

NextGen News: Focused on the Future

NextGen Caucus at All Canada Progress Meeting



The sixth annual NextGen Caucus will take place at the 2016 All Canada Progress Meeting. Now a full-day, the NextGen Caucus brings together NextGen delegates sent by their Local Unions from across the country to provide an update on what is happening with their Local NextGen Committee, challenges they face and a group discussion on what their wants and needs are to push the NextGen Initiative forward.

National Day of Mourning

On April 28, the National Day of Mourning is observed across our country commemorating workers who have been injured, killed or suffered illness due to workplace related hazards and incidents. Mourn the dead. Fight for the living.

- Established in 1984 at the urging of the Canadian Labour Congress
- Most recent statistics from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada tell us 919 workplace deaths were recorded in 2014, which equates to 2.5 deaths every single day.
- Among the 919 dead were 13 young workers ages 15-19; another 25 workers aged 20-24.
- 239,643 claims were accepted in 2014 for lost time due to work-related injury or disease, including 7,998 from young workers aged fifteen to nineteen.



What is your NextGen Committee doing to promote safety amongst young workers?

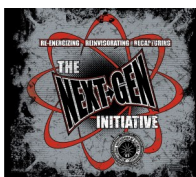
Reach Out and Engage NextGen Electrical Workers

RENEW, for short, is the name of the NextGen program in the US, with the same goal to inspire the next generation of IBEW workers to become active in their Local Unions by focusing on issues important to young workers, providing education about the IBEW and the labour movement, and fostering relationships with members and local union leadership.



The International RENEW Advisory Committee, a council comprised of young IBEW leaders from each of the 11 districts and the Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, has been created to support the advancement of the activities of emerging RENEW and NextGen committees. The council meets about two times per year to strategize ways to increase union participation and activism among its peers and facilitate communication and cooperation between committees, their Districts and the International Office. Check out a video on RENEW [here](#).

NextGen Committee Local 353



Local 353's NextGen Committee has been growing for the past few years, with the guidance and support of our Business Manager and President. The NextGen Committee is now an effective and active committee within our local. Our committee is comprised of members spanning all sectors of electrical work, creating a diverse group of both Journeypersons and Apprentices.

The NextGen Committee has recently come up with a mission statement. Created by the committee members, it reflects and embodies the direction and values of the growing group of youth within our Local Union.

The NextGen Committee is dedicated to help progress I.B.E.W. Local 353 forward by investing in the knowledge and organization of our young workers.

Supporting our communities through engagement, leadership and activism, we promote strong Union principles for future generations.

In the past year, our NextGen Committee along with other NextGen volunteers were actively volunteering in the community. Collectively we went to the Community Association for Riding for the Disabled (CARD), rallying together to give the aging facilities a much needed upgrade. Through generous donations from Local 353, local area contractors and the NextGeners, we were able to bring new "light" to The Variety Club Equestrian Center (originally built in 1979), which is the home of CARD. With this upgrade CARD will be able to continue the amazing work they do, day in and day out.

This past summer, the NextGeners were at it again as we wore out the soles of our shoes, hitting the pavement during the recent Federal Election. In teams, the NextGeners went door to door, knocked in signs, greeted and especially, engaged the surrounding communities supporting political representatives that also upheld our strong union values.

As well as being engaged in our communities, the NextGen Committee has strived to get involved within our Local Union. Educating ourselves on the history of our Local Union and the contribution of the IBEW in the history of the organized labour movement as a whole. Our committee members have been involved with the Retiree Club, Labour Day Committee, Sports Committee, Education Committee, and the Social Committee. Though the coordination with these other committees, the NextGen Committee has built bridges to join and support all aspects of our Local Union. Our committee members have strived to gain awareness of the role of our Local Union and how we can support that role in the work place by attending and participating in Stewards courses and other educational endeavors. Further, at the monthly general meetings, our committee members make sure to welcome and inform new members to many facets of our Local Union.

On May 29th the NextGen Committee and volunteers will be participating in the "Make Cystic Fibrosis History Walk" at the Toronto Zoo. Our team is registered under "IBEW 353 NextGen" on the cystic fibrosis website (www.cysticfibrosis.ca) and will be holding fund raising events prior to the walk.

We would like to thank everyone who has graciously given us their time, advice and guidance. The support of the Business Manager, Table Officers and the Executive Board has been integral to our current success and will undoubtedly assist us on our future endeavors.

The NextGen initiative has pushed forward a growing support that will strengthen the foundation of our Union, allowing the IBEW to achieve new heights and strive for a fair and thriving future. We are PROUD to be an integral part of this bright future.

In Solidarity,

The NextGen Committee

NextGen Local Union Committees

Contact Kate Walsh (kate_walsh@ibew.org) to submit an article on your Local Union NextGen Committee for the next newsletter. We want to hear from you!

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