



# The C.U.P.E. Connection

## Spring '07: Inside: Convention News & More



### President's Message:

To say that the office is busy is an understatement, since my last letter, Local 30 Executive has embarked on dealing with several issues that have not been addressed in decades. Your Executive board is working hard on the business side of things identifying these long standing issues and dealing with them. We are finishing up the process for 80 senior provisional members to be placed in their permanent status positions which were obtained through the past round of bargaining. Business Agents are working with the members on issues and violations of the collective agreement. Our Agents are helping me create better communications link between themselves and our stewards. Your agents are in the process of developing mentoring strategies for the stewards.

Bargaining in Bon Accord ended up going through the process of mediation, members in Bon Accord ratified a mediated settlement. In the Town of Two Hills we are continuing with bargaining a first agreement for our members. Our EPCOR members bargaining is also progressing ahead.

Over the last several months we have been pushing for an independent review of the Roadways department, this was as a result of a special roadways meeting held here in our union hall where members asked us to help them in what we later deemed as a poisoned work environment. Local 30 was successful in obtaining an independent review of the Roadways department, 50 members have been selected by the Union to be part of the consultant interviews to identify many long time work place issues. This review is totally confidential for our members. We hope this process will help in creating a better work environment in the Roadways Department. We are trying to do more in member services, we had an educational pilot project for members to go through a mock interview process and have themselves video recorded for analysis. We asked all those who participated for their input and all stated that this was very useful for them in learning how to be interviewed and they recommended that we continue this educational opportunity.

If there are members that would like to go through this process let us know at the union hall of your interest and the Education committee can schedule another round of the interviews. I had the privilege of attending the all Presidents meeting in Calgary. This meeting is where all CUPE Presidents from within Alberta meet to discuss the issues and trends around the province, discussions on what is working, what is not and what do we need to do to address the Labor issues in Alberta and in our municipalities.

CUPE Alberta convention was held in Medicine Hat. Our delegates that were sent by the membership worked hard through out convention, lobbying other delegates on the issues that we need assistance with. Elections were held for the position Division President. D'Arcy Lanovaz was re-elected as Div President for another 2 year term and we look forward to working with him in strengthening CUPE Alberta.

Brother Kirk Oates resigned from his positions as the General Vice President of the Civic unit and CUPE Alberta Division Edmonton Area VP as he has been recently hired on to the national staff as a Rep, Kirk will be moving to Calgary to start his new servicing role. We wish Kirk all the best in the future and I would like to thank Kirk for everything that he has contributed to this Local and the membership. His dedication and his skills will be missed. Neil Ketler was elected at the Division convention to Kirk's vacant position. We know that Neil will be a great addition to the Divisions Executive.

We are continuing to Lobby City council on member issues and concerns. Our Political Action Committee at local 30 is preparing for our municipal election in the fall and your help as members is crucial when it comes down to the vote. The Political Action Committee will inform the members of where we need to go and what we have to do. Many people do not take the time to vote. For those that didn't vote last municipal election we are encouraging all to help us make a difference in 2007.

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# CUPE ALBERTA DIVISION 57TH ANNUAL CONVENTION: NOTES

March 21-23 2007, CUPE Alberta held its 57th annual convention in Medicine Hat. On Wednesday at the opening of convention, the mayor, Garth Vallely of Medicine Hat made a major announcement when he declared that the much needed new arena for the Medicine Hat Tigers is going to be built with civic monies and not a private partnership as he alluded to earlier. This announcement was a great victory in the ongoing fight against P3s. "Are we going with a P3 here? No, I don't see that happening."



said Vallely. CUPE National President Paul Moist took to the podium for a rousing speech in which he touched on several topics and battles ahead for CUPE Alberta namely P3s and the Trade, Investment and Labour Mobilization Agreement recently signed between Alberta and British Columbia. For more information on TILMA and what it means to Albertan jobs go to [www.stoptilma.com](http://www.stoptilma.com).

