

ATTENTION: TCRC BC MEMBERS



Teamsters Canada Rail Conference BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE BOARD

IS THIS A POSSIBILITY? ONLY IF YOU **VOTE** FOR IT

TCRC BC members you will soon receive a ballot via your Division Secretary/Treasurer to allow you a choice on the creation of a Provincial Legislative Board. This ballot is subject to the TCRC Bylaws (2006), Section 1(a) LEGISLATIVE RULES.

Province of BC is only one of two jurisdictions within the TCRC without a Provincial Legislative Board to represent TCRC members within the province. Other PLBs have proven their dedication to and need for representation of the membership. The membership of BC is growing with a multifaceted membership, as such we are in greater need for representation regarding Worker's Compensation, Employment Insurance, Health & Safety, Human Rights, Duty to Accommodate and Regulatory issues. We have gone through numerous changes within our Union since a Legislative Board existed in BC. It is time to consider our need for a PLB for BC.

WE ASK THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE BC PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE BOARD (BCPLB) TO BE CREATED?

A Provincial Legislative Board's responsibility includes member advocacy with Workers' Compensation, Human Rights, workplace accommodation, employment insurance and other legislative/regulatory agencies.

Since the previous PLB was abolished (2001) many Divisions have spent a considerable amount of resources training and educating Legislative Representatives and Alternates, while other Divisions, because of funding constraints, have not been able to provide the same level of representation. One of the functions of a PLB is to ensure all members in each Division are represented equally. This can be accomplished through providing training to LRs and having a central person better able to assist in local cases or handle such cases.

Other PLBs are involved in accommodation cases, usually a joint effort between LRs, local chairmen, the General Chairman's office.

Boards communicate with Transport Canada on a regular basis regarding the Railway Safety Act and/or Labour Code issues for clarifications and to communicate/report any alleged violations on the part of the employers. This involves legal matters to the Canada Industrial Relation Board (CIRB) as well as the Canada Occupation Health and Safety Appeal Board. PLBs are also involved with Operation Lifesaver.

In the last year PLBs have assisted the National Legislative Director (NLD) on many files, just to mention a few:

- Railway Locomotive Inspection and Safety Rules Emergency Horn Requirement in effect January 1, 2012 West Coast Express,
- Railway Freight and Passenger Train Brake Inspection and Safety Rules revision,
- Track Safety Rules revisions,

- RAC exemption request Railway Freight and Passenger Train Brake Inspection and Safety Rules 90 cfm on locotrol trains,
- CP exemption request - Reflectorization Rules,
- CN request for exemption to Train Brake Rules – continuity test exemption on run thru trains,
- CP request for exemption to speed restrictions on Transfer Movements,

The railways are on constant campaigns to weaken the regulatory framework we depend on to ensure safety in the workplace. PLBs make concerted efforts with the National Legislative Director to contribute as much data or information to deal with any rule/regulatory exemptions the carriers apply for that may endanger our members or the general public.

A Board will be there to assist the membership’s understanding of the Pension Benefit Standards Act as well as the Canada Pension Plan. Employment Insurance is another aspect of Provincial Board representation; dealing with such matters as denied sick, maternity, parental or regular benefits.

HOW DOES A PLB FUNCTION AND OPERATE?

A Board is provided jurisdiction under the TCRC Bylaws, as well each Board can create their own bylaws, not inconsistent with the TCRC Bylaws, Teamsters Canada Bylaws and IBT Constitution. Each Division within the province will have representation on the Board via the Legislative Representative. The Board will have a Chairperson, 1st Vice-Chair, 2nd Vice-Chair, Secretary Treasurer, Alternate Secretary Treasurer, an executive committee and three (3) trustees. The Board’s duties and functions are funded through a dues assessment of each member within the jurisdiction it operates. The level of the dues assessment will depend on what the Board desires to do and at what level of involvement with local caseloads. This will be decided by the Legislative Representatives with feedback from the membership.

The PLB Chair will also be a member of the National Legislative Board; representation that BC does not presently have.

After reviewing the past Board functions and funding requirements as well as other PLBs within Canada it is believed the level of funding to have the BC Board up and running for at least the next two years will be in the \$4 to \$5 range. One aspect each LR has stated they want to see is proper oversight of the Board. We commit to give that to you, through clear and open yearly financial reports to the Division as well as TCRC National Executive Approval of any future dues increases.

With the increasing attrition rate of experienced union reps from our ranks we feel this Board is a must for the future. It is needed to assist the new union representatives who will be acting on your behalf.

Remember it is up to you, the member, who must decide to create the Provincial Legislative Board, please **VOTE**

<u>Gerry Ranson,</u> Legislative Rep Division 320	<u>Gary Starling,</u> Legislative Rep Division 657	<u>Andy Pratt,</u> Legislative Rep Division 843	<u>Bernie Plant,</u> Legislative Rep Division 563	<u>Jared Bangay</u> Legislative Rep Division 105
<u>Rick Lanigan</u> Legislative Rep Division 111	<u>Laurel Webber</u> Legislative Rep Division 151	<u>Mark Briggs</u> Legislative Rep Division 821	<u>Clayton Scott</u> Legislative Rep Division 855	<u>Jamie Wormsbecker</u> Legislative Rep Division 945