers in Western Canada)

