

# WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

National Executive Meeting December 6-8 2007

November 2007

Since the last NEM in May of 2007 there have been a lot of activities to report. The month started off with a very well presented "You and Your Union" Education course by the education committee. The course was held in Ottawa with 22 UPCE Canada Post members. I was there to represent the West and in doing so this helped me to better gain the insight into understanding more of the issues across the Western region.

On May 25-27 I attended the PSAC Prairie Women's Conference as an observer. The workshops they offered were: Defending Quality Public Services, Emphasis on Aboriginal Women and Increasing the Political Engagement of Women. There were guest speakers on all three of the issues, and all were very interesting and had a lot of knowledge and inspiration to the Women in attendance.

During the spring of 2007 Mike Moeller, our Atlantic VP and Madeleine Lepine organized to have a network set up with the three Call Centers and the Philatelic Center. This has prioritized the major issues and problems in all these centers. I feel there have been some gains in improving the working conditions for these members and we continue to work together for a respectful and safe workplace.

Richard Des Lauriers, UPCE National President and I conducted a course for 6 of our Purolator members in Victoria, BC on July. It was a "You and Your Union" course designed for them. It was the first course specifically held for Purolator and was a great way to bring their members together as they are spread out over BC. They discussed some of the major issues in their locations and some ways to approach these issues.

Purolator's Collective Agreement ends December of 2008. The local has already started mobilize their membership with a bargaining survey they mailed to their members. Our Canada Post Collective Agreement as well expires August 2008. The National Executive met in September to discuss bargaining demands and strategize some ways to mobilize for bargaining. Since this meeting I have given the Locals a bit of a snap shot of important timelines during this process to obtain a new Collective Agreement. During the month of November the PSAC regional offices have been working with our locals to sign up the rands.

I have attended Purolator's membership meetings this year and an AGM for the Edmonton Local. It is encouraging to see many of the members come out for the meetings. I feel that as Western Locals dealing with issues pertaining to them and addressing them, they are doing a great job of engaging the members. This is very crucial in the upcoming year as we are heading into bargaining.

I have taken some PSAC education courses during the past 6 months, they are as follows:

Advanced Shop Steward  
Phase 2 Leadership Training  
Duty to Accommodate

All three of these courses were very well presented and have given me some very valuable tools. I have encouraged education with the locals in the West and to send that message out to their members. There has been an interest in some of our members applying to attend the CLC Winter Schools for 2008.

On the forefront of education with the PSAC Political Action is number 1. I have been trying to get our members involved as I know that many of them are not aware of some of the very crucial issues that affect them personally. It is important for us to talk about these issues with our members, friends and family members.

I had mentioned in my May report that there were plans of the Vancouver Trace and Claims department to be closed. The first phase of this happened on October 31, 2007 and the claims department closed. Two of the four members that were in the department were already surplus and all have been assigned to work that is below their classification level. The trace department is being closed on March 31, 2008 and that will involve five members being surplus. Needless to say the moral amongst the remaining five is not good. They not only are being kept through the very busy Christmas season, but have had no work load adjustments as the workers in the department have decreased.

Grievances- Most of the grievances filed in the region have been concerning the process and administration of staffing, Health and Safety around workload issues and ergonomics. Some of the language in our Collective Agreement could certainly be clearer on staffing and perhaps some improved language on Health and Safety. I am finding in the area of Accommodation we are experiencing resistance from the Corporation.

The opportunity for me to fill in for our Western Vice President, Janet May has been invaluable. It has given me the opportunity to work with the National Executive, the staff at our National UPCE office, the Presidents of the Western Locals and more of the members of the West. Thank you to everyone for your support and words of encouragement.

In Solidarity,

Sharon Tieman  
Acting Western Vice President