

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



Issue 14
May 15, 2013

COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT DAY March 15, 2013 – BCIT

When I approached BCIT and the BCSA with the idea of Collaboration and Development Day, they were very enthusiastic. BCIT agreed to co-chair the event. We got the idea from Gilles Leclair, Chair of the Education Committee, IPE Ontario Area, who is a member of the National IPE's Bridge the Gap Committee with me. In a joint effort with Lambton College, he played a key role in organizing and chairing last year's Collaboration and Development Day held in Sarnia, Ontario. The intention was to address issues revolving around education, student program enrollment, co-op opportunities, certification, acquired skill documentation and becoming engaged in the profession.

We invited all of the colleges, institutes and private organizations teaching approved Power Engineer courses in BC and Alberta, as listed on the BC Safety Authority's website. I phoned each of them. As Chair of the Program Advisory Committee for Power Engineering at BCIT I felt comfortable inviting the local members of the committee who provide valuable industry representation. The Senior Safety

Officer, Dave Warden and Chief Examiner, Suresh Verma from the BC Safety Authority attended as well as many members of the IPE. Bob Clarke, President & Chief Operating Officer at PanGlobal Training Systems was also in attendance. As attendees introduced themselves I asked each of them for a relevant question they felt needed to be answered. I collected 14 excellent questions, which we referred to during the discussions.

We looked at how the IPE can assist to identify co-op opportunities and partner with industry to assist with Power Engineering issues. We discussed the demand for student co-ops and current available opportunities. We talked about keeping track of individual college co-op recruitment schedules and power engineering student recruitment issues in general.

Lunch was provided by BC Hydro. After lunch we had an excellent tour of the new BCIT Power Engineering Lab. Open Studios people joined us on the tour of the BCIT Lab and captured on HD video the high-tech, efficient equipment in the

lab and interviewed Power Engineers both young and old about the profession.

After the tour we discussed student IPE membership and explained the benefit of the Practical Skills Record to document and validate the students' learning experience. The IPE has published the 4th Class Practical Skills Record and is currently working with PanGlobal on the 3rd and 5th Class versions.

Credited by the event's success, we will continue to seek answers to the 14 questions and meet back at BCIT on October 25, 2013 for further discussions on these important issues concerning the Power Engineering profession.

Eric Steinson, PE
National President, IPE



Inside this issue:

Collaboration Day	1

Special points of interest:

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

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for the 2013 Schedule of Meetings and a map.

Do not hesitate to call or email the National President for more information.

You can call Eric at 604-880-7472 or email esteinson@hotmail.com

COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT DAY

March 15, 2013 – BCIT



How do we make the process (communications) more transparent?

How do we bring 'willingness to learn' to Power Engineering?

How do we get more money from government for Power Engineering training?

What are the intrinsic values in Power Engineering?

How do we bring pride to Power Engineering?

How do we change the view that Power Engineers are only Operators?

How bad is the job shortage for Power Engineers?

How bad is the situation of Power Engineers looking for 'firing time'?
How do we train more Power Engineers?

How do we deal with attraction/retention and succession planning for Power Engineers?

How do we find and recruit Power Engineering instructors?

How do we get practical competency from Power Engineering training?
How do we help those going on their own in Power Engineering training?
What are the successes and how do we communicate them?