Re-elected Alberta Division President D'Arcy Lanovaz in his president's report stated that one of CUPE Alberta's biggest fights is the move to lease school buildings instead of owning them outright. This move by the government is unacceptable and should be stopped before it comes to fruition. Another fight that the labour movement of Al-

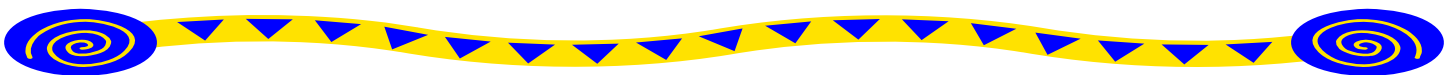


berta is facing is the shortage of workers in all sectors. President Lanovaz said that these shortages are affecting the quality of life and the level of service that Albertans have become accustomed to, "Seniors are getting left behind, special needs children are getting left behind, it takes longer to get your roads plowed and repairs at community centers get left longer" Lanovaz stated. He urged delegates to use the leverage created by this boom to bargain for fairer contracts.

It was a tough day for the balloting committee on Friday as they had several elections in which the ballots needed counting including one tie. As mentioned above, Brother Lanovaz was re-elected to represent CUPE Alberta for another term. Brother

Neil Ketler, who won a great door prize at the ice breaker hosted by the Southern Alberta District Council, was elected as the Area Vice President for Edmonton by acclamation! Congrats to the new CUPE Alberta Executive. Resolutions were debated, speakers motivated, friendships were rekindled or started and the 2007 convention was a success by all who attended. Mike McCann owes us all a drink. In Solidarity, Mike Scott

With notes from Lou Arab Photos: Mike Scott and Paul Quesnel



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Some upcoming events for Local 30 are;

\*CUPE Alberta weeklong school - May 7th to 11, 2007 \* Alberta Federation of Labor Convention - May 10 to 13, 2007 \* CUPE Local 30's Annual Spring Banquet & Dance - May 12, 2007 \* Annual General Meeting, Wednesday May 23, 2007 at 4:30 at Salon's 1 & 2—Northlands Agricom \* June 2007—Local 30 Elections

We are still asking members to phone the union hall @ 426-6050 and submit your email address. We are compiling this list for our member information services, to keep you better informed of the on-going business of your union. Help me get this going, all those that do not have email or computer access will continue to get info via mail, stewards or the newsletter. If you have not seen me at a yard site visit, email me, at [dennismol@shawbiz.ca](mailto:dennismol@shawbiz.ca) and I will get it scheduled.

## Modernizing Our Local

For the last several decades CUPE 30 has been operating under the same financial structure.

The current model was developed at a time when most of our members did the same work for the same employer at the same rate of pay and part time employees were a rare breed.

In those days, if one member had a problem at work, it was a safe bet a large number of CUPE 30 members faced the same challenge. Directing the priorities of the Local was an easier task.

Since then, a lot has changed.

CUPE 30 now represents a wide variety of employees. We represent employees of six employers, not just the city of Edmonton and part time employees are a larger part of our membership.

Our members are facing a wide range of workplace issues and challenges and are looking to us to assist and resolve those problems. Our bosses are finding new ways to challenge us. Grievances are being more vigorously fought by employers leading to longer and more expansive battles.

We are taking on more grievances, legal battles, classifications of work and public campaigns all while reducing the size of our budget allocated to staff.

Because our dues are so low, the Local has had to draw down our savings. This has come at a significant cost. We have no Local strike fund and one expensive legal battle could wipe out what is left of our finances.

Our present, our out dated financial structure no longer meets the needs of members.

We have a dues structure created many years ago when the challenges of the union were much different. Some members pay no dues and some pay a far higher portion of their income than others.

Starting on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2007, CUPE 30's executive will put forward a modernization plan to members. The old financial structure isn't working and the executive has committed to fixing it.

In Solidarity, Dennis Mol, President CUPE Local 30

April 28 marks the International Day of mourning for workers killed or injured on the job. This is not a date named by the government to honour those who gave their lives on the job site. This is not a date named by employers or businesses. This is your date created back in 1984 by the Canadian Labour Congress to recognize those who perished on the job. CUPE Local 30 has had a few member pass away while on the job and they are: John Chauvet, Steven MacDonald, Roland Nyberg, Andre Tremblay, & Jim Webber. Rest in Peace Brothers.



