

CUPE1978**NEWSLETTER****From the President**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As of November 1st, I was seconded from West Shore Parks and Recreation for a six-month trial period to work full-time as President of CUPE Local 1978. It was proposed and agreed to at the September General Membership meeting that increased union representation was long overdue.

CUPE Local 1978 is made up of four bargaining units, and therefore, four separate sets of management. They include:

- CRD
- VIHA (Paramedical Professionals),
- West Shore Parks and Recreation
- Victoria Senior Citizens Housing.

Each has its own set of issues and grievances.

My goals for our Local are to provide quality representation to all members, ensure the strike fund continues to increase and that our members work in healthy, secure, harassment-free environments.

To date, most of my work has been grievance-based, and unfortunately, if I've been in your area in the last while, it wasn't to spread good news. However, I plan eventually to visit each workplace and meet people face-to-face.

Since 'taking office', I've sat in on an arbitration, gaining valuable knowledge about the foundation of cases and the role it plays in a winning argument. During the process, I met with CUPE lawyer Jamie McPherson and our new area representative Meena Cheema. I am extremely impressed with the calibre of representation that we have at our fingertips.

I am also pleased with the dedication and enthusiasm of our Local's 2004/2005 Executive. We are making great strides in all aspects of operations and communications — most notably, our website. Make sure to explore the site at www.cupe1978.com and fill out the on-line questionnaire (see more about this on the next page).

Our Local, however, is only as strong as its members and we're looking for volunteers to fill shop steward positions. (see the next page for a job description). For more information, please contact a Local 1978 Coordinator or me. A contact and coordinator list should be posted on your union message board or see the Executive & Reps page on the website.

On behalf of the Local, I would like to thank John Dorosz for his work on the health and safety committee, which recently received a **BC Achievement Recognition Award**

from the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering. John is stepping down to take some much needed time away from volunteering.

Another long-term volunteer who we wish to thank for her dedication to the Local, is Sarah Hamster. Sarah retired from the CRD at the end of November and will be greatly missed by the Executive and her colleagues.

Our future as union employees is a rocky one due to the Liberal's anti-union agenda. I see us needing to come together for the good of our communities. Change is upon us and the fight for workers rights and livelihoods has just begun.

Evidence of change can be found in the recent reorganization of CRD

ABOUT CUPE

CUPE, formed in 1963, is BC's largest labour union. We represent more than 110,000 workers in BC, including a health service division called the Hospital Employee's Union.

CUPE BC is the BC Division of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, the national labour union representing more than 500,000 members across Canada.

Parks Services and West Shore Parks and Recreation – not to mention Langford’s proposal to privatize water services.

I see us bringing meaning to the words “brothers and sisters” by standing up for our individual rights and those of our CUPE colleagues.

Ron Dietrich, President



Strong Communities - Election 2005 Countdown

How long until British Columbians give Premier Campbell his pink slip?

Find out at <http://election-2005.bc.ca>



CUPE BC News

NEWS RELEASE - March 8, 2005

WHISTLER – When Whistler municipal workers got up to speak during public question period at last night’s council meeting, chair and mayor Hugh O’Reilly did the unthinkable – he denied them an opportunity to speak.

“We knew our employer was anti-union, but we didn’t want to accept that some members on council could also be anti-democratic,” said CUPE 2010 President, Pete Davidson, who has been a water operator for Whistler for over 12 years, as well as a taxpayer, resident and volunteer firefighter.

The municipal workers, who are currently engaged in a work-to-rule campaign over employer demands to rollback their benefits and eliminate set hours and schedules of work, came to council to describe the negative impact

the labour dispute has already had on residents of Whistler and to ask council to urge their staff to get back to the bargaining table. “It’s ironic that the home of the Olympics in 2010 lacks the democratic traditions established in ancient Greece over two thousand years ago,” says Davidson. “It’s a real embarrassment for Whistler.”

“Mayor and council should remember who elects them,” says Davidson. “If they don’t remember it now, we’ll have to remind them in November.”

CUPE 2010 represents Whistler’s water, wastewater, utilities workers and by-law officers



SPOTLIGHT: Role of a Shop Steward

Shop Stewards shall be elected annually within 30 days following the annual general meeting and shall hold office for one year. A shop steward shall be nominated and elected by and from the unit he is to represent. In the event that no nominations are received from a unit, the Executive Board, upon the recommendation of the Vice-President, shall appoint shop stewards to fill any vacancies.

Duties of shop stewards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Providing communications and information from the members in the unit to the Executive Board and from the Executive Board to the members, including the distribution of union literature, newspaper, questionnaires, meeting notices, etc.
- Greet new employees and encourage the participation of all members of the unit in union activity
- Maintain contact with members of the unit to provide ongoing union awareness and education

- Advise the Chairman of the Good and Welfare Committee promptly of lengthy illnesses, birth a child, or bereavements, which affect a member. The appropriate gift of either flowers or memorial donation may be made to the member.
- Duties as prescribed in Article 19 of Local 1978’s agreement.
- Rules of order for meetings of the Shop Stewards Committee shall be consistent with those for meetings of the Local.



On-Line Questionnaire

The Local is collecting information to take to negotiation. Please fill out the questionnaire and submit it on-line, or print it, then mail or fax it in. For privacy, please submit it from outside your workplace.

Remember that all emails sent out on a computer at the workplace are the property of the employer.

<http://www.cupe1978.com/questionnaire/>

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