

Local 606

December 2003

Volume 6 Issue 3



*TO CUPE
LOCAL 606
MEMBERS
AND THEIR
COLLEAGUES*

*Thanks to each
of you for your
efforts and
support this past
year.*

*May the Peace and
Joy of this
Season be yours.*

*Marlene Crozier
President of
CUPE Local 606*



EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

DECEMBER 2003

By Marlene Crozier

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT BARGAINING

Cowichan Valley and Nanaimo Bargaining Committees have both met with our new CUPE National Representative, Ron Lévesque. All proposal language has been proofed; we are ready to bargain with both Boards and provided the employer with January dates.

The Sectoral Bargaining Committee (the CUPE Provincial Committee) met November 17, 2003. Terry Allen was elected, Chair, and myself as Co-Chair. Strategies have been developed in an effort to coordinate the over 18,000 CUPE School Support Staff that we are now mandated to represent.

LABOUR MANAGEMENT

Both Regions in Labour Management are dealing with very similar issues – increased workloads, problems with special leave approvals, duty to accommodate, hours of work, appropriate breaks, work of the bargaining unit issues, to name a few.

COMMUNICATION

Unity within our membership and with our co-workers, the teachers, is more essential than anytime in our work life. Diane O'Brien had to step into some huge shoes, Award Winning News Editor, Jan Higgins, retired. Great job, Diane!

Check out CUPE Local 606 Web Sites – www.cupe606.com and CUPE Region 606 Cowichan Valley – www.members.shaw.ca/cupe. Way to go Joel and Chris!

CONVENTIONS

Some members of your Executive attended the CUPE National Convention (CUPE's 40th Anniversary) and the BC Federation of Labour Convention. Speaker after speaker relayed the devastation to the services they deliver to the citizens of Canada and British Columbia.

"TIME TO PUSH BACK"

– **Barry O'Neill, President of CUPE BC**

"An emergency All Presidents' Meeting has been called in light of the recent onslaught of legislation introduced by the Provincial Government.

In particular:

- ◆ Bill 94, the Health Sector Partnerships Agreement Act, which is an extension;
- ◆ Bill 29 allows the government to again override collective agreements;
- ◆ Bill 75, the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, which will allow Ministers to override decisions made by Local Governments, have made it clear that the Provincial Government intends to continue to attack working people, break collective agreements, and now break the decisions of democratically elected city councils.
- ◆ The Officers of CUPE BC will present a program for taking action, including job actions, to pressure the Premier and his 77 MLA's to reverse their actions."

As your president, I will be sure to attend. Watch for and read carefully, notices and memos over the next few weeks.

Only together, strongly united with the best interest of workers and our committees at the forefront, can we make a difference.

Marlene Crozier

President of CUPE Local 606 – Mid Island Schools

President of Vancouver Island District Council – Representing more than 10,000 CUPE Workers from various sectors.

***"No one person can be a
"Labour Movement"***



Linda McCourt – Clerical Shop Steward

Get To Know Your Shop Steward

First in a series

Linda McCourt has been the clerical shop steward for approximately 6 years. Most of us know her as Receptionist/Switchboard Operator at the School Board Office, a position she has held for 7 years. She started as a casual secretary 39 years ago. (Wow – she must have been hired right out of elementary school.) She started working part time at Brechin Elementary and part time at the board office, which was then at the former Student Support Services building on Selby Street. She was also a secretary at John Barsby Secondary for thirteen years and then held various positions at DAC, including the HR Department, and Secretary-Treasurer Department. As well as answering phones and greeting visitors, Linda does mail, petty cash, bank deposits, orders supplies, books meeting rooms and processes job applications. She says the best part of the job is how much she enjoys interacting with people.

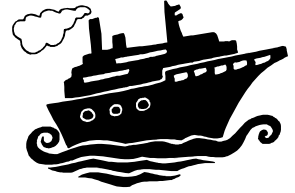
Linda's main duties as shop steward consist of clarification or interpretation of contract language and on occasion, giving advice on conflict resolution. If she cannot find clarification in the contract, she seeks assistance from Rob Zver and/or Marlene Crozier.

