

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



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IPE INITIATIVE ‘BRIDGES THE GAP’

A new National initiative was introduced at the 2011 AGM in Sault Ste. Marie in September. It is called ‘Bridge the Gap’ and designed to develop solutions to the shortage of Power Engineers across Canada, as well as other problems faced by Power Engineers.

The goal of the initiative is to have the IPE overseeing and coordinating the profession of Power Engineering and to have government, educators, industry and trade unions working together with the IPE to identify problems, investigate options and implement the solutions.

There are three coordinators assigned to the initiative. They are Jude Rankin, the National President from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Gilles Leclair, Area Representative from Ottawa, Ontario and Eric Steinson, Area Director for B.C. in Vancouver. These coordinators are all shift workers currently working together on this initiative with the use of Skype.

We started with a focus on education. We want to help

lobby government for funding for college Power Engineering programs to ensure there will be enough Power Engineers to meet industry demands in future and ensure the programs provide the ‘hands on’ needed for Power Engineers to make a valuable contribution to industry right out of the gate.



We looked at the work done in B.C. in 2009 by the Professionalism Committee with the Del Haylock report which focused in five areas: membership growth, communications, political action and education, stakeholder relations and alternate revenue sources and we have started to make an effort to improve consistency of IPE websites across the country by requiring the Code of Ethics to be posted on the homepages of each of the websites.

We are in the process of conducting a survey in a targeted region of Canada to determine supply/demand labour market for Power Engineers. We need to continue efforts to promote Power Engineering to attract new entrants to the profession and help increase the number of Power Engineers at all classification levels from 5th to 1st Class.

We at the IPE want to oversee and coordinate the efforts to solve the problem of a shortage of Power Engineers across Canada. We will lobby for support for our efforts from IPECC and SOPEEC committees.

I’m sure we will be successful in finding ways to contribute to improving the status of Power Engineering across Canada. It is simply a matter of involving the talents of IPE members right across the country in this effort.

If you have any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Eric Steinson, PE
Area Director, B.C.

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Special points of interest:

- Working to develop solutions to the shortage of Power Engineers across Canada

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for the 2011 Schedule of Meetings and a map. Do not hesitate to call or email the Area Director for B.C. for more information.

You can call Eric at **604-880-7472**,
esteinson@hotmail.com