MUNPA – FOR ALL MUN PENSIONERS

The Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners’ Association (MUNPA) is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of all retired faculty, staff, and their survivors (widows, orphans, and widowers). It is the oldest university pensioners’ association in Atlantic Canada, having been founded in 1985 by the late Dr. Alastair Riach. Currently it has over 1200 members.

Purposes of the Association include – fostering and promoting the aims and well-being of its members; representing the membership on relevant university committees; and advising members and/or ensuring members are informed of all changes to pensions, benefits and other issues.

At an annual general meeting in October of each year, among other activities, a Board of Directors is elected to administer the activities of the Association. Doreen Whalen is the current President. Several committees established include Administration, Awards, Communications, Services to Members, and Constitution, Amendments and Bylaws.

Accomplishments over the years include important improvements to health and dental coverage, free parking for retirees, computer accounts for retirees, library privileges without charge and wireless access on campus.

On the social side MUNPA has facilitated many sessions with guest speakers covering a variety of topics; has established Interest Groups – Memoir Club, The Recorder Club and Walking at the Works; and more recently schedules a monthly “Morning in the Garden” which brings members together at the Botanical Garden to socialize, meet each other and of course, have fun.

Upon retirement every MUN employee is considered a member of MUNPA. A voluntary membership fee of only one dollar per month is asked from its members. Many staff CUPE and NAPE members have retired over the years but unfortunately very few have become active within MUNPA, whether it be at the Board level or even participating in scheduled activities.

If you are nearing retirement we advise you to research this important organization which can be very beneficial in your post-working life at MUN. It is nice to have a means of keeping in touch with your fellow workers, friends and union members after your retirement. We want more retirees to get involved, bring new ideas to the organization and help everyone enjoy their retirement life. We invite you to check us out! MUNPA’s website can be found at www.mun.ca/munpa.

A voice from the past!
Ralph Tapper
Former President of CUPE Local 1615
Current MUNPA Board Director.
Your Union

Bullying, Harassing, Disrespect or other forms of Inappropriate Behaviour

Possible problems in some areas of Memorial.
The Executive of CUPE 1615 has concerns with what may be; disrespectful behaviour, bullying or harassment of our members, in some areas of Memorial. We want to remind all our members that our door is open if you wish to meet with any of us to discuss any concerns you have with past or recent encounters where you felt you were not treated fairly. If you wish to put your concerns or examples of what you think to be inappropriate behaviour in writing to us we would be happy to hear from you. We will take action to stop any inappropriate behaviour directed towards our members.

Respectful Workplace Seminars.
Memorial has a Respectful Workplace Policy and seminars on this policy should be offered in all areas of the University. Human Resources can conduct these seminars when requested and they are scheduled during work hours to allow all employees, managers, faculty to attend. These seminars will serve to inform all MUN employees of the University’s Respectful Workplace Policy and what amounts to disrespectful, harassing, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour.

While these Respectful Workplace seminars are very worthwhile, they cannot guarantee that all those who act inappropriately will change their ways. If employees/managers/faculty members continue to behave badly after attending the seminar, at least no one will be able to say they were not aware that their actions contravened the policy of the University.

These seminars will not deal with specific cases of disrespect as they are meant to inform and educate people of what is acceptable behaviour, they are not meant to place blame or correct incidents or bad behaviour that occurred in the past: They are designed to make the workplace respectful for all members of Memorial’s community on a go forward basis.

What the Local can do to assist members.
While we complain to Human Resources that things are not going well a particular area and problems with treatment of staff may exist, only specific instances brought to Human Resources attention will result in action by them. In fact, we have on a number of occasions made Human Resources aware of inappropriate behaviour that we had heard about within different departments, but were not informed if any intervention with the parties believed responsible had taken place. We need more members to step forward and tell us what they’ve
experienced firsthand so that we can use this to force Human Resources to take the problems seriously and to do something to stop it. It is University Policy and as such must be enforced by Human Resources. Individuals must be told that their actions are inappropriate and given the opportunity and resources to change their bad behaviours.

