



CUPE Local 829

Box 233 Medicine Hat Alberta T1A 7E9

SPRING
2015

UPCOMING MEETING DATES: April 25, May 9, June 13,
September 12, October 17, November 14, December 12



Message from President Sharon Stolz

"Whatever we accomplish belongs to our entire group, a tribute to combined effort" ... Walt Disney

Our recent school visits were a time to have conversations on a more personal level with the support staff from **Medicine Hat School District 76**. We listened to concerns, discussed the collective agreement and had conversations on the jobs we do in our schools. For me it was a time to put names to faces and promote the need for CUPE to go back to the grass roots of checking in with members at their worksites. By going to each school, it gave members time to talk and ask questions that related to themselves and the jobs they do.

School-based visits have proven to emphasize the need to rebuild credibility and build stronger connections between members and their union. By starting conversations with each and every member, we can find out hopes and concerns, then connecting needs to the work of the union. Our hope is to build solidarity and a sense of belonging. The idea is that through conversations and genuine listening we can move members closer to their union by promoting clarification and understanding. Reaching out on a more personal level has proven that in the past six weeks with **Medicine Hat SD 76**. I look forward to setting up meetings with **Medicine Hat Catholic** and **Prairie Rose** members in the next few weeks. As members these conversations don't stop here. As time goes on, you may feel the need for CUPE to make a visit back to your location at any time and we will. Or you may just feel the need to have a one on one conversation about a concern or clarification. The contact information is posted on our website to get in touch with a member who will make that time possible for you. With over 30 schools in all three districts, our goal is to make yearly visits to keep in touch with members...checking in with all of you at your job sites.

The visits with **SD 76** members were also a time to try and help members become familiar with their Collective Agreement, and the process of contract negotiations. **August 31, 2015** means the end of our

current agreement. Our Collective Agreement will be opened and we will be bargaining changes our members told us they wanted via surveys and school visits. At the meetings, we had conversations about changes members were passionate about. We had conversations about the process of contract negotiations and the importance of members taking the time to become involved in this process.

Our annual retirement banquet is taking place **April 26**, at Medicine Hat Golf and Country Club. We have a sold out venue and I am happy to say that most of the 17 retirees from our last yearly retirement period are able to attend. I am looking forward to the evening and celebrating with them after closing a chapter of their lives and moving on to the next leg of their journey.

Education is again, under the chopping block of the Alberta government and again we all sit and wait to see what effects the last budget announcement will have on us in the education field. As reported in the Edmonton journal... ***"School boards will receive no money to cover costs of another 12,000 students entering the system in 2015-16 and that will mean larger class sizes."*** School divisions have been told by the government that they need to ***"be creative when running their schools"*** with the money they are given. The outcome of this should be interesting. Custodians in schools are already stretched to a maximum with clerical and EAs doing clean-ups and snow removal at times when there is no paid custodial staff in certain schools.

In closing, I want to remind all members to take the time to vote on the changes to the collective agreement and again when we have reached agreement with **SD 76**. Once we have reached an agreement with **SD 76**, I will be doing a summary of changes and getting it out to SD 76 members, to help them become familiar with them. A collective agreement is a very detailed document, which has to be written in certain language to meet the needs of both sides. That language takes time to become familiar with and I am hoping by summarizing the changes, it will help to educate members to gain a better understanding of the document.

Congratulations to the following retirees who will be honoured at the CUPE Local 829 Retirement Social on Sunday, April 26th:



Donna Arnold-Janz (SD#76 Clerical)

Philip Bachmeier (SD#76 Custodial)

Ellie Baker (Prairie Rose Custodial)

Debra Burton (SD#76 Clerical)

Sharon Cox (SD#76 EA)

Marianne Dereniwski (SD#76 EA)

Gerry Helmer (SD#76 EA)

Louise Hermanson (SD#76 Custodial)

Jill Hunter (SD#76 Clerical)

Rae Knutson (SD#76 Clerical)

Marie Lattery (SD#76 Custodial)

Helena Mastel (SD#76 Custodial)

Carroll Mayer (SD#76 EA)

Yoka Redekop (SD#76 EA)

Valentine Schwab (SD#76 Custodial)

Arliss Wittke (SD#76 EA)

Eileen Young (SD#76 EA)

MEETING DRAWS

Winners of the two x \$20

Membership Draws are:

June meeting - Betty Rainville/Clayton Orge

Sept. meeting - Dave Romanchuk/Colleen Petryshyn

Oct. meeting - Colleen Petryshyn/Cynthia Henders

November meeting - Gary Getz/Paula Wright

December meeting - Dean Smith/Clayton Orge

January meeting - Dave Romanchuk/Vicki Miller

March meeting - Chris Schmidt/Corinne Miller-Feasey



CUPE Local 829 will pay for one embroidered logo per year to be placed on clothing purchased at Logo's Embroidery or taken to Logo's Embroidery for that purpose.

**Thank
You**

CUPE BRINGS A CHILD A SMILE: CUPE Local 829, the Education Support Workers in Medicine Hat and area, would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has helped make our pajama campaign such a tremendous success! Our Local has helped us give back to the families in transition at the Phoenix Safe House by donating more than 460 pairs of cozy new pajamas in all sizes. Through our hockey helmet and skate sharpening campaign we have donated 4 helmets to each elementary school in Medicine Hat and Redcliff and we have been able to sharpen over 100 pairs

of ice skates! While we were not able to reach every school this year with the skate sharpening program, we will be back at it in September to pick up where we left off to ensure that every child in our schools has the opportunity to partake in the skating program offered during the winter months. In November we will again start collecting new pajamas for the Phoenix Safe House and hope to double our donation for a third year. Thank you again for all your support and all the best to everyone as we look forward to an enjoyable and relaxing summer!!