

# The Spark!

April 2011



## Official Newsletter of CUPE Local 3909

Proudly Representing Teaching Assistants, Grader-Markers, Tutors, Librarians, Lab Demonstrators, Seminar Leaders, Student and Sessional Instructors at the University of Manitoba



### **Bargaining Update**

University submits "final offer"  
Union recommends rejection

### **Strength in Solidarity**

CUPE-MB Convention Report

### **Mayworks Events**

Apr. 28-May 24: Festival of  
Labour and the Arts

### **CUPE picket at Bristol**

Solidarity in action: An injury  
to one is an injury to all!

# The Spark!

April 2011



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Cover photo: CUPE-MB convention. Photo credit: Liam Martin

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# Announcements

## Employment Insurance

As winter tem comes to an end, there are many of us who will be applying for Employment Insurance. If you have questions or require help, please consult the Community Unemployed Help Centre at <http://www.cuhc.mb.ca/>, or Click on their link at the CUPE 3909 website (<http://www.3909.cupe.ca/>).

## Bylaws

Due to the urgency of UNIT 1 Bargaining, the By Laws Committee will not be presenting its amendments for approval at the Annual General Meeting. The review of the amendments will be deferred until the General Membership Meeting in the fall. If there is sufficient interest, we may deal with this issue at a Special Membership Meeting.

## Federal Elections

CUPE3909, UMFA and CAUT will be holding an all candidates forum on postsecondary education on Thursday, April 28, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, in room 343 of the Drake Centre (181 Freedman Crescent).

## Vote on the University's Final Offer

Members of Unit 1 should vote to reject the University's final offer (see Bargaining article elsewhere in this newsletter) on Friday, April 29, 2011 at 221B University Centre from 9:00 - 3:00. A high voter turnout is crucial

## Al Cerilli MFL Scholarship

Applications are now being received for the 2011/2012 Al Cerilli MFL Scholarship

This **\$500** scholarship is presented annually by the MFL Young Members Committee to a member of an MFL affiliated union to be used towards their continuing education or post-secondary program at a recognized institution.



To obtain an application form or more information about eligibility criteria for this scholarship, please visit our website at [mfl.mb.ca](http://mfl.mb.ca) or call 953-2563.

The application deadline for the 2011/12 scholarship award is **June 30, 2011**.

The scholarship is named in honour of Al Cerilli, a long-time (and continuing!) activist in the Manitoba labour movement. ★

# Welcome!

Welcome to all new members of CUPE 3909. This Union Local exists to provide a collective voice during negotiations for the collective agreements that rule your employment and to protect and enforce those collective agreements during the period of your employment. We invite you to call and visit the office if you are seeking information relating to the Local's operations and/or your workplace or membership issues. For some of you, this is likely your first newsletter. Please ensure that you read this and future newsletters. It is published 10 times per year and is sent to you via the listserve or through interdepartmental mail. There are two general membership meetings per year, the next one will be on April 27

Unions are, by nature, participatory and respond to members' demands. For this reason, it is important that you communicate all issues to the office or the Executive. Most importantly, please read your contract and the Collective Agreement for your bargaining group (Unit 1 if you are a Teaching Assistant, Grader/Marker, Tutor, Lab Demonstrator, Seminar Leader or Student Lecturer; Unit 2 if you are a Sessional Instructor, Sessional/Part Time Librarian, Counsellor, or Music Teacher). If there are points that you do not understand or if you find that during the course of the term the agreement is violated, please contact the office (see contact information on back page) or email your VP (email addresses on page 2). The Local will help you determine how to proceed. ★

# Bargaining Update

April 21, 2011

Dear Members,

On Monday April 11, 2011 your bargaining committee met with University representatives for the purpose of Unit 1 bargaining. At this meeting we were presented a —final offer‡ by the University, and were requested to take the offer back to the membership for a vote. After much consideration and consultation with the local executive, the bargaining committee has decided to bring the offer back to the membership for a ratification vote. On Friday, April 29, 2011 you will be asked to cast a vote on the contract to either accept the contract or to reject the contract and authorize strike action. **Your bargaining committee recommends rejection and authorization of strike action.** To be clear, *authorizing strike action does not mean that we will immediately be on strike* – what it does is authorize the bargaining committee to call for a strike if the University is unwilling to improve their offer. If you vote to reject the University's offer, the bargaining committee's intention is to request that the provincial government appoint a conciliator to assist us and the University find an amicable solution to the outstanding issues. *A strong vote rejecting the University's offer is imperative in ensuring we reach a fair and reasonable collective agreement.*

