

**Name this
Newsletter!**
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P3s for Alberta Schools Don't Add Up



CUPE Alberta released a major report this week, challenging the arguments for public private partnerships and detailing the additional costs, which result from turning to the private sector to finance essential public infrastructure.

This report, written by researcher Hugh Mackenzie, reviews priority needs for schools in Calgary and Edmonton and makes the case for conventional public investment to meet these priorities.

"The report lays it on the line," said CUPE Alberta President D'Arcy Lanovaz. "It points out that if the provincial government were in fact to make available to the school boards the same amount it will be handing over to private business, Edmonton and Calgary boards could build between them, ten additional elementary schools; or eight additional K-9 or junior high schools; or as many as six additional high schools."

The government has come under fire for this plan. Unions, opposition parties, concerned organizations, and members of the public have argued that private financing will cost more. By contrast, public investment in schools is accountable, transparent and the best use of taxpayers' dollars.

"The Stelmach government is willfully ignoring the very significant cost increases associated with P3 financing, an issue that already led to the cancellation of a proposed P3 courthouse," Lanovaz continued. "While it is inarguable that Alberta children need new schools, a P3 model is far from the best option for Alberta taxpayers."

The Territories join CUPE Alberta

By Mike Scott

The big news from CUPE's National Convention in October 2007 happened on the last day of business when the National Constitution was amended to include the Territories to the Alberta Division.

What does this mean? It means that when they go to conventions, they actually have a caucus to go to. Members of Local 4021 were amazed to find out how much information can be gained by attending caucuses.

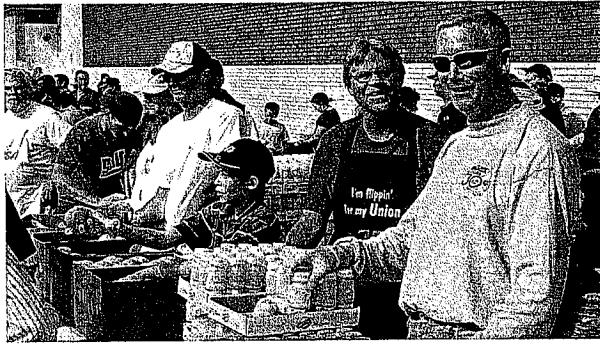
CUPE Local 4021 is a split local with members in Yellowknife and Edmonton. They are all flight attendants with First Air. The local was formed in 1998, after First Air bought out NWT Air. The NWT Air flight attendants were Teamsters, and the First Air flight attendants were CUPE. A representation vote was held and CUPE won. The current President is Bonnie Page, who is based in Yellowknife.



Local Focus: CUPE Local 30

By Mike Scott, Newsletter Committee Chair

Welcome again to another Local Focus. This month we will be taking a brief look at one Alberta's largest locals. Edmonton's CUPE Local 30, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year. Its first certification was back in 1917 when they joined the National Union of Public Employees.



CUPE Local 30 represents over 2500 members across 5 bargaining units. Epcor Water, Edmonton Northlands, and the outside workers of the City of Edmonton are the three major components of Local 30. The towns of Two Hills and Thorsby recently joined up with CUPE 30 to gain a better position at the bargaining table.

Every citizen of Edmonton has had their lives touched by members of Local 30 in one way or another. A visit to a city park, facility or attraction and you will see the fine work of Local 30 members. Many tourists revel in the splendor of the city's River Valley trail and park system, one of the largest continuous multi purpose trails in all of North America. Many past, current and even future NHL stars have played on the ice surfaces maintained by CUPE Local 30 arena operators as they operate 19 facilities across Edmonton. Future and

current CFL stars have played in the high school football bowls also maintained by Local 30 members and they also take care of the largest stadium in the CFL in Commonwealth Stadium. Everyone who passes through the gates of Capital Ex at Northlands Park sees the fine work on the grounds done by Local 30 members. From world class attractions such as Muttart Conservatory, Kinsmen Field House to the largest inventory of green space in North America to the roadways to the water that runs under it all, CUPE Local 30 President Dennis Mol takes a "great deal of pride being the President representing members that make our community function."

CUPE Local 30 has a strong presence in the community being involved in many events in and around Edmonton such as the Edmonton District Labour Council's annual barbeque for the unemployed and underemployed. This is a time when labour activists get together and give up the last long weekend of the year to feed the less fortunate of Edmonton.

