

# Fall 2013

## CUPE Manitoba Fall Newsletter

*Your hometown union*

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## Welcome to CUPE

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is Canada's largest union.

With around 618,000 members across Canada, and over 25,000 members in Manitoba, CUPE represents workers in health care, education, municipalities, libraries, universities, social services, public utilities, transportation, emergency services and airlines.

A strong and democratic union, CUPE is committed to improving the quality of life for workers in Canada. Women and men working together to form local unions built CUPE. They did so to have a stronger voice – a collective voice – in their workplace and in society as a whole.

**In this newsletter, we hope to update you on some important events held throughout the fall of 2013! It's been a busy season, and we look forward to working with you in 2014!**

CUPE members are service-providers, white-collar workers, technicians, labourers, skilled trades people and professionals. More than half of CUPE members are women. About one-third are part-time workers. CUPE is also proud to have a growing number of new Canadians and members from around the world!

CUPE is a modern, dynamic and sophisticated union with more than 70 offices across the country.

From negotiating your workplace contract, to taking action on issues that matter to you: CUPE is a powerful union to be a member of, and we are proud of our engaged, active, and passionate members who help make CUPE Canada's strongest union.

We encourage you to get involved with CUPE, and participate in the many opportunities CUPE provides members. Contact us today! ♦

In Solidarity,

Kelly Moist  
President, CUPE Manitoba



## Celebrating Labour Day!

CUPE Manitoba was proud to play a significant role in organizing Winnipeg's Labour Day Family Picnic, held on September 2nd at Vimy Ridge Park, as well as supporting the Labour Day Picnic at Errol Black Park in Brandon.

For the first time in nearly 15 years, the Canadian Labour Congress, Winnipeg Labour Council, and Manitoba Federation of Labour organized a picnic to celebrate the contributions made by union members to Canada, and to host events for the community as a whole.

Over 1,000 hotdogs were served to the community, and union members from all unions were present to enjoy a beautiful day in the park. CUPE National President Paul Moist spoke about the importance of celebrating the contributions of the labour movement including: the 8-hour work day, the weekend, workplace health and safety, benefits, and decent wages.

Sharing the labour movement's victories is an important way of reminding us that we are not only fighting for new rights, but fighting to defend the rights that were won by the generations before us.

Feedback from the community was that we need to host this event again, bigger and better!

What better way to spend Labour Day than with friends, family, and co-workers! ♦



*CUPE National President Paul Moist, and Winnipeg Labour Council President Dave Sauer serving members of the community*

# CUPE Manitoba Rural Tour

## Meeting members across Manitoba

From September 30 – October 3, the CUPE Manitoba Executive scheduled meet-and-greets across the province in an effort to create forums for members to speak directly to your provincial executive, and to have a space where discussions can be had about building our union.

Meetings were held in Selkirk, Brandon, Dauphin, Flin Flon, and The Pas: each meeting raising concerns and issues unique to each community. Members talked about wages and benefits, scheduling, safety in the workplace, and discussions on the Federal government's attacks on EI, CPP, and against unions in general.

In addition to these important discussions, CUPE Manitoba took the opportunity to celebrate Health Care Support Workers' Week with members throughout the tour, talking about the contributions that health care support members provide to the community.

Members expressed the desire to have more contact with CUPE Manitoba, and we're proud to be launching this first of our new quarterly newsletter to update members on the work that we are doing province-wide. ♦



## Vigil in honour of Helen Betty Osborne

During the Rural Tour, CUPE Manitoba organized a vigil in honour of Helen Betty Osborne. This vigil was co-organized by the Native Women's Association of Canada, and Opaskwayak Health Authority as part of the nation-wide call for a full public inquiry into cases of missing and murdered Aboriginal women.

The vigil was held on October 4 at the Clearwater Lake pump house in The Pas, the site where Helen Betty Osborne was murdered in 1971. The event was a powerful reminder that there is much more work to do to protect women against violence in Canada. ♦





## National News Update

### CUPE 50<sup>th</sup> Convention a Great Success!

Over 90 delegates from Manitoba joined 3,000 members from across Canada at CUPE's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Quebec City, held over October 21 – 25. This convention saw numerous positive changes to our union, building on a strong foundation to move us into the next 50 years of activism.