The offer presented by the University is not adequate. The 0%-0%-2.9%-2.9% monetary offer that was presented is simply not acceptable. **By accepting this collective agreement, teaching assistants at the University of Manitoba would remain the lowest paid un-**

**ionized TAs in Canada's English-speaking medical-doctoral universities.** By September of this year TAs at the University would find themselves \$1.03/hour behind TAs at Dalhousie University – the second lowest paid unionized TAs from this group of institutions. **The proposed collective agreement will only serve to widen the gap between our wages and those of our counterparts across the country.** While the two-year wage freeze in the proposed contract is consistent with the provincial government's two-year wage freeze policy for public employees, almost all other unions who have agreed to the two-year wage freeze have negotiated

“sweeteners” to make the deal more acceptable. The Faculty Association and CAW here at the U of M both negotiated —market adjustments‡ (wage hikes) in addition to the standard percentage increase. In addition, both received improved health benefits and a matched 2% increase in pension contributions. Further, the Faculty Association actually did manage to negotiate a 1% general pay increase in the second year of the contract. If we are going to be expected to accept a short-term wage freeze at the beginning of the contract while the university's finances are quite restricted, the University

needs to make up for it in the later years. The government of Manitoba just recently announced the University would be receiving a 5% baseline funding increase in the second, third, and fourth year of our agreement – the University has money for wage adjustments.

While our bargaining committee went into negotiations prepared to discuss the wide variety of issues facing us as student-academic workers, the University has so far proven itself unwilling to seriously discuss, and find resolutions to, the ma-

## Notice of Ratification Vote

The Bargaining Committee urges all members to send a strong, clear and united message by voting to reject the university's offer. **Voting will take place Friday, April 29 from 9:00AM until 3:00 PM at 221B University Centre.** A large mandate against this contract will go a long way in convincing the University that they must address our concerns and bargain with us in good faith. We encourage all members to attend the Wednesday, April 27 Annual General Meeting, in room 217 University Centre (GSA Lounge) at 12:30 for a report from the bargaining committee and further discussion about bargaining.

**Please visit the CUPE 3909 website to see the university's offer ★**

## Bargaining, cont'd

jority of our issues. Frankly, the bargaining committee was shocked when we were presented with a —final offerll on April 11, 2011. There was a long-list of issues that had barely been discussed, and quite a few that hadn't been discussed at all.

In most negotiations the union and employer settle all non-monetary issues before beginning discussions on monetary issues (i.e. wages & benefits). In our case non-monetary issues had not even been settled when the —final offerll was presented to your bargaining committee. **The University presented its “final offer” before wages were even discussed – denying the opportunity to even discuss compensation.** At the time we were —final offeredll the following issues were still on the bargaining table for discussion; *determination of hours per course, job training/ orientation, job security, position discontinuance for student lecturers, course cancellation compensation, reasonable accommodation, health and safety, contracting out, hiring selection, witness/jury duty leave, academic freedom, tuition reimbursements, vacation pay, family care, bereavement leave, health benefits, pay equity for lecturers, and wages.*

The only major issue that the proposed agreement addresses is the issue of matching hours-worked to hours-paid, and will do so through the creation of a joint CUPE-University investigation committee. While we believe this to be a positive step forward, we fear that without some additional changes in the collective agreement such as the employer providing a written breakdown of responsibilities and hours dedicated to these tasks and requiring a log be kept of hours worked through the contract, the committee will be hampered in its ability to investigate whether work completed actually matches hours paid.

The large number of outstanding issues at the time the —final offerll was presented is indicative of the University's treatment of our Union, and the state of labour relations at the University in general. All year the University has refused to provide timely answers to the Union on issues that have arisen – issues that may in fact be violations of our collective agreement. Indeed, it took months of struggle on our part to finally get the University to begin providing us with members contact information – despite the fact that our right to this information was clearly laid out in the collective agreement. Further, the University ignored our request to begin bargaining in August of 2010,

and only finally responded to our request to bargain in January of 2011. After meeting once at the very end of January, the University would not meet with us again until mid—March when CAW negotiations were complete and their chief negotiator had returned from vacation. We deserve to be treated with respect.

