

November 2008

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

DECEMBER 3 – INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISABLED PERSONS

As you know by now December 3 has been set aside by the United Nations as the International Day for Disabled Persons. The idea behind this day was to create awareness and understanding of the issues and challenges faced by persons with disabilities and to garner support for the legal and social rights of persons with disabilities.

CUPE's Persons with Disabilities National Working Group is pleased to have grown its membership significantly in the past years as more and more members, heartened by the activities of the Working Group, have come forward to continue the good work that the Working Group has done in integrating disability rights and labour rights.

The Working Group is very pleased that the National Officers have agreed to have two members of the Group conduct a view and audit of the site of the 2009 National Convention, in order to ensure that it is as accessible as possible *to all* members.

We will be celebrating soon the launching of the second version of our electronic "**Wheel of Chance**", which has been a very effective tool for increasing awareness of disabilities.

In addition, we provide you with the attached poster of CUPE's Persons with Disabilities National Working Group, "**Sometimes the biggest barrier we face is your attitude**" which was designed with significant input from the Working Group and our Communications Branch. We urge your local to display the poster in a prominent place at your worksite, and where your Union meetings and events are held, as a constant reminder to us all to ensure that we are mindful of the importance of accessibility for *all* members, and of enjoying the benefit of the valuable input and involvement of our members with disabilities!

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