What we need from you.
What we would like to hear from our members is direct and confidential information on incidents that they feel were inappropriate. We will only share this information with Human Resources and not with anyone else. Whenever we have firsthand incidents reported to us, or evidence of inappropriate behaviour towards our members, we will make Human Resources aware and take the necessary actions to make sure such behaviour does not continue.

All of us have the RIGHT to come to work and be treated respectfully. No employee should have to work in an environment where they are subject to bullying, harassment or other inappropriate behaviour.

Please let us help you protect your rights as employees of Memorial University and members of CUPE 1615.

Thanks on behalf of your Executive,

Mike Murphy
Letters to the editor

Fair and reasonable pensions for all
Michael J. Murphy

I would like to comment on the letter to the editor of Jan. 15, "Setting the record straight on pensions" by Dan Kelly, senior vice president for legislative affairs with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

Mr. Kelly's letter served to confuse rather than inform readers about pensions. The Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) reforms proposed by many socially minded groups - not just unions - would make sure that all working men and women in Canada can retire with a pension that would allow all seniors to live with dignity.

Mr. Kelly, on behalf of the CFIB, goes to great lengths to speak about the present unfunded liability of private pension plans, especially those held by government employees and our elected officials. He also attacks union bosses rather than argue why the CFIB is against CPP reform.

On the attack

As the saying goes, if you don't have a good argument, go on the offensive, or do as Mr. Kelly does: blame it all on big bad unions and their bosses like Lana Payne, the president of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour.

I would like to attempt to set the record straight on CPP pensions, albeit without the vast research resources of the CFIB, by explaining to Mr. Kelly and the CFIB why unions are fighting so hard to improve CPP when it is non-union employees who would benefit the most from these improvements.

Socially-minded groups such as the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), the big bad unions and various seniors groups have recognized for a long time that many Canadians end up retiring in poverty after a life time of hard work.

These groups wanted to propose a solution for all working Canadians, therefore they supported the CLC's plan to increase the amount contributed and paid out by CPP.

These proposed CPP improvements would require that both workers and employers contribute more. The end result would remain the mandatory and completely portable Canada Pension Plan that would benefit all working
people in Canada.

Basic pension

With a modest increase in premiums, all workers would receive a decent retirement (about 50 per cent of their average lifetime working wage to a maximum of about $25,000 a year in today's dollars), and those who currently find themselves having to choose between heating their homes or buying groceries or the medications they require would then be able to live in dignity after working all their lives to build this country.

The Pooled Registered Retirement Plan (PRPP) or, as I like to call it, the Fooled RPP proposed by federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and the Conservatives is nothing more than a RRSP dressed up to look good.

The Conservatives are more concerned with helping their investment banking industry than they are with helping retirees live with some dignity.

Workers who use RRSPs or PRPPs would still have to rely on the whims of the marketplace for their retirement. Employers such as those in the CFIB would not have to contribute to the Pooled RPP and would not be on the hook for any liabilities if the market wiped out their employees' pension plans. So, who would really be fooled by backing the idea of PRPPs instead of improving CPP? Not the employers and certainly not the banks. They always gain.

I should point out that the Canada Pension Plan is a well-run plan rated as one of the best in terms of escaping the recent market crash without great losses. It is also mandatory for employees/employers and completely portable.

In addition, the amount paid out by CPP is defined by how long you worked and how much you contributed into the plan and the amount paid out is not adversely affected by sudden short-term drops in the financial markets as we have seen recently with RRSPs.

Cost-effective

The CPP guarantees a pension to working people after a lifetime of work; it is one of the most cost-effective means of supplying secure pensions to Canadians.

With the improvements proposed for CPP, working individuals who retire after a lifetime of work anywhere in Canada would be able to live their final years with some degree of dignity. Sadly, this is not the case for many seniors today.

Mr. Kelly and the CFIB say that they are "puzzled by the high degree of interest in enhancing CPP on the part of union bosses."

While I don't speak for union bosses or all unionized workers, I can say that most of the individuals that I know who are involved in labour unions are genuinely
concerned for working people, whether union or non-union. After all, we do share
our communities with these people, and some of these seniors are our parents, aunts
and uncles. Mr. Kelly is correct when he states that improving CPP will do nothing
for unionized workers with their so-called gold-plated pension plans. In fact, unions
don't know what will happen to private pension plans if CPP is improved.