The Bargaining Committee urges all members to send a strong, clear and united message by voting to reject the universities offer. Voting will take place Friday, April 29 from 9:00AM until 3:00 PM at 221B University Centre. A large mandate against this contract will go a long way in convincing the University that they must address our concerns and bargain with us in good faith. We encourage all members to attend the Wednesday, April 27 Annual General Meeting, in room 217 University Centre (GSA Lounge) at 12:30 for a report from the bargaining committee and further discussion about bargaining.

In Solidarity,

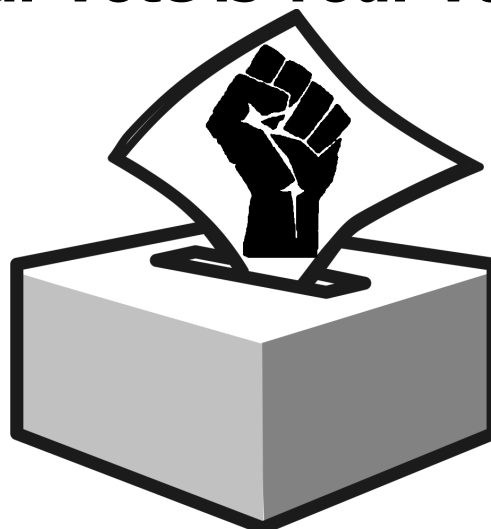
Matt McLean  
Bargaining Committee Chair  
VP Unit 1, CUPE 3909

Ana Vialard  
Bargaining Committee Member  
President, CUPE 3909

★

## Your Vote is Your Voice!

April 29, 9am-3pm



221B U. Centre

**Let Administration know  
what you think of their offer!**

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AT WORK

## Union Communications

As a student or sessional academic employee of the university you have the right to receive information regarding the union that protects your employment and bargains your collective agreement. The Local has a website (<http://www.3909.cupe.ca/>) where members can access the collective agreements, by laws, the CUPE constitution, executive reports, and relevant links. The by laws mandate that we publish at least 10 newsletters per year for updates on Local activities and articles related to post sec-

ondary education and the labour movement. We have also printed workbooks/calendars to help members keep track of hours worked and inform them on their basic rights.

Although Unit 1's Collective Agreement ensures that "Departments shall endeavour to ensure all mail is delivered to the intended recipients" (Article 10.3) we know that mail does not always reach our membership. Some mail must be sent through Canada Post to home addresses and time sensitive notices are sent through our listserve.

It is only in the past few months that we have finally arranged for the university to provide us with all of the contact information for all members -campus, home, and email addresses- guaranteed in our collective agreements. (Unit 1 Article 7.2 and Unit 2 Article 8)

Unfortunately, there are currently about 450 members who have never activated their UM email accounts. Ideally we would not be using UM email, which is not confidential, for all Union business but it is currently our best method, besides posters, for reminders, announcements, and messages targeting specific departments. If you have not yet activated your UM email account, please do so to ensure that you are up to date. ★

# THESE ARE YOUR RIGHTS

## *Dilbert Detoured*

*By Q. P. Worker*



*Free and fair collective bargaining—University of Manitoba style*

# Strength in Solidarity:

## CUPE-Manitoba Convention Report

The CUPE-Manitoba convention was held in Brandon from April 6-9. Our local was well represented with a delegation of three representatives, Brother David Jacks, VP Social Policy, Brother Brian Latour, Recording Secretary, and Brother Matt McLean, VP Unit 1. Representatives of CUPE local 3909 worked hard at convention to ensure that CUPE-Manitoba members were aware of our issues, and that local 3909 was an active participant, working in solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters across the province.

CUPE 3909 sponsored three resolutions at convention aimed at addressing our unique concerns in the university sector. Our resolutions calling for universal, accessible post-secondary education and for the conversion of post-graduation tax credits to up front grants were both passed unanimously. A resolution calling for the doubling of graduate student funding was referred to the provincial executive as the convention drew to a close before it could be considered by the assembly. These resolutions commit CUPE Manitoba to engage on our issues in the upcoming year.

Members of CUPE 3909 spoke in favour of resolutions supporting improved pensions, protecting public water, and opposing privatization such as we have seen at the U of M with Navitas. Many other resolutions were passed, all in favour of improving the lives of CUPE members and progressive political action, such as opposing over-work, stopping privatization, and opposing the environmentally destructive bottled water industry. An important resolution was the creation of an Aboriginal position and a Diversity position on the CUPE-Manitoba executive, to ensure that the executive of our union represents the diversity of our membership and the working class of Manitoba as a whole.