Other roles Linda has volunteered for our union include Secretary-Treasurer for 10 years and Chairperson of the CUPE Banquet and Dance Committee. She still assists with the CUPE Retirement Reception and is the CUPE representative on the Employee & Family Assistance Program Joint Committee.

“The one advantage I have in working as long as I have with the District is that I've met and worked with a great number of wonderful individuals and also have a sense of the history of the District, which helps a great deal working in the reception area of the DAC.”

Keep up the good work, Linda!

B.C. Ferry & Marine Workers Deserve Our Support



Please be supportive of our brothers and sisters, friends and neighbours at the B.C. Ferries & Marine Workers Union in this very difficult time. They are not only fighting for the survival of their contract, they are fighting for you and me, in this period of ever increasing government demands for contract concessions.

Do not assume that all ferry disruptions and cancellations are the fault of the workers. From the first day of strike action, the workers were cooperative and committed to maintaining legislated essential service levels. However, the management at B.C. Ferry Services, took a confrontational stance when they replaced regular scheduled workers with lower paid casuals, in direct contravention of the Essential Services Act.

The union took their concerns to the Labour Relations Board and an agreement was promptly reached on procedures to crew the ships that were in operation. Before this agreement could be put into practise, the government 'jumped the gun' and legislated an 80 day cooling off period. This kind of government intervention, on only the second day of a strike, is not only unwanted and unnecessary, it sets a very dangerous precedent for all unions negotiating with the government in the future.

Despite messages to the contrary from the media, the ferry workers on the front line have been pleasantly surprised and gratified at the amount of support they have received from the public. In addition to kind words and other demonstrations of approval, people have been dropping off donuts, cookies, coffee, soup, and even small cash donations.

The ferry workers union is relatively small and has no provincial or national affiliates. Therefore, they do not have a strike fund and will receive NO strike pay, no matter how long they are off work.

So, even though disruptions in ferry service affect all of us living in the Nanaimo region, please be supportive of the union's cause. We could be next.

Diane O'Brien

SAFETY ISSUE

Those of you who work with students and may be subject to being touched by the body fluids of others are eligible to receive, at no cost, Hepatitis B Shots. For further information contact Russel Roy at the Safety Office at 741-5215

Paul Lawry

INJURED AT WORK

If injured at work, "even if minor", report it.

- * Record it in the First Aid Book.
- * Fill out the appropriate forms indicating clearly – "it happened out of and in the course of my duties".
- * Keep a copy.
- * See a doctor and indicate to him/her that it is a WCB Claim.
- * Journal the incident and your condition daily.
- * If your claim is denied, call the Nanaimo CUPE Office immediately. We are here to help.



Marlene Crozier

FOR YOUR HEALTH

Vigorous Exercise Reduces Belly Fat



Storing fat primarily in your belly increases your chances of developing diabetes, heart attacks and strokes. People who store lots of fat over their belly muscles also store lots of fat in their livers, which prevents the liver from removing insulin rapidly from the bloodstream. Your liver is supposed to remove insulin immediately after it does its job of driving sugar from your bloodstream after meals into your cells. If fat in your liver keeps it from doing this job, the high levels of insulin in your bloodstream cause your liver to manufacture fat and deposit more fat in your belly and liver. High insulin levels also cause your brain to make you hungry. It's a vicious circle.

A study from Duke University shows that lack of exercise causes excess fat to accumulate in your belly, and vigorous exercise can reduce belly fat in just a few months (Science Daily, May 29, 2003). In the five-year STRRIDE (Studies of Targeted Risk Reduction Interventions through Defined Exercise) trial, participants who did not exercise had an 8.6 percent increase in visceral fat after eight months, while those participants who exercised the highest amount saw a 8.1 percent decrease in visceral fat.