However, unions are willing to take that risk and to continue to push for improved
CPP even if the end result is less private pensions for their members. They are doing
this so that all working Canadians can retire with a decent pension through CPP.

What puzzles me is why would the Canadian Federation of Independent Business be
against CPP improvements?

After all, the extra pension money seniors would have would be spent in these
businesses. The CFIB argues that these improvements would result in an unfair tax
burden on business.

How can it be unfair if it applies to all businesses, big and small, from one end of the
country to the other?

Would the 107,000 independent businesses in Canada have to subject employees to
1.2 million lost employment years as a result of increase contributions to CPP, or are
they just trying to frighten all of us into not supporting improved CPP?

Afraid to pay their share

Perhaps these independent business owners just don't want to be part of the solution
and pay their fair share towards a secure and decent retirement for those employees
who spent a lifetime helping to build their businesses.

In conclusion, I hope the CFIB comes to realize what a great idea improved CPP
is for all Canadians and our country. It makes much more sense to improve a plan
that is already in place and working so well than to try and reinvent the wheel with
dressed-up pooled RRSPs.

All this can be done without adding any cost to governments; in fact, it will help
reduce provincial governments social and drug coverage costs. With the proposed
improvements to CPP, young people starting their working lives today will not find
themselves retiring in poverty after completing a lifetime of work building this
country.

All working people will be able to retire with dignity whether or not they worked in
a union or non-union workplace, or for big or small businesses.

Michael J. Murphy is president of CUPE 1615 at Memorial University and is the
associated president (labour) of the Newfoundland and Labrador New Democratic
Party.

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Presented at the Regular Monthly Meeting March 8, 2011: Notice of Motion to change the language on our Strike Fund.

Present language in By-laws with changes in Bold.

Section 16 – CUPE LOCAL 1615 STRIKE FUND

16.1 The purpose of this fund will be to finance strike actions against the employer and pay the members of the Local during the initial stages of a strike or lock-out. This fund can also be used to help Local members who are in extreme financial distress during a job action.

16.2 The CUPE LOCAL 1615 STRIKE FUND will be set up as a separate bank account to which the Secretary-Treasurer shall deposit 4% of all monthly membership dues or the amount in excess of $150,000.00 dollars that the local has within all its accounts, other than the Strike Fund account, as of December 31st of each calendar year, whichever is greater. The Secretary-Treasurer, upon consultation with the membership, will conservatively invest a portion (or all) of this fund in term deposits or guaranteed investment certificates with the Newfoundland and Labrador credit union or any other provincially-registered financial institution.

16.3 Rules Governing THE CUPE LOCAL 1615 STRIKE FUND

(a) Strike action, for the purposes of this By-law, will be understood to include legal and wildcat strikes, as well as employer sponsored lock-outs.

(b) The monies in this account cannot be used for any reason other than those associated with a strike action taken against the employer.

(c) Ninety (90%) percent of this fund is to be held in reserve for payment to the members of Local 1615. The remaining ten (10%) percent shall be used to finance any strike action.

(d) Members shall receive a payment of $200.00 or $400.00 on the seventh day after a strike commences and another on the fourteenth day of the strike. If the strike ends between the eighth and thirteenth day then members will receive a payment of $50.00 or $100.00 upon returning to work. In the event a strike does not last 7 days members will still receive the initial payment of $200.00.

(e) Monies paid to members, in the event of a strike, will be contingent upon the balance of the fund. If the balance of the fund cannot support section 16.3(d) then the benefits will be pro-rated.

(f) The balance of this fund will be capped to $500,000.00. Once this cap has been reached no further monies will be deposited to it, until such time as the balance drops below this amount. The fund will continue to accrue interest after the cap has been reached.

Unions rally in defense of public services

CUPE National President Paul Moist highlighted the need for global solidarity in protecting public services while attending the Council of Global Unions last week in Washington, D.C. Representing the PSI, Moist made a presentation on the Quality Public Services Action-Now Campaign. Set to launch on June 26 – World Public Service Day – it will bring together public and private sector unions in an international effort to ensure quality public services are affordable and accessible to all. Representing 20 million public service workers in 150 nations, PSI is leading the campaign. The campaign will centre on a public services charter, which affirms the vital importance of public services around the world and Global Unions’ commitment to work with the key actors – governments and international agencies, civil society, and business and enterprise – to pursue a new vision of quality public services.

