



The CUPE Connection

Winter '07: Happy Holidays From CUPE Local 30

President's Message:



Winter is upon us and we come to the end of 2007. In the last newsletter we were in the middle of the Civic Election Campaign. I can say that we were successful in replacing two labour friendly councillors. A special thanks to Michael Phair and Janice Melnychuk, who chose not to run for another term, for their support throughout the years. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

In this election campaign the Political Action Committee members were very busy; they finalized their action plan and came out swinging. You may have seen some of the advertising on forty buses or heard our radio spots.

We continue to address Council on the City's Snow removal plan and on the proposed SW Recreation Centre. We have made presentations to Community Services Council Committee, participated in Council budget deliberations and held one-on-one meetings with all City Councillors. Our Political Action Committee is continuing the campaign to fight Public Private Partnerships (P3's) as the Community Services Department is bringing forward a recommendation to Council on the 18th of December. Council will have to decide one of three options before them: the first is to have the whole complex built and run by a private contractor for 35 years, the second is to have the arena part of the complex built and run by a private contractor, the third is to have the entire complex funded, built and operated using city run services and city workers.

Our fight is not an easy one. There are City Departments and members of Council that believe our tax dollars should go to for-profit corporations rather than investing into public services and a better way of life for all citizens in Edmonton. We have proven time and again that 'IN HOUSE' services are more cost effective, efficient and provide better services than contracted "OUT HOUSE" work. We will continue this fight to protect our Members!

This year was filled with many challenges across all bargaining units. We will continue to assist members with their workplace issues and concerns. We have overcome much in our union. Our focus last year was to improve member services and we will continue throughout the next year to make sure that members are our top priority. I can always be reached on my cell 918-3061 or my email at dennismol@shawbiz.ca to assist you in any way I can.

Our Kids Christmas Party was a great success. Special thanks go to the Social Committee and our office staff for their efforts to make this a special day for all our children to enjoy. To all those parents, I thank you for your patience while waiting for Santa Claus.

Thanks Santa, we look forward to seeing you at next year's Kids Christmas Party.

On behalf of myself, my family, the Executive Board and CUPE Local 30 staff I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Be safe.

In solidarity, *Dennis Mol* President



CUPE Local 30 In Focus

CUPE Local 30 celebrates its 90th anniversary this year as its first certification was back in 1917 when they joined the National Union of Public Employees.

CUPE Local 30 represents over 2500 members across 6 bargaining units. The three major components are: EPCOR water, Northlands, and the outside workers of the City of Edmonton. The towns of Bon Accord, Two Hills and Thorsby recently joined up with CUPE 30 to gain a better position at the bargaining table.

Every citizen of Edmonton has had their lives touched by members of Local 30 in one way or another. Visit a city park, facility or attraction and you will see the fine work of Local 30 members. Many tourists revel in the splendor of the City's River Valley trail and park system, one of the largest continuous multi purpose trails in all of North America. Many past, current and even future NHL stars have played on the ice surfaces maintained by CUPE Local 30 arena operators as they operate 19 facilities across Edmonton. Future and current CFL stars have played in the high school football bowls also maintained by Local 30 members and they also take care of the largest stadium in the CFL, the Commonwealth Stadium. Everyone who passes through the gates of Capital Ex at Northlands sees the fine work on the grounds done by Local 30 members. From world class attractions such as the Muttart Conservatory, Kinsmen Field House, to the largest inventory of green space in North America to the roadways to the water that runs under it all, CUPE Local 30 President Dennis Mol takes a great deal of pride being the president representing members that make our community function.



CUPE Local 30 has a strong presence in the community. Members are involved in many events in and around Edmonton. One example is the Edmonton District Labour Council's annual Bar-B-Q for the unemployed and underemployed. This is a time when Labour groups get together and give up the last long weekend of the year to feed the less fortunate of Edmonton.

Local 30, along with many other Locals in the province are experiencing the same problem, bargaining in the economic boom. It is difficult to get fair market value for trades workers however, with the work of the Alberta Municipal Employees Committee, CUPE locals across the province can share their gains and difficulties, learn from each other and develop bargaining strategies to alleviate the concerns of some

members. Retention and recruitment of staff is also a major issue facing CUPE Local 30 as the private sector can be an attractive lure to the people looking for work whether they are casual Labourers or certified trades people.

Another major issue facing CUPE Local 30, again one that is familiar not only across the province but the country, is the privatization and contracting out of municipal jobs. The executive of the local, past, present and future, will remain committed to lobbying council to show them the error of their ways. As President Dennis Mol says, "We need to show Council and the Mayor that in house is much better than the outhouse." When the City's complaint line was flooded with calls that the garbage was not picked up on the regular pick up day, the point was driven home. CUPE Local 30 is gaining back areas that have been privatized and contracted out. The Local will continue to fight and lobby to retain those services. Finally the P3 fight continues with members of the Executive along side President Mol lobbying council to show them why P3s don't work and present them with examples of failures and cost overruns across the country.

Remember that the bridge you cross, the pool you swim in or the tree you enjoy some shade under is a result of the work of CUPE local 30 members. Together we make the community a better place. Included are our members from: Bylaw Services, Forestry, Pest Management, Parks, Transportation, Lands and Buildings, Community Services, Pools, Arenas, Attractions, Golf Courses, Drainage, Park Rangers, Cemeteries, Waste Management, EPCOR Water, Northlands, the Towns of Thorsby and Bon Accord, the Village of Two Hills and the trades people that hold it all together and keep things running. CUPE Local 30, "Our work makes our city work."



