

CUPE Brings a Child a Smile Campaign

The *CUPE Brings a Child a Smile* (CBCS) campaign is a committee made up of volunteers from Local 829 to help raise awareness of CUPE in our community by doing good works in and around Medicine Hat that directly affects the children we work with each day.

While talking to our CUPE members, it has become apparent that local elementary schools are having a difficult time with their school ice skating program, due to many children not having the required CSA approved ice skating helmets or skates and bicycle helmets are no longer acceptable substitutes. We have learned that while many schools have ice skates of varying sizes for children to use, very few schools have any helmets for children to borrow. Without this necessary equipment, elementary schools may be forced to discontinue the program. Our Local 829 believes that every child deserves a chance to learn how to skate regardless of their financial situation and we would like to help make that happen.

In order to kick start this campaign, CUPE Local 829 has generously donated funds for our committee to purchase two new CSA approved ice skating helmets to donate to every elementary school in Medicine Hat and Redcliff. While this may seem like a small amount of helmets, we will also be collecting very gently used CSA approved hockey helmets until January 31st to help bring each school's total helmet supply up to at least six. **All donated helmets can be dropped off at Vincent Massey School - 901 Hargrave Way N.W.**

This is just the beginning for our *CUPE Brings a Child a Smile* campaign and we look forward to hearing any ideas you may have for us to continue to bring smiles to all the children in our community!