*CUPE 3909 delegates, leading the assembly in a rendition of Solidarity Forever. L-R: David Jacks, VP Social Policy, Matt McLean, VUP Unit 1, Brian Latour, Recording Secretary. Photo credit: Liam Martin*

A keynote speech was given by sister and comrade Gati Malet, from the South African Municipal Workers Union (SAMWU), a public sector union which CUPE is working closely with in international solidarity initiatives. The convention featured many prominent speakers, including CUPE National President Paul Moist, Manitoba Federation of Labour President Kevin Rebeck, Brandon mayor Shari Decter-Hirst, CUPE Saskatchewan President Tom Graham, and Premier Greg Selinger.

Reports were given from the CUPE-Manitoba RESPECT campaign, calling for better wages and conditions for social service workers. This is an important campaign, as many

*Cont'd on page 8*



## Convention Report, cont'd

social service workers have to deal with low wages and benefits, and a stressful work environment compounded by often inadequate and insecure funding. Brother Ric McAlpine gave a report on CUPE's organizing around the Winnipeg municipal election, which, while it did not accomplish all of its objectives, had a significant impact and proved that it is possible to raise awareness of CUPE issues during elections. A report was also given on behalf of the Global Justice Committee regarding their work on supporting global campaigns against HIV/AIDS.

Of the two contested elections, Mike Skaftfeld was re-elected as CUPE-Manitoba President, and Chris Pullen was elected as trustee in a four-way race. Kelly Moist was re-elected as Winnipeg Area Representative, and Jody Jewett replaced Gale Morton, who chose not to run for re-election as treasurer.

CUPE 3909 members also featured prominently in the young members committee, and will be working to re-invigorate this committee, starting with a solidarity picket in support of striking workers at Bristol Aerospace on April 12<sup>th</sup>. In addition, CUPE 3909 members participated in the Contracting Out and Political Action Committee (COPAC) breakfast workshop on getting issues out during elections.

All in all, the CUPE-Manitoba convention was an inspiring three days, in which CUPE 3909 delegates were able to network with other CUPE activists and make sure our unique issues as one of only two CUPE locals in the university sector in Manitoba were heard. CUPE 3909 delegates left the convention inspired and ready to get more involved in participating in CUPE-Manitoba activities. ★



(above) CUPE members from across the province voting in support of a resolution  
(left) Brother Matt McLean of CUPE 3909 speaking in support of a motion  
(Below) Comrade Gati Malete and Brother Paul Moist

Photo credits: Liam Martin, CUPE Manitoba





## Solidarity Picket at Bristol

As an initiative of the CUPE-Manitoba young members committee, CUPE members joined our fellow workers from CAW 3005 on the picket line at Bristol Aerospace. 17 CUPE members, many of them young members, and including a member of CUPE 3909, as well as CUPE-Manitoba President Mike Skaftfeld, arrived at Bristol on the morning of Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to support striking workers.

Management at Bristol is demanding many concessions of the workers, with a particular focus on employee pensions. Bristol management wants to eliminate a pension supplement that workers fought for and won many years ago.

CUPE 3909 members are proud to support our brothers and sisters in the struggle. Not only is the solidarity of labour a fundamental principle to CUPE members as unionists, but we have common interests with CAW members in defending and preserving pensions. Our members, both young workers and those nearing retirement, have an interest in defending pension benefits. After all, everyone deserves a decent retirement, and if attacks on other workers' pensions stand, it will make it that much easier for our pensions to come under attack.

An injury to one is an injury to all! Solidarity with striking and locked out workers everywhere! ★



*Some of the CUPE and CAW members Photo credit: CUPE 1973*

## Committee Vacancies

Members of CUPE 3909 have a few opportunities to participate in University Committees.

### **Employee Assistance Program Advisory Committee: VACANT**

This committee reviews statistical analysis on EAP activity and works to develop awareness about the program via a newsletter and participation in orientation sessions for new employees. The committee meets twice per year.

### **Bannatyne Campus Local Area Safety Committee: TWO VACANCIES**

The Workplace Safety and Health Division of the Manitoba Department of Labour and Immigration recently has notified the University that the current Bannatyne Campus Safety Committee does not conform to the requirements of provincial legislation.

In order to correct this situation, Human Resources asks that we appoint two representatives for the Bannatyne Campus Local Area Safety Committee, one from Unit 1 and one from Unit 2. They also ask that the appointees be familiar with the health and safety issues at the Bannatyne campus in order to promote the success of this committee.

