



Canadian Union of Public Employees
Nanaimo Region Newsletter

Local 606

September 2004
Volume 7 Issue 1

**NANAIMO REGION
MEETING**

**Wednesday
October 13, 2004**

Time: 12:15 p.m.
Place: Meeting Room A - NDSS
or
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Place: NDSS Cafeteria

Agenda

- Fall Social Event – Harvest Moon Dance
- Defending Public Education Conference
- Inappropriate E- Mails
- Habitat for Humanity Nanaimo Society
- Child Labour Conference
- Ferry Building to Germany

**HARVEST MOON DANCE
LIVE BAND - "TRIO GRANDE"**

CUPE LOCAL 606 MEMBERS
COME AND HAVE FUN!

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2004
Place: Cavallotti Hall
2060 East Wellington Road
Time: 8:00 p.m. TO 12:00 Midnight
(Light Buffet before Midnight)
Tickets: \$10.00 Each

**Tickets are now available to friends
and family of CUPE members.**

Order your tickets through Margaret Ellis, Pleasant Valley School (390-4027) and enclose the following:

1. Money (cheque payable to CUPE 606)
2. Number of tickets
3. Your name
4. Place of Work

Tickets will be sent to your place of work through courier.

**Any other inquiries call the CUPE Office
at 729-0842.**



"The erosion of democracy, increasing inequality, and decline in voter participation that we see in BC and Canada today are directly related to the growing influence of corporations on our elected leaders. As long as these conditions exist, unions will play a necessary and vital role in providing balance for workers and our communities."

*Jim Sinclair
President of BC Federation of Labour*



SUMMER UPGRADES



Summer is always a busy time for our facilities staff and this year was particularly busy with the closing of four schools. While most of us were enjoying our summer vacation, the following projects were undertaken in the District.

School Closure:

- Closed four schools and prepared them for Sale/Lease

Operations:

- distributed new furniture - 2,400 chairs and 1,550 desks to schools.
- removal, storage and disposal of 500 used desks chairs from schools
- replacing old carpet with new lino or carpet in 10 schools
- refinishing all hardwood gyms in District
- summer clean up of all District schools

Structural Seismic Upgrading:

- Departure Bay gym by contractor
- Mount Benson gym by contractor
- Rutherford gym by contractor
- started seismic review and assessment of SD 68 Schools (Ministry program)

Annual Testing/Service: Heating plants, fire sprinklers, fire alarms, water storage tanks, sewer treatment plants

Exterior Painting:

- Forest Park, Rutherford, Diamond, Northfield, Woodlands, McGirr, Uplands, Student Support Services, Completed Dover (left over from 2003)

Renovations:

- Woodlands by SD forces (new ramp/stairs – at gym, 800 lockers, Vending area)
- Woodlands by Contractor (4 student washrooms, synchronized clocks, internet, phone system upgrade, lino in hallways, Drinking fountains, eyewash stations)
- Chase River (office/staff room)
- Rutherford (life skills relocation from Princess Anne)
- Dufferin (special needs washroom in kindergarten)
- Cilaire (library office)
- DRC (expansion – 2 rooms on upper floor)
- Georgia (new wood floor in gym) by contractor
- Rutherford (new sub floor & lino in the 2nd floor hallway) by contractor
- Dover Bay (parking reconfiguration to match realignment of McGirr)
- Gabriola (replace furnace)

Re-roofing: Mount Benson, Bayview, Cilaire

Site/Playfield Upgrades:

- Ladysmith Intermediate Site upgrade by contractor
- Woodbank (playfield/irrigation system upgrade)
- General field maintenance (top dressing, aerating, overseeding, grass cutting)
- Parking lot and control lines
- Rutherford (playground installation in support of life skills)
- North Oyster (upgrade water treatment)
- Diamond/Rutherford (remove oil tank)
- Improved fencing at Dover Bay, NDSS, Hammond Bay

Ladysmith Secondary – Building Envelope

Retrofit: Tendered and project startup

Thank you to Pete Sabo, Manager of Planning and Facilities, for the above information.

