

My Lunch with Moya

THE "GREENE" CH



WHO STOLE MY SICK LEAVE BENEFITS

Moya Greene, Chief Executive Officer at Canada Post Corporation, was featured as keynote speaker at a Canadian Club luncheon held at the Chateau Laurier hotel in Ottawa on December 16. PSAC strikers, supported by their brothers and sisters from CUPW and CUPE, picketed outside the hotel, while inside Greene made her presentation to a well-heeled business crowd. A few of us picketers decided to drop in and ask her a couple of questions.

In her opening remarks, Greene asserted that labour problems and bad management at Canada Post were a thing of the past. She then went on to provide an overview of her plans to transform and modernize Canada Post. After the presentation, some time was allotted for questions.

However, questions were limited. And, perhaps not surprisingly, polite but assertive questioners were often shouted down by the self-important captains of industry in attendance.

Nevertheless, when Greene was asked whether or not the Corporation would respect the members' decisive vote to reject the employer's final offer, she replied that "all bargaining takes place on the 8th floor at 2701 Riverside."

This was news to the bargaining team. They have never been invited to the 8th floor - not even since negotiations began.

Interestingly, despite a job description that includes managing a complex, multi-billion dollar company, Greene says she finds the 545-page "operational manual" to be quite cumbersome. While Greene says she is hoping to streamline the agreement by using a collaborative approach, she missed the point – this was about the PSAC/UPCE strike, not the CUPW collective agreement. Further, this apparent appetite for collaboration seems at odds with her provocation that has led to the current strike.

It was suggested that this strike may serve to transform formally loyal, hard-working employees into disillusioned and possibly less loyal workers. In this context, Greene was asked about employee relations and the post-strike environment. Greene claimed to be unworried about post-strike employee relations. Greene says she plans to "communicate" – a tried and true strategy that she says has always worked in the past.

Greene was also canvassed about her opinions on work/life balance. She conceded that she is concerned about work/life balance issues and that she struggles with it all the time. She was next asked why then was the Corporation intent on removing contract provisions on family leave and reducing sick leave in the current round of bargaining?

She replied that by her calculations, which include 6-8 weeks of vacation leave, statutory holidays, family leave and sick leave, UPCE members don't work for more than a quarter of the year as it is.

Greene was perhaps being disingenuous when she said she would be available to talk and answer questions after the meeting. She responded to an UPCE member who approached her, "Nice meeting you, come back to work. I have to go."