At this convention, CUPE delegates voted to increase strike pay by 50%, raising it to \$300 per week in recognition of the sacrifices members make while walking the line to make their workplaces better for all. This is the first time strike pay has been increased since 1997.

A new Worker of Colour award was established, in honour of brother Ed Blackman, former Local 500 member and General Vice-President.

Also new to the national union is the creation of the CUPE National Sector Council, where various CUPE sectors can meet and discuss issues pertaining to the wide range of sectors represented by CUPE, including energy, airlines, education, health care, social services, municipalities, and more!

CUPE Manitoba delegates were active participants in the convention, and we're proud to have such a vibrant, diverse and energetic group representing our province nationally!

We're also proud that CUPE Manitoba President Kelly Moist was elected to the position of General Vice-President of the national union. Surely sister Moist will bring new perspectives and energy to the National Executive.

## Fighting for Workers' Rights

FOR THE CARE WE ALL DESERVE

BETTER LONG-TERM CARE NOW!



Meeting with the Minister of Health



Rallying at the steps of the Legislature



CUPE National President, Paul Moist



CUPE Members Rallying

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS GREAT EVENT POSSIBLE!**

CUPE was proud to host the Rally for Better Long-Term Care on October 29<sup>th</sup>. This rally called for the provincial and federal governments to improve long-term care by ensuring adequate staffing levels at facilities. For more information, visit the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba website for their Fast Fact on working short.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please send us your stories about what you are doing to make your workplace and community a better place! We are looking for stories from members: it can be about your involvement with your union, what unions mean to you, or even about how you contribute to make your community a better place. Let us know!

**Email your story to: [cupemb.mts.net](mailto:cupemb.mts.net)**

You received this newsletter because you, or a member of your household is represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Let us know if you received it in error!

# Solidarity Night – COURAGE

## Filipino Labour Activist Visits Winnipeg

The National President of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) spoke at two events in Winnipeg about the struggles and challenges of the labour movement in the Philippines.

Ferdie Gaité spoke to members of CUPE Locals 1973 (Concordia Hospital) and 1063 (WCB) as well as at a public event at Sam's Place, 159 Henderson Highway about the differences and similarities of the struggles the Filipino and Canadian Labour movements.

"We are honoured to have one of the Philippines' most active labour organizers speak to us in Winnipeg" said Kelly Moist, President of CUPE Manitoba, "we are committed to helping defend labour rights of workers in the Philippines in the same way we are committed to defending labour rights in Canada, our struggles, while different, are the same".

COURAGE is the largest labour confederation in the Philippines, with over 275,000 members at the forefront of the Philippine public sector workers' struggle for decent wages, humane working conditions and full union rights. They are currently campaigning to expose, oppose, and fight against corruption.

"The struggle for decent wages, workplace health and safety, and decent public services is a universal struggle" said Moist, "building a bridge between our movements is essential in ensuring fairness for everyone".

Also speaking at the event was Diwa Marcelino of Migrante, and a musical performance by Levy Abad Jr.

The event was a pan-Canadian CUPE Global Justice Project. Special thanks to the CUPE Manitoba Global Justice Committee. ♦



## School Support Staff Recognition Week

### Supporting education in Manitoba

At the May 2013 CUPE Manitoba Convention, Greg Selinger, Premier of Manitoba declared the week of November 18 – 22 as Manitoba's first School Support Staff Recognition Week!

This week was dedicated by the province to celebrate the day-to-day contributions that school support staff provide to Manitobans to help their children succeed.

School support staff are responsible for getting our children safely to school, ensuring a clean and health environment for them to learn in, and providing educational supports to help our kids thrive.



Because of CUPE's lobbying efforts at the provincial level, School Support Staff Recognition Week was declared to honour our members' hard work.

To celebrate this week, CUPE Manitoba organized events in Winnipeg, Dauphin, and Selkirk. The CUPE Manitoba School Division Sector also aired a radio ad in Winnipeg, Brandon, the Interlake, Dauphin, and The Pas.

To top off the week, members gathered at the School Division Sector Conference in Portage la Prairie to discuss the Defined Benefits Pension campaign, as well as other issues facing school division support workers in Manitoba.

For more information on the CUPE Manitoba School Division Sector, visit: [mbschooldiv.cupe.ca](http://mbschooldiv.cupe.ca) ♦