A key campaign element is developing union-led coalitions in cities and towns to fight against growing attacks on public services.

More information on the Charter and action plan can be found on the campaign website at www.qpsactionnow.org
On The National Scene

Work Law

University told to pay up
by Mikael Swayze/The Guardian/CALM

ON APRIL 24, 2009, Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, announced there would be a four-day shutdown in December 2009 that would result in reduced pay for all non-essential employees.

The faculty association grieved and an arbitrator has recently ordered the university to repay the lost faculty wages.

The association brought evidence from faculty members about the kind of work they do. It was clear that faculty members receive an annual salary and are expected to teach, conduct research and fulfill administrative responsibilities. Faculty members are not paid on an hourly basis and have a great degree of control over scheduling of their working lives.

The consistent evidence was that they received their salaries for the duties expected of them and their duties were, with rare exceptions (teaching schedules), not tied to attendance at their workplace on specific days. Faculty members also testified that December is a busy month because of the requirements for grade submission and course preparation for courses starting in January.

The university’s position was that it was in a state of crisis and that the executive committee made a decision that a four-day shutdown in December “would satisfy the requirement for a balanced budget and have the least impact on operations.” The contract set out a process for layoffs in the event that a bona fide crisis exists. The university’s evidence was that this was not a bona fide financial crisis affecting the long-term well-being of the university. Hence, those provisions in the contract were not followed.

The faculty association grieved the shutdown and met with their employer to explore alternatives. During these discussions, the employer admitted that an enrolment increase of merely 100 students would prevent the necessity for a shutdown.

The arbitrator concluded that “the collective agreement provides for the payment of annual salary and...makes no reference to regular daily or weekly hours for faculty members.” The arbitrator acknowledged that faculty members often work at times that the employer is closed and often work off-site as well. Faculty members receive no extra compensation for any of this additional work.

“Faculty members are expected to manage their time, to fulfill the responsibilities set out in the collective agreement and to record their activities in a report which they file annually with the dean in return for which an annual salary is paid.”

The arbitrator concluded by finding that the university was barred from reducing
the salary of faculty members during the shutdown. Her analysis entirely turned on the fact that faculty members are paid an annual salary for annual duties. While the university clearly can determine when the doors are open and closed, this cannot have the effect of reducing a faculty member’s pay. This is a significant decision in the academic sphere. Industrial facilities frequently use shut-downs to impose reductions in annual wages and salaries. However, for faculty members, a shutdown cannot result in a loss of income.

*Mikael Swayze is a staff representative with CUPE 3902 and CALM Secretary-Treasurer.

Keepers of the light
Our Union Voice/PSAC/CALM

THE FEDERAL government’s plan to de-staff lighthouses will put people in danger.
One morning in January 1992, two lightkeepers at Green Island, Fortune Bay, heard voices calling for help. They immediately took a boat out to investigate and found three people clinging to the rocks of a small island near their light station.
Three men and a boy, from the nearby French island of St-Pierre, had been seabird hunting when their small boat was disabled and then overturned as they attempted to put it ashore.
One man drowned while the three others managed to scramble to a shelf in the cliff. The lightkeepers were the first on the scene, rescuing the three survivors.

If the federal government continues to push forward with its plan to automate and destaff lighthouses, a scene like this could result in tragedy.
A year ago a statement was issued by Gail Shea, the federal minister responsible for the Canadian Coast Guard, temporarily putting the brakes on a plan to de-staff lighthouses in B.C. and Newfoundland and Labrador. In September 2009, Shea ordered a review of the program, with a commitment that no staff would be removed from light stations while the review was going on.

It is obvious that Shea’s office was deluged with complaints. The minister said that she had heard the “concerns raised by a variety of stakeholders.” But instead of scrapping the plan to remove staff from all lighthouses, she said she wanted more information about “the additional services provided by lighthouse staff.”