**NOTE:** After discussions with the university, the Local has ensured that the representatives that serve on this committee will receive their regular wages for time spent at meetings.

**If you are willing to dedicate time to any of the committees or serve as an alternate, please contact the Local or a member of the Executive. ★**



MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts is a multi-disciplinary festival that focuses on working class themes. It is held in Winnipeg every year throughout the month of May to honour and promote the many positive contributions of unions and working people in general.

Inspired by events surrounding the anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, MayWorks focuses on the art produced both by artists (with their depiction of the working class life) and by workers with their own interpretation of their lives and struggles.

## Events Listing

### Thursday, April 28

National Day of Mourning – SAFE Workers of Tomorrow Annual Leaders' Walk

11:45am, April 28, 2011

Depart from Union Centre entrance, 275 Broadway, Winnipeg

Join labour and community leaders in the Annual Leaders' Walk to the Legislature to honour the National Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job.

Contact: Allan Beach, SAFE Workers of Tomorrow, 992-2988.

National Day of Mourning – MFL Candlelight Service

6:00pm, April 28, 2011

Room 2C, Union Centre, 275 Broadway, Winnipeg

A candlelight service to remember those who have lost their lives earning a living, and those who have become disabled from work.

Contact: Jean-Guy Bourgeois, Manitoba Federation of Labour, 953-2563

### Sunday, May 1

MayWorks MAIL ART

All of May

Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street

Free Admission

The MAYWORKS MAIL ART exhibit is part of the world's largest collection featuring the theme of work. MAIL ART is a worldwide cultural movement started in the 1960's. The idea behind the movement is to bypass the elitist gallery/museum system of art. There are no hierarchies, no rules, all participants work is shown to the public. MAIL ART is non commercial, no entry fees, no sales and the yearly call is universal.

### May Day March

Assemble at 12:30pm – March at 1:00pm, May 1, 2011

City Hall, 510 Main Street

Celebrate International Working Class Day.

The annual May Day March organized by Winnipeg Labour Council takes place in recognition of International Working Class Day. Come and be part of May Day and the struggle for Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities and Progress for All.

For more information contact Winnipeg Labour Council at 942-0522

### Monday, May 2

Music From the Ghetto

7:00pm, May 2, 2011

Chevra Mishnayas Synagogue, 700 Jefferson Avenue

Free Admission

The United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) will explore Music from the

Ghetto at its annual Holocaust Commemoration. Musicologist Jane Enkin will speak about music that was written during that dark time and will sing selected pieces. The UJPO choir-The North End Jewish folk Choir- will also perform.

### Tuesday, May 3

A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights

7:00pm – 9:00pm, May 3, 2011

Carol Shields Auditorium, Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street

Suggested donation \$5.00

Mayworks, Canadian Dimension Magazine and Cliff (labour) film festival with the Support of the Millennium Public Library proudly present A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights. A selection of features and shorts from the 2010 Cliff film festi-

## MayWorks Events Listing, cont'd

val will be featured, in addition to other notable films from 2010.

Featured films will be screened on May 3, May 16 and May 24.

Featured Film:

**Beneath Black Skies**

In 1902, Australia's largest industrial disaster killed 96 men and boys and left 120 children fatherless. This labour history tracks how Australia's first mineral export, coal, shaped the men and women who lived the mining life... beneath black skies.

Hosted by David Camfield

### Wednesday, May 4

The Big Book of Canadian Poetry

Music at 7:30pm ~ Reading at 8:00pm, May 4, 2011

McNally Robinson Booksellers Grant Park, 1120 Grant Avenue

Free Admission

The new book of poetry by the New Festival crew: Ron Romanowski, June Summer-Jones, John G. Carmody, Marina Stepanova, Ruth Rachel Cyprian and Siegfried Jerusalem.

Hosted by Nurit Drory and music by Sam Knacker on harmonica.

### Thursday, May 5

Canadian Labour in Crisis: Reinventing the Workers' Movement Book Launch

8:00pm, May 5, 2011

Mondragon Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street

Free Admission

Though many of us think of ourselves as middle class, most of us are, in fact, working class: we work for a wage. And though many of us are members of unions, most people do not understand themselves to be part of this movement. Canadian Labour in Crisis asks why this is so. Through an analysis of the contemporary Canadian working-class movement and its historical development, Camfield offers an explanation for its current state and argues that reform within the movement is not enough.