LABOUR DAY PICNIC – 2004

What a great day and location! Another Labour Day Picnic occurred due to the efforts of "volunteers". It was amazing to see individuals spending the whole Labour Day cooking, serving and generally helping out wherever needed.



Unfortunately, there appeared to be only 3 or 4 Local 606 (Nanaimo) members present and no members volunteering (except myself). This is an annual event celebrating and remembering workers. We had free food, drinks, prizes, and special events for the children, entertainers and guest speakers.

Our main speaker was Marie Clark Walker, Vice President of the CLC followed by Jean Crowder, MP. There were four singing groups and 2 dancing organizations.

In all, I believe those that attended had a good time and look forward to next year's Labour Day Picnic.

Paul Lawry, Local 606 Delegate – Nanaimo Duncan & District Labour Council

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT—SEPTEMBER 2004



- ◇ **School Start-up** in both Regions has been reasonably smooth. The credit for that goes to your Executive and Stewards that worked diligently to ensure your rights were upheld.
- ◇ **CUPE Local 606 Financial Accountability** – In May at the Annual General Meeting the Trustees' (Denise Hildebrandt, Wanda Deisman and Trudeen Carter) report to the membership stated – *“In our opinion the financial administration of our Local is being done extremely well and we have absolutely no recommendations to make”*. Hats off to Bryan Murphy, Treasurer who has had to learn a new accounting software program and re-enter all of our finances. The additional challenge will be doing the year end with the new system. Rob Zver, GVP will be brought in to review the program to ensure we have an emergency informed backup. In November 2004, the Trustees will once again be brought in to audit the books to ensure accountability. The Local would also like to extend their appreciation to the hard work of the Trustees.
- ◇ **At your Job Sites** – you will have received a Disabilities Survey from CUPE BC. We encourage you to fill out this form and mail it back with the attached pre-addressed, stamped envelope.
- ◇ **The Local Office** – has sent out Site Representative Forms to your workplace and encourages you to fax them to the office as soon as possible. Subsequently, phone tree forms will be distributed.
- ◇ **Event Tents** – The Local has purchased two tents, one for Cowichan Valley and one for Nanaimo-Ladysmith. They will have CUPE Local 606 printed on them as identifiers. They will be available to CUPE members to borrow for the not-for-profit organizations' use that they are affiliated to. To borrow one of these tents, please call the Nanaimo CUPE Office. The Local is in the process of establishing a booking's form and the distributions of these tents will be through Rob Zver, Nanaimo and David Gibson, Cowichan.
- ◇ **Grievances/Arbitrations** – Nanaimo-Ladysmith Region has an arbitration scheduled in October and one in December as Labour Relations remain a challenge. Cowichan Valley respectfully resolves items in Labour Management, thus avoiding grievances.
- ◇ **Bargaining** – During the summer each of you should have received a letter (if we had your correct address on file) on the status of Bargaining jointly submitted by both Bargaining Units. Phil Turin, Secretary-Treasurer for Cowichan Valley and Robert Flood, Director of Human Resources for Nanaimo-Ladysmith have both been informed of the Locals willingness to bargain. We await their call!
In the interim, Island and Powell River Bargaining Representatives plan to be in contact to ensure bargaining communication and “no concessions” solidarity.
- ◇ **November 18 – 20th** – CUPE BC is putting on a Defending Public Education Conference. The Executive has voted to send eight (8) activists and two (2) from the rank and file. We will be providing each Region with a comprehensive report on our return.
- ◇ **November 29 – December 3** – The Local will be sending their allocation of seven (7) delegates to the B.C. Federation of Labour Convention. The movements' strength comes from our leaders across the province.
- ◇ **Politically** – Your Executive, CUPE B.C. and the B.C.T.F. all recognize that in the next few months we will be focusing our activism and our dollars to our upcoming provincial election. CUPE will collectively be showing up at constituency meetings as we select our MLA hopefuls, work for the selected candidate, encourage party membership, get our neighbours and members to realize we have to have a change in government and how serious the consequences are if that does not take place.
The Local Executive voted to support Leonard Krog, NDP Nanaimo Central. In the constituency elections: Malahat South – Julie Thomas; Ladysmith/Cowichan – Doug Routley and Nanaimo/Parksville – Carol McNamee.
- ◇ **January 7th and 8th, 2005** – The Local Executive will have a Think Tank on January 7th and be joined by our Stewards on January 8th. This brainstorming will provide us with strategies and direction for 2005.
We welcome your input prior to that date.