Mike Scott, Chief Shop Steward for Community Services and AM/PW Parks was recognized at CUPE's National Convention for a photograph that was submitted to the National Photo contest. He received Honourable Mention for his picture of the High Level Bridge waterfall in the "CUPE at work" category. "This picture depicts several areas of CUPE Local 30 members working together to make this a great event. Transportation, EPCOR Water, AMPW Parks, make this happen."

Slow down and enjoy life

When I was 5 yrs old, my father told me to hold on to my hat in the fall of my life because time will fly by! He would hold my hand and watch in delight as I would skip like a mini-maniac in circles around him.

Last week my father's words came back to me as my own 3 little grandsons jumped on each other gleefully, giggling tirelessly as their exhausted mother smiled and rolled her eyes. I looked at my daughter with great pride and delight the same way my father looked at me.

When September hits, the next thing we know, we're eating a Thanksgiving turkey, Next comes Hallowe'en. Some people love this day, others turn off their lights and hide. Personally I delight in handing out candy, eating it and letting the toddlers into my home.

Next is Remembrance Day. As both my parents were honourable vets, they were my heroes and I taught my children to respect vets and remember this day as long as they live.

As December Christmas parties roll in we go to parties, eat too much, sometimes drink too much (*forget where we parked the car because we were smart and took a cab home.*) Yes December is the annual "Fight for the frozen turkey race" at ACT, the children's Christmas party and of course this is the time of year where we "over eat, over charge, over extend, send cards last minute because someone sent them to us, felt we had to get a gift, see people we don't want to see, get gifts we don't want so we take them back....how am I doing?

Okay, let's try this again....slow down a little, what's this really all about? I mean everything? I went to a meeting and listened as Linda Cochrane said; "Remember to BALANCE your life." I thought; "Yeah, right, how?" We need that balance. Working a 40 hour week and going home and doing things you **DON'T** want to do is not balancing your life, it merely adds to the stress. How do we do it this season?

I can't tell any of you what to do, but I can tell you what is working for our family. Our family has grown. I have 4 children, 5 grandchildren with another on the way, brothers and cousins. As a single person with a mortgage, I can not afford all those gifts any longer. I never put gifts on credit, as I learned from my parents that a credit card is for emergencies only, plus this adds a huge stress in January. I made the family decision, NO CHRISTMAS GIFTS for anyone but the little grandchildren. This met with some resistance as the kids wanted to draw names. I stood firm: NO GIFTS, NO EXCEPTIONS. Sounds harsh but it's smart. I have everything I need. My kids have little money, tons of bills, mortgages, the kids, dental, etc, and we were quite relieved thinking they only need to focus on their own kids. The average family spends \$2000 on Christmas. It's time to stop this excessive spending and live within our means. The stores snag us everywhere we go. Our credit cards are maxed at their limits. Did you know if your credit card is at \$1000 and you pay only the minimum, it will take you 33 years to pay it off? OUCH! Live within your means and have a great Christmas.

My father was right. From a mini-maniac, I've come a long way. I've grown up into an adult and cultivated my mania into a fine art form. Visa hates me because the can't get interest off me.

Maybe next Hallowe'en I'll dress up as a Visa Card and scare parents.

In Solidarity, *Christie, B. Adamson*

Contract Corner

In this space we look at questions about the collective agreement.

"As a provisional employee for the City, how much sick time am I entitled to?"

You are entitled to 8 hours for every month worked to a maximum of 40 hours per calendar year.

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:
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Signed Articles Do Not Necessarily Reflect the Views or Policies of CUPE Local 30

**Need to contact one of our business agents?
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Flowers and Baskets

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

**Don Slobinyk * Bob Finlayson * Clem Verceles
Gary Chan * Sharon Turner * John Anderson
Mike Mandryk * John Ferenac * Jayme Sales**

With Sincere Sympathy

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

**Stanley Cox * Dana Anderson * Anthony Minsky
Bev Minsky * Wesley Kurtz * Anthony Cicero
James Umrysh * Ray Umrysh
Steve Harasymchuk * Bill Sobotiuk
The Family of Doug Browner
Don Bilyea * Don Sommers * Daniel Menjiver
* John Rickett * Lisa Hermary-Race
Jan Ziska * Lorne McKenna * Chris Dilling
Maged (Sam) Alzendani * Dave Rakievich
The Family of Wessel De Vries
Tom Lange * Reginald Haines**

FRANK'S FRANK OPINION: A FRESH START

Once again we have a new City Council who will face many hard decisions on how to spend our tax dollars. It is up to us to give them our opinions and ensure the money is spent wisely. We also need to make sure the folks we voted for keep their promises.

Promises were made during the campaign that the candidates will find hard to keep as they require support from their fellow councillors. If this happens, the citizens of Edmonton will be the winners, but if there is no co-operation, then Council can become a source of frustration.

You may remember the promises made on the advantages of free trade. Well the Government of the day pulled the wool over our eyes as trade is being manipulated by big business who are controlling how their products can be sold. Manufacturers have given dealers in the US orders not to sell to Canadians, even when our dollar is higher on the world market. This keeps their profits high and in my opinion is discrimination. Our own Government spokesman says there is nothing we can do to end this practice. He is wrong as we can and should boycott these manufacturers and dealers. This will force them to change this unfair trade practice.

Frank McGregor



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CUPE LOCAL 30

Please remember don't drink and drive this holiday season. Call a cab, designate a driver or call one of the many services available to get you and your car home safe. Arrive alive and save your job.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**General Meeting 4th Wed every month
Executive Think Tank Jan 2008
Contract Interpretation Feb 23/08
Stewards Meeting 2nd Mon of each month
Retirement Banquet Spring 2008**