Some of the problems facing the local these days are not uncommon around Alberta and that's bargaining in the economic boom to get fair market value for the trades workers of the local, a problem facing most locals across the province. With the work of the Alberta Municipal Employees Committee, CUPE locals across the province can share their gains and difficulties and learn from each other and develop bargaining strategies to alleviate the concerns of some members. Retention and attracting staff is also a major issue facing CUPE Local 30 as the private sector can be an attractive lure to the people looking for work whether they are casual labourers or certified trades people.

"We need to show council and the mayor that in house service is much better than the outhouse."

- President Dennis Mol

Another major issue facing CUPE Local 30, again one that is familiar not only across the province, but the country, is the privatization and contracting out of municipal jobs. The executive of the local, past, present and future, will remain committed to lobbying council to show them the error of their ways. As President Dennis Mol says, "We need to show council and the mayor that in house service is much better than the outhouse." When the city's complaint line is flooded with calls that the garbage was not picked up on the regular pick up day, the point that the outhouse is not working is driven home. CUPE Local 30 is gaining back areas that have been privatized and contracted out and will continue to fight and lobby to retain those services. Finally the P3 fight

continues with members of the executive along side President Mol, lobbying council to show them why P3s don't work and present them with examples of failures and cost overruns across the country.

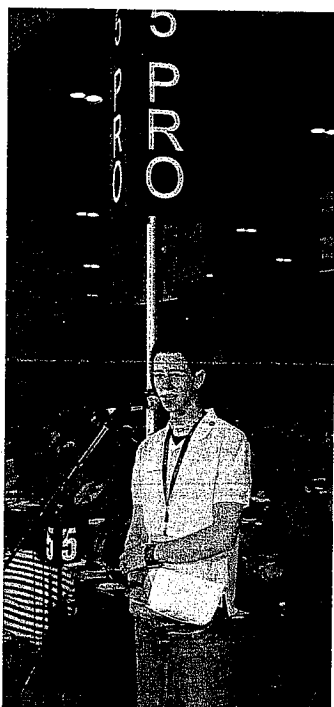
So, if you live in Edmonton, visit Edmonton or just pass through, remember that the bridge you cross, the pool you swim in or the tree you enjoy some shade under is a result of the work of CUPE Local 30. They make the community a better place. The departments include Bylaw Services, Forestry, Pest Management, Parks, Transportation, Community Services, Pools, Arenas, Attractions, Golf Courses, Drainage, Park Rangers, Cemeteries, Waste Management, Epcor Water, Edmonton Northlands, The Town of Thorsby, The Town of Two Hills and the trades people that hold it all together and keep things running.



CUPE Local 30 - "their work makes the city work."

Young Member Profile Caleb Rosenthal

I have been involved with the Canadian Union of Public Employees since February 2007, when I was voted in by acclamation to be the President of my Local. In March, I was fortunate enough to attend my first Alberta Division Convention in Medicine Hat (where, by the way, I met a lot of Brothers and Sisters I still run to when I need help). While attending this convention, I was asked to run for the position of Alternate Vice-President for the Red Deer Area. So, my first time speaking at the microphone at convention I introduced myself, declared I was a first time delegate, first time speaker, and that I was running for the position of Alternate Vice-President for the Red Deer Area (one of my most memorable moments thus far, although there are many others).



Since February, I have been thrown off of what is known as the "learning cliff." I am now the Recording Secretary for the Anti-Racism Committee, and trying to obtain a position on the National Pink Triangle Committee, to be the representative for Alberta. (This is on top of the two positions that I currently hold). I am also hoping to be the next Young Workers VP, but I guess that time will tell all.

I attended my first National Convention in Toronto this past year as well, and as well as becoming a member of the NDP, I learned so much more about our great union.

Sisters and Brothers, my involvement in CUPE has been one of the most rewarding career paths for me in life thus far. I hope that if you are not yet involved, that you will take the first step you can in order to learn what your union does for you, and how you can make a difference. There are a great many mentors within our midst that are willing to help you, you just have to ask.

I am looking forward to another rewarding year with the Canadian Union of Public Employees, and I look forward to our paths crossing in the future.

In solidarity,

Brother Caleb Rosenthal
President, Local 4733 - Stettler
(24 years young!)

Name the Newsletter Contest Details:

Here's your opportunity to have input on CUPE Alberta's newsletter. If you have an idea for a name of our newsletter, please submit it to Division Secretary, Rh'ena Oake at rhenaoake@shaw.ca or Newsletter Chair, Mike Scott at mikescott@shaw.ca. The grand prize is \$250 cash and an article of CUPE Alberta clothing of the winner's choice.