After the review, if it is shown that human beings are necessary to deliver services, Shea said, “This option will receive full consideration.”

Zen and the art of the job interview
Internet/CALM

GLASSDOOR.COM HAS compiled a list of the top 25 oddball interview questions of 2010 after sifting through thousands of questions shared by job seekers around the world.

Goldman Sachs: “If you were shrunk to the size of a pencil and put in a blender, how would you get out?”
Capital One Investment: “Rate yourself on a scale of one to 10 how weird you are.”
Epic Systems: “An apple costs 20 cents, an orange costs 40 cents and a grapefruit costs 60 cents. How much is a pear?”
New York Life: “Why do you think only a small percentage of the population makes more than $150K?”
Workers’ rights and freedoms at risk in US

ITUC/CALM

WORKERS ACROSS the world were shocked to see the rights of teachers, health workers and other public employees attacked in the “Land of the Free” the past few weeks.

Wisconsin governor Scott Walker and other Republican Party state governors including in Indiana and Ohio have launched a major assault on the rights of public sector workers to union representation and collective bargaining, with heavy pay cuts and new obstacles to freedom of association. Demonstrations have taken place in several U.S. states, as opposition grows to the coordinated anti-union onslaught, which has its roots in the ultra-conservative Tea Party movement.

“Violating these fundamental democratic rights in other countries such as China, Egypt, Guinea or Mexico is condemned by the U.S., so what are people to make of such abuse of power in the U.S. itself?” said International Trade Union Confederation general secretary Sharan Burrow. “The rights to organize and bargain collectively for fair wages and conditions are cornerstones of any democracy, and removing these rights means democracy itself is under attack.”

The economic and employment crisis in the U.S. will not be fixed by taking away workers’ incomes. These moves destroy, not create jobs, when household incomes fall and economic demand falls even further. This is just as true in the U.S. as it is in anywhere else in the world.

Governor Walker’s threat to mobilize the Wisconsin National Guard, which he said were “fully prepared to handle whatever may occur,” has provoked outrage. “This threat is incredible, especially if we look to those countries that have recently mobilized military and security forces against peaceful demonstrators,” said Burrow.

“Teachers, nurses and other public employees provide vital services to the public, and the offensive against them is also an attack on the community, children in schools, the sick and infirm in medical care, and the most vulnerable in society who rely on public services. The USA was built on the foundations of freedom and democracy, but will certainly lose its claim to be the Land of the Free with this kind of extremist agenda,” said Burrow.

Opposition to these attacks is growing in the U.S., but it’s a fight for fundamental freedoms that has implications well beyond U.S. borders.
Canada ranks last in transparency
Bulletin/CAUT/CALM

HARPER CONSERVATIVES have become increasingly restrictive in allowing release of government-controlled information under access to information law—leading to Canada ranking as the least open government in a comparison of parliamentary democracies. Researchers Robert Hazell and Ben Worthy of University College London reviewed freedom of information laws in New Zealand, Australia, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Canada. “Canada comes last,” say the report authors, whose findings were recently published in the journal Government Information Quarterly.

Canada’s Access to Information Act is purportedly designed to make documents readily available to citizens, but some requests are facing excessive censorship and long delays, according to the office of the federal information commissioner.

Government statistics released late last year show that full disclosure rates have dropped significantly over the past decade. In 1999–2000 almost half of completed requests resulted in full disclosure of information, compared with less than 16 per cent in 2009–2010.

The commissioner’s April 2010 report, Out of Time, graded the performance of 13 out of 24 federal institutions as “below average or worse” against a number of measures, including how quickly they responded to requests and how often they completed requests late.

“There are far too many exemptions and loopholes under the current access regime, and these have only increased further since the Conservatives have come to power,” said Ken Rubin, an access to information expert and public interest researcher who has championed improvements to Canada’s FOI system. “But even without considering the issue of political interference, there are hundreds of ways government departments and agencies can withhold information that should be publicly available.”

Rubin says he’s not surprised the international comparison placed Canada last. “The operation and enforcement of Canada’s Access to Information Act are an embarrassment, but then I would argue that the legislation was never really meant to promote openness of government,” he said.