In solidarity,
Marlene Crozier
President of CUPE Local 606



Take Note



BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS ON THE RECALL LIST

This is to remind all CUPE members that are on Recall that it is your responsibility to pay for your benefits.

Sandra Doyle, Benefits Officer at the District Administration Office, usually sends out a letter explaining how this works. If you didn't receive a letter please let Sandra know how you want to handle your benefits.

RIGHT TO HAVE STEWARD PRESENT

If an employee has an issue around job performance or disciplinary purposes please do not go into a meeting with management without Union Representation. Contact a steward to be present with you at these meetings.

CHANGE IN ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

This is a reminder to all members that if you change your place of residence the CUPE Office will need to be updated. You can forward your changed address and/or telephone number to the Local by e-mail cupe606@shaw.ca or telephone 729-0842 or Fax 729-0866. Thank you for helping to keep our records up-to-date.

IF YOU ARE HURT ON THE JOB

If you are hurt on the job, even if to you it may seem minor, fill out the appropriate First Aid Forms through the office, your supervisor or Russel Roy the Occupational Health and Safety Officer. When you fill out your forms, include the words: "My injury occurred out of and in the course of my duties".

IF IT IS A WORKERS COMPENSATION CLAIM – CONTACT YOUR UNION OFFICE IMMEDIATELY.

COFFEE/LUNCH BREAKS

If you work fulltime hours (7 or 8), entitlement is a fifteen (15) minute paid break in each half of the shift. A half hour or one hour UNPAID lunch break is taken with the exception of those on afternoon shift who are given a half hour PAID lunch.

FLU SHOTS

There will be an influenza immunization program this year, at no expense to employees. Watch for scheduling and sign-up information coming soon. For more information, please contact Wendy Bechdholt in the Human Resources Department at 741-5253.



CUPE Office: 729-0842

#11/12 1850 Northfield Road Nanaimo, 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

Executive:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| President | Marlene Crozier | 729-0842 |
| Regional 1st VP | Martin Lornie | 716-3459 |
| Regional 2nd VP | John Ward | 754-5521 |
| Sec-Treasurer | Bonnie Bestwick | 753-7065 |
| Sgt-At-Arms | Joel Southward | 616-8460 |

Stewards

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------|
| Chief: | Rob Zver | 741-5278 |
| EA's | Bonnie Bestwick | 753-1044 |
| | Denise Hildebrand | 245-3330 |
| Transportation | Arpad Baruta | 741-5214 |
| Maintenance | Wayne Nelson | 741-5521 |
| | John Cameron | 741-5521 |
| | Glenn Warn | 754-5521 |
| Grounds | Dan Larsson | 754-5521 |
| I.S. | Joel Southward | 616-8460 |
| Clerical | Linda McCourt | 754-5521 |
| | Diane O'Brien | 740-3507 |
| First Nations | Jackie Corfield | 754-3231 |
| | Barry Plaxton | 740-3500 |
| Operations | Lea Ross | 754-5591 |
| | Mike Saine | 758-9191 |
| General | John Ward | 754-5521 |

Sunshine Fund: John & Sue Ward 753-5567

Newsletter: Diane O'Brien 740-3507

Employee & Family Assistance Program: 754-2512

HELP WANTED

Volunteer(s) needed to help write articles and/or take pictures for our newsletter.



Please contact newsletter editor, Diane O'Brien at 740-3507 or e-mail to dobrien@sd68.bc.ca if you can offer assistance.

Even if you cannot commit to regular contributions, your help with even one article or issue or would be appreciated.