Please see more information about the book at: <http://www.fernwoodpublishing.ca/Canadian-Labour-in-Crisis/>

### Saturday, May 7

May Day Banquet

Cocktails at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm, May 1, 2011

Hotel Fort Garry

Tickets: \$30.00

Dinner and a political/ cultural programme and dance. Cash bar.

For reservations and tickets contact Ken at 479-8089

### Sunday, May 8

1919 Historical Bus Tour and Memorial Service for Mike Sokolowski

1:00pm, May 8, 2011

Union Centre, 275 Broadway

Tickets \$10.00

Free admission for mothers who are accompanied by children of any age

Join our knowledgeable tour guides on a chartered bus as they share details and answer questions about the sites of interest that have a direct connection to the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. Learn about the life of Mike Sokolowski, the Ukrainian immigrant who was killed during the culmination of the strike on "Bloody Saturday", June 15, 1919. The tour begins at the Union Centre and makes its way to the Vulcan Iron Works when it all began. You will also visit Hell's Alley where many of the marchers were beaten on that fateful day. Before returning to the Union Centre, you will also bear witness to a memorial graveside service for Mike Sokolowski at 2:00pm at Brookside Cemetery. For tickets contact: the Worker's Organizing Resource Centre, Mezzanine – 280 Smith Street, 947-2220; Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert Street and The Park Theatre Cafe, 698 Osborne Street.

### Saturday, May 14

Building the A-Zone Co-op: 24 hour Marathon Fundraiser 3:00pm, May 14 – 3:00pm, May 15

Mondragon, 91 Albert

A-Zone Co-op pledges accepted at 1-204-942-6994

MayWorks and CKUW 95.9 fm present the 2nd Annual "Building the A-Zone Co-op" 24hour Marathon Fundraiser.

Come and enjoy nonstop live entertainment for 24 hours with a webcast live at [www.a-zone.org](http://www.a-zone.org)

Please support co-op ownership of this unique heritage building!

Festival of Mandolins

8:00pm, May 14, 2011

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard & McGregor

Tickets: \$15

The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians celebrates its 90th Anniversary in 2011.

The Mandolin Orchestra, one of Manitoba's artistic treasures, performs at the Ukrainian Labour Temple as part of MayWorks. The Mandolin Orchestra is Manitoba's oldest orchestra – it pre-dates the Winnipeg Symphony – and the oldest one of its kind in Canada. The Mandolin Orchestra, under the direction of Annis Kozub, will present "Festival of Mandolins" an evening of music that should not be missed.

For more information contact: Ukrainian Labour Temple at 582-9269

*Cont'd on page 12*

## MayWorks Events Listing, cont'd

### Sunday, May 15

AUUC Spring Concert

2:00pm, May 15, 2011

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard & McGregor

Tickets: \$10

The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians celebrates the arrival of spring in dance and song with AUUC School of Folk Dance, Yunist Dance Ensemble, the new adult dance group and the Festival Choir under the direction of Vasilina Streltsov with music by the Mandolin Orchestra.

For more information contact: Ukrainian Labour Temple at 582-9269

### Monday, May 16

A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights

7:00pm – 9:00pm, May 16, 2011

Carol Shields Auditorium, Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street

Suggested donation per evening is \$5.00

Mayworks, Canadian Dimension Magazine and Cliff (labour) film festival with the Support of the Millennium Public Library proudly present A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights.

A selection of features and shorts from the 2010 Cliff film festival will be featured, in addition to other notable films from 2010. Featured films will be screened on May 3, May 16 and May 24.

Featured Film:

Home Safe Toronto

This film examines the threat and reality of homelessness facing the working poor, in the context of economic and job insecurity that has eroded the manufacturing sector.

Hosted By Shauna MacKinnon

### Tuesday, May 17

UJPO Meeting, "Jewish Radicalism: The Role of Women in the Struggle"

7:30pm, May 17, 2011

Aqua Books, 274 Garry Street

Free Admission

In honour of the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) will be holding a meeting on "Jewish Radicalism: The Role of Women in the Struggle". UJPO President, Roz Usiskin, will examine the lives and work of two important Winnipeg activists, Freda Coodin and Kitty Harris and their role in the labour struggles of the 1920's and 30's.