Mike Scott from CUPE Local 30 in Edmonton received honorable mention for CUPE National's photo contest. His picture of the High Level Waterfall depicting several levels of Local 30 working together was chosen in the 'CUPE at Work' category.

"Water Water Every Where"

But not a drop to drink

KEEP WATER PUBLIC

By Terry Jardine CUPE Alberta Division Water Committee Chair

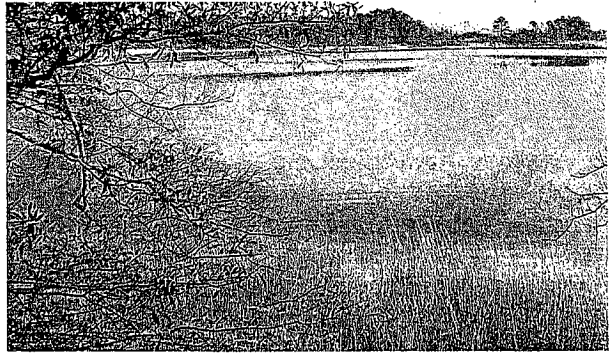
There is a water crisis looming in the future, and our governments don't seem to care.

It strikes me funny that when there are mountains of documentation on the effects that global warming, misuse and other damaging factors that are depleting the world's fresh water supply, that our own governments and big business refuse to acknowledge the facts of how bleak the future looks for our grandchildren and our grandchildren's children in regards to fresh water.

I would like you to take a moment and think about what it would be like to go to the lake to go swimming and it's too polluted, or, there's no water. What would it be like to go on a hike in the mountains and look at dry lakes? The water has been sold to the highest bidder. What would happen to the fish? What would happen to the wild life? What would happen to OUR HOME AND NATIVE LAND?

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the CUPE National web site at www.cupe.ca and read the startling facts that have been researched and documented that tell the story of the future of our fresh water. It frightens me to think that our future generations may not have the opportunity to enjoy the fresh water lakes and rivers as we have in our lifetime.

"THINK ABOUT IT!"



Pension Info For "Almost Five Years"

SAVING SOME MONEY

by Rosemary Kostiuk, CUPE Alberta Pension Committee

If you hold a permanent position and have started to contribute to the Local Authorities Plan Pension (LAPP) pension plan within the last 5 years you can save! How? It's very simple. That up to one year of permanent employment with an LAPP employer is considered probationary time for your pension. Once you start to contribute to the LAPP pension you have the opportunity to "buy back" your pension entitlement from your first year of permanent service with an LAPP employer.

You can buy that first year of service back in a lump sum, or by installments via a payroll deduction, or you can rollover RRSPs within a 5-year "window". Your union recommends that members do indeed "buy back" their first year of service during that 5-year "window". Contact your payroll and benefit area for more information.

Savings # 1 is: you will save money on all those pension payments (both your regular pension plan deduction and your "buy back" payments) they are 100 % tax deductible prior to finding your annual taxable income. This means you get a dollar for dollar deduction, not just a percentage to save money on your annual income taxes.

MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET

Savings # 2 is: you will save money, the financial advantage of buying back your first year of service within the 5-year "window" is that your employer must pay their portion of those pension deductions. Do the math, it is significant!

You can certainly buy back your first year after that 5-year "window", but then you will be required to pay the full actuarial value of your first year of service and your employer does not contribute a cent!

Still thinking, "*Why should I bother?*" or "*I'm young and don't care about pension!*" or "*I don't plan to be in this job until I retire?*"

Well, "life" happens while we are all very busy making plans and plans often change. Maximizing your LAPP pension options may be a factor in your future.

AGE PLUS YEARS OF SERVICE

Savings #3 is: buying back your first year of service allows you to retire earlier. The Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP) uses the "age plus years of service" method to calculate your pension at your retirement date. LAPP is the pension plan for school boards, municipalities, cities, libraries, hospitals, and many other provincially funded sectors. You may not be working with the same employer at retirement but you may be working for another LAPP employer. This means that first year of service is important to you.

The benefit of the tax deduction and your employer having to pay their portion is obvious: and for your future, you are securing your retirement "wages" one year earlier.

Be smart...Save money...Lower your taxes...Retire Earlier...Buy back your first year!