“What is needed is a second-generation law that would eliminate the many exemptions, mandate the disclosure of records automatically in areas such as health and safety and the environment and improve the process substantively with the imposition of fines for delays and obstructions.”
Mayor walks in sanitation workers’ shoes
CUPE/CALM

VANCOUVER MAYOR Gregor Robertson recently found out what it’s like to work collecting and sorting garbage in Vancouver when he appeared on a episode of CBC series Make the Politician Work. During the two days Robertson spent as a city sanitation worker he tried a number of jobs normally done by front line staff. “What really struck me was how much people care about their work at the city, how concerned they are about the future and doing better and better. That's great value for us at the city and it's great value for taxpayers too,” said Robertson. The episode aired in February. You can still see it on the CBC television website. The link is Make the Politician Work.

Private clinics charge for medically necessary services
CDM/CALM

A STUDY published in the Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology found that 31.7 per cent of patients in private clinics are being charged for access to colonoscopy services. The study, which was funded by Cancer Care Ontario and carried out by researchers at Women’s College Hospital, surveyed 2000 patients 50 to 70 years of age about their experience with colonoscopy services. “Charging for medically necessary services is a violation of the Canada Health Act, as well as provincial law,” said Danielle Martin, one of the study’s authors and chair of Canadian Doctors for Medicare. “It is unacceptable to extra-bill for insured services, or to charge for uninsured services as a condition of accessing insured services.” The study also found that private clinics instructed patients to return for repeat follow-up testing more frequently than is recommended. “Given the small but potentially serious risks of colonoscopy, as well as the expense, it is neither safe nor efficient to recall patients more frequently than needed. The benefits simply do not outweigh the harms,” said Irfan Dhalla, a physician at St. Michael’s Hospital and board member of Canadian Doctors for Medicare. Doctors at private clinics also appear to be engaged in the questionable practice of self-referral—seeing patients initially in a hospital and then referring the patient to follow up with them in their own private clinic. Ten per cent of private clinic patients said the doctor who delivered the care at the private clinic was the same one who initially referred them there from the hospital. The risk of conflict of interest involved in referring patients to private, fee-charging clinics in which the referring doctor has an interest has been raised in the growing discussion about private clinics in Canada.

• www.canadiandoctorsformedicare.ca
Worker’s death leads to second C-45 conviction

WHSC/CALM

FOR THE second time in Canada an employer has been convicted of criminal negligence stemming from a workplace incident leading to the death of a worker.

Pasquale Scrocca, owner of a Quebec landscape company, was operating a backhoe on June 12, 2006, when it rolled down a slope pinning his employee against a wall. The worker, Aniello Boccanfuso, suffered fatal injuries.

The front brakes and the emergency brake on the backhoe were found to be completely non-functional. It also came to light that the backhoe, bought in 1976, had not undergone any regular maintenance.

Consequently, the court found there was a breach of the “legal duty to take reasonable steps to prevent bodily harm to a person” imposed on an employer by the Criminal Code of Canada. Scrocca will serve a conditional sentence of imprisonment of two years less a day. The sentence will be served in the community with conditions, including a curfew.

The legal duty was added to the Criminal Code in March, 2004, the result of a dedicated lobbying campaign by the United Steelworkers Union and the labour movement in response to the 1992 Westray mine explosion, when 26 men were killed.

Prime number

Internet/CALM

OF 190 countries studied in a Human Rights Watch report on parental leave policy, only three offer no legal guarantee of paid maternity leave—Papua New Guinea, Swaziland and the United States.

Your Union is here for you

If you’re having a work-related problem call your Union representative.
Cash for your Words

Do you have a flair for writing? Would you like a chance to win a cash prize? Well, sharpen your pencil and get to work. CUPE on Campus wants writers – all kinds of writers – to fill its pages. You can write fiction, poetry, an opinion piece, or anything you choose. Keep it to two pages and make sure you follow the CUPE Equality Statement. That means that your writing should not contain anything that is discriminatory on the basis of ability, age, class, religion, language or ethnic origin, nor should it be racist, sexist, transphobic or homophobic. All writers will be entered in a draw for a cash prize.

