

# IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



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## CONTINUING COMPETENCY FROM I.P.E.

Education is a wonderful thing. It helps clear up some of the grey area in life. Some of us old timers didn't start off with a lot of education. Yes, it was obvious a long time ago that the best way to begin a Power Engineering career was to attend trade school for a couple of years and get a diploma. Unfortunately, some of us were too busy working to do this. Many years ago it was easy to get a job in Power Engineering and then achieve your certificates through part-time study. This is the path I took, along with many others. It was a struggle to figure out for ourselves how to study and work full-time at the same time.

This process of doing both to obtain Power Engineering certificates instilled in me a sense of lifelong learning. This June I will walk up at Vancouver Community College for the third time. The first time I received the Provincial Instructor's Diploma, the second time, the Diploma in Adult Education and this year I will receive the Certificate in Online/eLearning Instruction. I believe in lifelong learning and I enjoy teaching workers about Safety.



I am working with the BC Safety Authority to clear up the confusion around regulated work by Power Engineers. We want to clearly describe what the Power Engineer can do with respect to electrical or gas work on the boiler. We plan to do this through education. Soon, a directive will come out clarifying the regulation with educational material to support it that clearly describes what Sections 21 and 22 of the Boiler Regulation mean. I am very much looking forward to the result. Hopefully, it will clear up some of the grey area.

The Professionalism Committee under David Babich's lead has done a great job digging into what is needed to raise membership levels in the BCPE.

Since the Focus Group was held at BCIT last June, the committee has been looking at ways to bring continuing competency to Power Engineers.

The mission statement of our Branch is, "The BC Institute of Power Engineers is dedicated to the promotion of workplace safety and training involving boiler and pressure vessel systems." The Committee is currently working on an initiative that will see the IPE produce one-day training sessions for Power Engineers. 3 half-day courses are currently under construction - a Review of the BC PEBPVRs Regulation, an Introduction to LEED Building Standards and thirdly, a course called Energy Management in 2010 for BC.

This training will be available to Power Engineers and others soon. Please keep an eye on your email for the notification and sign up right away when you see it. We expect that the seats will fill fast.

Eric Steinson, PE  
Area Director for B.C.

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### Special points of interest:

- Continuing Education
- Interview with Roy

Check the website, [www.ipevancouver.ca](http://www.ipevancouver.ca) for an update on the Professionalism Committee's Action Plan. Your comments and pictures are welcome for the next newsletter.

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**Surinder Singh Roycombough, M.B., aka Roy.**

Roy received the Medal of Bravery (M.B.) from the Governor General, the Right Honourable Jeanne Sauve in Ottawa for saving a fellow worker (Power Engineer) from a fiery car wreck on the way to work.

**How long did you work for Skeena Cellulose?** 27 years

**What was your full job title, what group did you work for and what kind of work did you do?** 2nd Class Shift Engineer in the Pulp Mill division, started with a fourth class certificate as a beltman, upgraded my certificate and advanced to the shift engineer position over the years.

**What are some of the challenges you face or have faced in your job?** Discrimination, learning the process of a Pulp Mill and other jobs within the plant, shift work.

**What did you enjoy most about your job / working for the company?** Good pay and benefits, 12 hour shifts, good training, ability to upgrade my skills, safety training.

**What is your background in the company and before coming to the company?** I was a student at VVI Power & Process program. Worked at Nalley's Foods and Wire Rope Industries in Vancouver then in Stewart for a month but found it too cold and did not enjoy the traveling.

**What are some of your interests outside of work?** Golfing, Exercise, Cooking, Traveling, spending time with family and friends

**What projects you are currently working on?** Nothing major at this time, just keeping up with gardening and yard work

**Which of the company's short term priorities meant the most to you?** Safety

**Describe one of the most memorable, frightening, exciting, or embarrassing experiences you have had with the company?** It got exciting and challenging when the power failed and the TG or recovery boiler tripped, everyone scrambled to start up the equipment and get things back on line again

**What are some of the most interesting changes or occurrences that have happened over your tenure here?** It was interesting when the controls were upgraded from pneumatic to a DCS system, everyone received training to learn the new system. The 30 MW generator was converted to DCS controls but the 8 MW unit was not and remained pneumatically controlled. Other challenges included burning black liquor and hog fuel.

**What are your plans?** To retire in 2 or 3 years and spend more time with my family and friends. Traveling is also in my plans. Currently I am working at West Coast Reduction Ltd. in Vancouver as a shift engineer and enjoy this job and the people I work with.