



ACTIVITY UPDATE

February 2010

Meet & Greet

About 40 CUPE members and community supporters turned out to the 'Meet & Greet' held at the Union Centre in Winnipeg on January 20th. There was time to talk about the campaign and to discuss informally what needs to be done to support CUPE members in their workplaces.

One of the guests at the event was Marlene Bertrand of the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, who noted the potential for women's groups across the province to support the campaign and CUPE members who work in services that support women.



Top: Sheree Capar spoke at the Winnipeg event.

Below: Shelly Denton and Holly Branconnier (Local 3060) and Steve Kiss (Local 4242) attended in Brandon.

Another 'Meet & Greet' was held in Brandon on February 10th. CUPE members from different locals attended to hear about the campaign. Members of Local 3060 were able to speak with Social Service & Child Care Co-chair Lori Schroen about a planned spring tour advocating improved benefits for child care workers.

Presentations to CUPE Locals

Kathy Macdonald has been making a number of presentations to CUPE locals across the province. All locals representing social services and child care workers have been contacted. She met recently with members from Locals 2348, 3060, 1684, 1543, 2343, 3085 and 4132.

Social Service and Child Care Committee

The RESPECT Campaign was discussed in detail at the last Social Service and Child Care Committee meeting January. The Committee members were very enthusiastic about the Campaign and plan to take specific action after their next meeting in February.

Their next meeting, which is open to all social service and child care members, is scheduled for February 17th.



Children's Alphabet Book

The Mount Carmel Clinic Foundation has published a short story book that will help pre-school age children learn their alphabet. The Book, *Monty's Alphabet Adventure*, is being sold for \$10 each with the proceeds going to the child care centre. Members of Local 2343, Anne Ross Nursery at the Clinic, are helping promote and distribute the book.



Above: Lori Schroen (Local 1543) and Shelly Denton (Local 3060) discuss the children's alphabet book in Brandon.

Member Survey

In December we mailed out a survey to all CUPE members working in social services and child care. We received back over 100 responses which gives us a good sample for judging the feedback.

Some of the feedback indicates that members are putting in longer hours than usual and feeling the effects of short staffing – 78% have worked overtime and 80% have skipped lunch or their breaks in the last year, for example.

In terms of health and safety concerns, we also found that 60% of the respondents reported being harassed in their workplace in the last year, and 70% have been verbally abused.

When we asked about income and how members supplemented their income, we found that 40% had other jobs and 10% use other community services to cope with their needs.

RESPECT Video

As part of the campaign, a short video presentation will be produced on what CUPE members are contributing to the organizations they work with and to their communities. Last week, a camera crew visited the Assisted Living facility in Selkirk, Welcome Place and Fort Rouge Nursery in Winnipeg. The video will be shown at the CUPE Manitoba Division Convention in April and in meetings with CUPE members and politicians.



Right: Victor Dobchuk, Malanka Productions and member of the Directors Guild, taping an interview.

Coming Events

<i>Social Service and Child Care Committee meeting:</i>	February 17 th
<i>SNOW Night:</i>	February 18 th
<i>RESPECT Training:</i>	February 26 th

DL:cbc/cope 491
17-Feb-10

Contact:

Sheree Capar is the Coordinator taking the lead in the campaign.
Kathy Macdonald is the Member Mobilizer booked off for the campaign.
Call us at 942-0343 or go to http://manitoba.cupe.ca/RESPECT_campaign