Coffee Break

Bread and Roses Brunch
By Patricia Adams

Each year in March women from around the world come together in solidarity to recognize women's struggle for equality. Women take this opportunity to take stock of what we have accomplished over the past year and to renew our commitment to ongoing change.

This year March 8th was the 100th Anniversary of International Women’s Day celebrating One Hundred Years of Sisters Leading Sisters Down the Pathway to Equality!

To help celebrate International Women’s Day 13 members of our local attended the annual Bread and Roses Brunch on March 6, 2011. The theme of the brunch reflected that women have been playing a lead role throughout our history towards women’s equality! We are still on that path, and women continue to rise to leadership positions, especially in this province, to help lead the ongoing struggle for equality! Proceeds raised at the event support furnishing the St. John’s Status of Women’s Council’s new facility, Marguerite’s Place.

Pictured here are: Patricia Adams, Theresa Antle, Jane Ryan, Ingrid Verbree-Barnes, Christa Newhook, Barbara Winsor, Lorraine Jackson, Carol Kennedy, Patti Thistle, Stephanie Williams, Sheila Roberts, Rhonda White and Gladys White
Federal support needed for Canadian cities and towns

Regina, SK – Alleviating the desperate need of Canada’s cities and towns for renewing roads, bridges, community centres and public water systems must be a priority in the upcoming federal budget, says Paul Moist, national president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Costly public-private partnership schemes being showcased this week at a special summit in Regina are no solution for Canada’s $123 billion infrastructure deficit, he says.

“Focusing on public investments is vital to Canada’s continuing economic recovery. Funding public infrastructure is an important way to create jobs and to support communities still feeling the adverse effects of the global recession,” says Moist, head of Canada’s largest union whose membership includes over 160,000 municipal workers. “For every $1 billion spent on public projects, 11,000 jobs are created. That’s twice as many created by $1 billion in corporate tax cuts.”

Tom Graham, president of CUPE Saskatchewan, says Canada’s mayors attending the January 26-28 National Infrastructure Summit must approach discussions on public-private partnerships (P3s) with caution.

“So-called P3s are not the solution to infrastructure problems,” says Graham, who will be at the summit on behalf of CUPE. “Experiences in Hamilton, Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Brampton demonstrate P3s are a costly, risky and ineffective way of funding municipal projects and services.”

Moist and Graham are joining other labour leaders and Canada’s mayors in urging the federal government to make renewed commitments to strengthening infrastructure in Canada’s cities and towns with public investment in the upcoming budget.

CUPE supports the Federation of Canadian Municipalities call for a long-term national infrastructure renewal plan. The current Building Canada Plan expires in 2014. Moist says a long-term plan is needed to address the continuing $123 billion municipal infrastructure deficit.

“A long-term renewal plan for municipal funding will let Canadian cities and towns more confidently prepare for growth and prosperity,” says Moist. “If municipal governments are better able to plan for the future, they can avoid the trappings of costly privatization schemes.”

For more information contact:

Greg Taylor, CUPE Media Relations (613) 818-0067 or gtaylor@cupe.ca

198 ways to non-violent protest

AEI/CALM


The methods are divided into categories, which include:
- statements like public speeches, letters of opposition or support and petitions
- wider communications like slogans, caricatures, posters, leaflets and skywriting
- group representations like mock awards, picketing, boycotts, blacklists, strikes, noncooperation, hunger strikes, sit-ins, guerrilla theatre, and overloading of administrative systems.

You can download the complete list at www.aeinstein.org/organizations103a.html

The Albert Einstein Institute
Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 12, 2011 5:00 p.m.
Room ED 2018 for St. John’s members
Room AS275 for Corner Brook members

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 5:00 p.m.
Room ED2018 for St. John’s members
Room AS275 for Corner Brook members

Agenda
Roll call of officers
Reading of the Equality Statement
Reading of minutes from last meeting
Business arising
Treasurer’s report
Communications
Executive board report
Reports of committees
Unfinished business
New business

Union meeting tonight and you don’t have time to get home and have supper?

Come and enjoy delicious food with us. Before we start the proceedings, WE lay out the spread. Let’s enjoy a meal together.