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Tara Mills, Recording Secretary

LOCAL / SECTION LOCALE

PRESIDENT / PRÉSIDENT(E)

RECORDING SECRETARY / SECRÉTAIRE-ARCHIVISTE

November 6, 2006

Dear CUPE Local 1978 Members,

On October 19, 2006, your CUPE local 1978 held a general meeting to discuss our strategy and our "Keep it Public" campaign around the CRD sewage treatment project. We made some important decisions at this meeting. This letter will give you details of our campaign, some background and information about ways that you can get involved.

All CUPE 1978 members will be affected by the decisions made: as public employees and as residents of the many communities who will be financing the secondary treatment project.

Background

In July 2006, the B.C. Ministry of Environment directed the CRD to come up with a plan for sewage treatment by June 30, 2007, including an interim progress report by the end of this year.

One of the major issues in this process was clearly going to be whether the project was developed as a public-private partnerships or P3.

But on October 27, 2006, Premier Campbell announced that the "Province would provide one-third of the capital funding for the Capital Regional District to provide proper sewage treatment in Greater Victoria, as long as Partnerships BC takes a hard look at how the project can be done as a P3".

P3s are a form of privatization, where private corporations take over the operation, and in many cases, the financing of public infrastructure projects and services: water services, sewage treatment, schools, sports and convention facilities, hospitals, bridges, highways – you name it.

We've always had the private sector designing and building public infrastructure. However, now private corporations want to get involved in delivering public services.

How CUPE members can get involved

As a CUPE 1978 member, it is important that you get involved in the public discussion and in a campaign to keep sewage treatment public.

In preparation for this, your local executive held a planning session earlier this fall and developed an action plan to keep sewage treatment public. One of the things in our plan was to appoint a coordinator to run a campaign. At our general meeting, a budget was approved for the needs of the campaign.