

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



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COLLABORATION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

At the Calgary AGM in July, Lorne Shewfelt loaned me his copy of a thesis written on the subject of the Shortage of Power Engineers in Northeastern Alberta. The thesis was written by a fellow Power Engineer, Henry Hau, who was working on his Master of Arts degree in Leadership.

Henry talks right away about how the IPE must become a vehicle to link the voices of the stakeholders. He determines we need to: Bring the stakeholders together

Develop a collaborative environment among the stakeholders

Develop an effective communication network

Develop effective training programs

Determine the barriers in pursuing higher certificates.

An example of bringing the stakeholders together is the Collaboration Day held at Lambton College in Sarnia, Ont. on May 17th this year. The IPE sponsored a day with Power Engineers, Students, Industry, Educators, and the Safety Authority to find solutions for many of the problems facing stakeholders.

The IPE is the only organization mandated to provide a forum for all Power Engineers. Executive and volunteers of the IPE have worked tirelessly for many years to build a strong voice for the Power Engineers.

The Vancouver Branch has started to send out invitations for a similar Collaboration Day on March 15, 2013 at BCIT.



It is clear there are not enough 4th and 3rd Class Power Engineers produced and there are very few educational programs to help prepare 2nd and 1st Class Power Engineers. We need to find "firing time" for those students who need it.

We need industry to understand that good wages and benefits are the prime motivation and once a person obtains a higher certificate

and is promoted to a supervisory position, their responsibilities will increase so their pay should not actually decrease.

Henry has identified that a lack of information impacts membership in the IPE and the importance of promoting the profession. We must take a leadership role in promoting and organizing broad-based information sharing activities in partnership with all stakeholders. When social connections are strong and numerous there's more trust, reciprocity, information flow and collective action. Building trusting relationships promotes collaboration. Interdependency is a condition where everyone knows that they cannot succeed unless everyone else succeeds, or at least they cannot succeed unless they coordinate their efforts.

The IPE continues to try to communicate in a number of ways including LinkedIn, blogs and newsletters.

Thank you for your work, Henry Hau. You have taken the opportunity to serve your profession in a tangible way by conducting this valuable research project.

Eric Steinson, PE

Inside this issue:

Collaboration among stakeholders	1

Special points of interest:

- Working to expand role of IPE in Canada
- Collaboration among stakeholders

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for the 2012 Schedule of Meetings and a map. Do not hesitate to call or email the Area Director for B.C. for more information.

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