For Website: Workplace Trend!!

If you have any doubts about the numbers of new and mostly young staff we have at MUN thought you might be interested in this significant bit of information.

In CUPE 1615 of the 769 Active members listed on our dues remittance sheet for August 2010, 222 were hired by MUN since 2005. That equates to a replacement of a full quarter of our members in 5 years and most of these were probably contractual positions (more on that problem latter).

Presuming that most of these new hires are youth, this translates to at least 25% of our current members under the age of 30 were hired in a short 5 years. If this is correct and the trend continues, by 2015 over 50% of our members will be under the age of 30, by 2017 as much as 75% will be younger workers, many with young families and big mortgage payments.

It’s time to start preparing to transfer the torch to young workers who will vastly outnumber the older crowd in our Local in a few short years. The need for a strong CUPE 1615 Youth Committee to help with a smooth transition to new leadership is becoming more evident every year. It’s time for us older members to pass on what we know to these younger members and let them take the lead roles in our local.

One of the most important issues that youth will have to face at Memorial is the high numbers of positions that are Contractual. Everyone knows that we can’t expect youth to stay and put down roots in our Province if we can’t offer them Permanent Employment. This Local will work to bring this issue to the forefront with Memorials Administration but we will need volunteers to help us prepare and present our position on this important issue. Who better to take the lead on these issue then young workers themselves? I and other members not affected by this issue would be happy to help as we also know that our welfare depends on having enough workers to do the jobs when we retire. The Union movement in general has always supported the permanent full time work and
also has lots of resources to help bring about less contractual – more permanent work at Memorial.

If you would like to join with other young members of the Local in helping to deal with the issue of Contractual Work and other youth worker concerns, please contact our CUPE 1615 Youth Committee. Email me and I'll put you in contact with this new Committee.

Mike Murphy
President CUPE 1615