First Aid Certification for Noon Hour Supervisors

The Pro-D Committee Report in last month's newsletter said that *Noon Hour Supervisors now receive a premium for their knowledge of first aid.* Please Note: The issue of compensation has not yet been determined and may be done through job evaluation, or as a premium. If remuneration is forthcoming, it will be back dated to when the course was taken. Please contact me if you have any questions about this.

Marlene Crozier.

HELP IS AVAILABLE



By Paul Lawry

I recently was speaking with Dr. Phil Perry of the Crisis Intervention Centre. While there I took notice of the many organizations that are available to help those in need at no cost. Here are just a few of them:

WALK-IN COUNSELING:

1190 Seafield Crescent 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For prompt response for mental and emotional issues needing immediate attention. Offers connection to other services, including brief therapy and crisis prevention group experience.

MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM:

Access through Crisis Line - 754-4447

A 7 day a week mobile response service, responding to acute mental health issues. Provides face-to-face problem solving, in the home, hospital or in the community until 10 p.m. After 10 p.m. crisis intervention is available by phone or in person at the Emergency Department in the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

HAVEN: 24 Hour Crisis Line – 756-0616

Provides shelter, food, information and support for women and their children who are experiencing physical, emotional or psychological violence in their lives.

PRO BONO LAWYER CONSULTANT PROGRAM:

19 Nicol St. 753-8062

Give legal assistance to those who can't afford it, free of charge.

**IF YOU NEED HELP
OR KNOW SOMEONE THAT DOES
CONTACT ANY OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS.**



ANNUAL CUPE LOCAL 606

COAT DRIVE

From December 1st to 17th, 2003

Please "warm-up" someone less fortunate by going through your closets. The coats will be picked up and delivered to the following agencies. Coats for all ages and all sizes will be greatly accepted.

Agencies:

- Loaves and Fishes Resource centre
- Haven House
- Fairview Community Clothes Closet (Fairview would appreciate jackets for young children)

For pickup, please contact:
Bryan Murphy, Transportation Dept. SD#68
741-5279 (work) or 390-3826 (home)

Take Note

CUPE OFFICE: 729-0842

#11/12 1850 Northfield Road
Nanaimo, B. C. V9S 3B3

FAX: 729-0866

E-mail: cupe606@shaw.ca

Office Hours:

8:30 to 4:00 Monday – Friday

Executive Assistant: Donna Murphy

Web Site: www.cupe606.com

President	Marlene Crozier	729-0842
Regional 1st VP	Martin Lornie	716-3459
Regional 2nd VP	John Ward	753-5567

Stewards

EA's	Bonnie Bestwick	753-7065
	Denise Hildebrand	245-5152
	Shannon Stewart	754-5591

Transportation	Martin Lornie	716-3459
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Maintenance	Wayne Nelson	753-5423
	John Cameron	754-3445
	Glenn Warn	756-0897

Grounds	Dan Larsson	756-3014
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Clerical	Linda McCourt	758-9847
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First Nations	Jackie Corfield	754-3231
	Barry Plaxton	722-7268

Operations	Rob Zver	753-7769
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General	John Ward	753-5567
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Sunshine Fund	John & Sue Ward	753-5567
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Christmas Holiday Closures

DAC Winter Vacation Hours

The District Administration Centre will be closed to the public during the winter vacation. The front door will be locked and there will be no switchboard service from December 22 through January 2, inclusive. The office will reopen to the public on Monday, January 5.

Payroll staff will be available by phone for urgent inquiries on December 22-24, 29-31 and January 2 at 741-5222 or 741-5258.

Also, please note that the DAC will close an hour early, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 18 only.

Holiday Break – CUPE Office Closure

CUPE Local 606's office will be closed from Monday, December 22nd to Friday, January 2, 2004. The office will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2004.

If there is an emergency, please leave your message on the answering machine; they will be retrieved periodically.



Have a safe
and restful
holiday season!