### Thursday, May 19

Victoria Park 1919 Cabaret

7:00pm, May 19, 2011

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard & McGregor

Tickets: \$28

Hosted by Friends of Victoria Park this 1900's style cabaret reminiscent of the Winnipeg General Strike era will take place in the Ukrainian Labour Temple one of Winnipeg's National Historic Sites. It will feature a variety show and a buffet supper. This exciting event kicks off an 8 year count down to the 100th anniversary of the General Strike in 2019. Proceeds go to establishing a heritage site to commemorate the national historic significance of the Winnipeg General Strike, the early laborers and the Park where they rallied. With comedian and emcee Paul Rabliauskas, magician Joe Kaufert and music by Dan Frechette, Emma Clooney, What's Left and Three Blind Mice.

For tickets: Glenn Michalchuk 479-7026 or Sandra Gessler 770-9298. Tickets are also available at Winnipeg Labour Council 942-0522, Workers Organizing Resource Centre 947-2220 or Mondragon Bookstore and Coffeehouse, 91 Albert.

### Friday, May 20, 21, 22, 25

Film Screening: There but for Fortune

Friday, May 20 to Sunday, May 22 – 7:00 PM

Also Playing: Wednesday, May 25 – 7:00 PM

Winnipeg Film Group's CINEMATHEQUE, 100 Arthur Street (Arthur and Bannatyne in the Artspace Building)

Tickets: [www.winnipegcinematheque.com](http://www.winnipegcinematheque.com) | Box Office line 925-3457

PHIL OCHS: THERE BUT FOR FORTUNE By Kenneth Bowser (2011) (98 MIN)

In conjunction with Mayworks, The WFG Cinematheque presents "Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune" – a superbly researched new documentary about Phil Ochs, a forgotten folk singing legend from the United States and a friendly rival of Bob Dylan. Wielding only a battered guitar, a clear voice and some razor sharp songs, he tirelessly fought the "good fight" for peace and justice throughout his short life. Standing up for worker's rights and resisting the war he wrote political songs like "Draft Dodger's Rag" and "I Ain't Marching Anymore" and traveled afar including a visit to Chile during the time of president Salvador Allende to meet Chilean singer Victor Jara. Featuring rare archival concert footage and interviews with Billy Bragg, Pete Seeger, Tom Hayden, Christopher Hitchens and Joan Baez, the film is also an exciting illumination of the political movement of the US in the 1960's. His life ended tragically when he committed suicide in 1976 at the age of 35.

"A poignant portrait of an uncompromising artist. Ochs' songs spoke forcefully and directly to racial injustice, political oppression and the horror of war, to the struggles of striking miners and beleaguered unions."

## MayWorks Events, cont'd

Hollywood Reporter

“An ESSENTIAL PORTRAIT of an artist who ought to be far better known. Filmmaker Kenneth Bowser does an admirable job of conveying why Ochs’ music continues to mean so much to his fans. A MUST-SEE.” -Simon Vozick-Levinson, Entertainment Weekly

This screening of Phil Ochs: There But For Fortune is generously sponsored by MayWorks.

### Saturday, May 21

Pie in the Sky: Songs of the People

8:00pm, May 21, 2010

The Park Theatre Cafe, 698 Osborne Street

Tickets \$10.00

May works Proudly Presents “PIE IN THE SKY” Songs of the People with Greg Crowe and the Scarlett Union and Ian La Rue.

Tuesday, May 24

A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights

7:00pm – 9:00pm, May 24, 2011

Carol Shields Auditorium, Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street

Suggested donation per evening is \$5.00

Mayworks, Canadian Dimension Magazine and Cliff (labour) film festival with the Support of the Millennium Public Library proudly present A Film Festival: Struggles – Justice – Rights. A selection of features and shorts from the 2010 Cliff film festival will be featured, in addition to other notable films from 2010. Featured films will be screened on May 3, May 16 and May 24.

Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?

A film about terrorism against Cuba, produced and directed by US academic Saul Landau, is being presented at the 32nd International New Latin-American Film Festival. Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up? is one of the 515 competing in the event and premiers at the Charles Chaplin Movie Theater on December 11th, 2011.

The film deals with 50 years of terrorism against the Caribbean island and presents the case of the Five Cuban anti-terrorists who tried to prevent subversive actions against their country and have been unjustly locked in US jails for 12 years. The documentary includes interviews with renowned terrorists Luis Posada Carriles, Orlando Bosch, José Basulto and others, who freely walk down the streets of Miami, supported and protected by the government of the United States.