## Your Editorial Committee:

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### Be heard here!

**Have something to say or get off your chest?**  
Please forward your submissions for the newsletter to the Local 30 office either by fax, mail, interdepartmental mail or e-mail:  
[local30@shawbiz.ca](mailto:local30@shawbiz.ca)

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## FRANK'S FRANK OPINION

This article is long overdue and is a real pleasure for me to write. I'd like to bring to your attention the great group of volunteers who have worked hard for the members of Local 30 for several years. This group has not received any formal recognition which leads to this article as a thank you for the work and time they have put into ensuring this newsletter ends up in your hands. The stuffing committee gets together when ever there is a newsletter ready to be mailed and puts them into envelopes over coffee and donuts. Great friendships have been developed over the years and they continue working for Local 30 well into their golden years. Thanks to Stan & Emily Addley, Ed & Bernice Kelly, Andy & Diana Novak, Ralph & Frances Short, Judy & Zan Figol, Frank & Cathy McGregor, and Harvey & Bonnie Russell.

*Frank McGregor*

## Flowers and Baskets

### We wish all the best to our Brothers and Sisters Speedy Recovery!

Marcie Bochar \* Terry Bereziuk \* Don Slobinyk \* Dave Loken \*  
Tony Scalzo \* Dennis Henderson \* Rick Klamn \* Chad Goruk \*  
Bruce Humen \* Amanda Milburn \* Angelo Bruni-Bossio \*  
Timothy LeFeuvre \* John Scarborough \* Larry McNabb \*  
Rene Gaucher \* Terry O'Neill \* Marshal Martiniuk \* Pat McElrea  
Warren Copeland \* Ray Brownley \* Dean Clarke

### With Sincere Sympathy

### We wish to express our deepest Sympathy to our Brothers and Sisters who have recently lost a loved one:

Walter Gluwchynski \* David Read \* Tara Arko \* Don Jasper  
Ardy Fischer \* Sandra Comeau \* Donald Rezewski  
Marshall Martiniuk \* Robin Wong \* Tanya Jones  
Marion La Brie \* Greg Aslin \* Daniel Lusignan \* Mike Birch  
Dale Pelechaty \* Edward Smolak \* Elisha Lusignan  
George Wybenga \* Ed Farhat \* The Family of Dave Taylor  
Norm Kerychuk \* Bruce Hermann \* Theresa Repka  
Lino Guidoccio and the Family of Gabriele Guidoccio  
Teresa Wilinsky \* Jeffery McNeill \* Brian McNeill  
Josh Smith \* The Family of Ken Rudland \* Vern Asquin

## The Meeting Attendance Committee Annual Contest

The Meeting Attendance Committee would like to thank the Membership for a great year of participating in your Local's 2006 Meetings. We have already begun to enter names for the 2007 Meeting year. This year's Grand Prize (to be given out at the December General Meeting) will be eight prizes of \$250.00. The rules are still the same as last year, you need to attend any three General Meetings to qualify for your first contest entry, each General Meeting you attend after the first three, you will receive another contest entry. Please note that only General Meetings are counted in the contest and any Special General Meetings and the December meeting are exempt from the Contest. As another bonus to attending your General Meetings, the Meeting Attendance Committee will also be awarding door prizes at each General Meeting up to the December Meeting. Here are the winners of the door prizes from last year: J. McGuinnes, B. Cormier, B. Sandford, M. Vanner, T. Chrony, M. McCann, R. Haak, G. Bordian, D. Christensen, M. Farhat, K. Oates, N. Kelter, T. Jardine, R. Batty, R. Hillinger, S. Turner, R. Marianix, A. Grimaldi, G. Fitzgerald, L. Malcolm, P. Quesnel, N. Lundy and G. McInnis. The four Grandprize winners last year were: J. Anderson, D. Miniaci, T. Chorney and T. Jardine.

Congratulations to all of our winners, and good luck this year!