A writer, journalist, documentary maker and academic, Landau has received awards such as the Emmy, George Polk, First Amendment, Letelier-Moffit and Bernardo O Higgings.

Hosted by Cuba Solidarity.

### Saturday, May 28

Winnipeg Labour Council MayWorks Picnic

12:00noon – 4:00pm, May 28, 2011

Freight House Park, Isabel St. at Ross Ave.

The Winnipeg Labour Council hosts their annual family picnic with complimentary hot dogs and drinks for the kids, inflatable rides, games and fun for the whole family!

For more information please call the Winnipeg Labour Council at 942-0522 or email [info@winnipeglabour.ca](mailto:info@winnipeglabour.ca).

### Sunday, May 29

Ukrainian Labour Temple – Doors Open Festival

10:00am – 4:00pm, May 29, 2011

Ukrainian Labour Temple, Pritchard & McGregor

Free Admission

On May 29, the Ukrainian Labour Temple – designated a National Historic Site in 2009 – will open its doors from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. as part of the Doors Open Festival. Tours will take place on the hour so please make sure to arrive about 10 minutes before the following times: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. with last tour at 3 p.m. Consult the Doors Open programme for more information.

For more information contact: Ukrainian Labour Temple at 582-9269 ★

## U. of Winnipeg Academic Assistants Organize!

Academic workers at the University of Winnipeg are currently in the process of organizing with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). The University of Winnipeg Academic Assistants Union (UWAAU) filed for certification with the Labour Board on April 6th, and would represent academic assistants at the University of Winnipeg. The vote is currently in progress at the time of writing, so little information is available. The University of Winnipeg is currently one of only a few universities where academic assistants are non-unionized. As a result, the rate for teaching assistants is \$10.23 an hour—barely above minimum wage and far lower than what other TAs in unionized environments make. Academic Assistants CUPE 3909 extends our solidarity to our brothers and sisters at the University of Winnipeg and wishes them the best of luck in their struggles for recognition and a fair deal. ★



# Federal Election 2011

## Fact Sheet on Post-Secondary Education

CUPE National Office, April 14, 2011

Post-secondary education is a critical social and economic investment for Canada. It plays an important role in driving economic growth and innovation, and increasing social and economic equality.

Our post-secondary institutions are an important source of stable jobs and are critical to our training and skill development needs. They are a source of valuable basic social and scientific research, and are on the cutting edge of emerging green technologies.

### Harper Conservatives' Record

The Harper Conservatives have not invested in post-secondary education and their policies have eroded access and affordability.

At the same time the post-secondary education system has

become increasingly privatized and corporatized. Underfunding has ensured tuition fees and student debt, corporate sponsored and directed research, increased contracting out of services and jobs, and a reliance on underpaid, contract workers. The consequences of underfunding are completely at odds with a public education system based on the principles of accessibility, affordability and equality.

The emphasis on science and technology, commercialization of research and aspirations to corporatize our campuses through increasing numbers of academic/business partnerships, corporate research funding, patents and intellectual property rights revenue is a threatening trend that is compromising the quality of our public education system.

### The Facts

- Current cash transfers provided within the Canada Social Transfer for post-secondary education are more than \$410 million short of what would be needed just to restore funding to 1992-93 levels, adjusting for inflation and population growth.
- Underfunding has caused skyrocketing tuition fees, larger class sizes, fewer services and resources for students, and a deteriorating infrastructure. Underfunding also means fewer full-time and permanent staff and a greater number of part-time, temporary and casual staff which affects the quality of services for everyone.
- Since the Harper Conservatives were elected tuition fees have risen almost 20 per cent. The increases are even greater when ancillary fee growth is taken into account. These fees have risen dramatically as universities off-load costs to students and their families.
- Student debt loads are crushing. More than \$15 billion was owed to the federal government in 2010 from student loans. Studies have shown student debt has been linked to lower completion rates, making completion of post-secondary education more difficult for low-income students and their families.
- Support to Aboriginal students has been capped for 15 years which means a real decrease in funding when population growth and inflation are taken into account.

### Better Choices



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*Cont'd on page 15*



## Fact Sheet, cont'd

Crushing student debt has to be eliminated by increasing student grants and improving funding to post-secondary education tied to lowering tuition fees.

We need to invest substantially to fund and improve access for Aboriginal students.

The government should implement a federal Post-Secondary Education Act modelled after the principles of the Canada Health Act.

A new act must be accompanied by a dedicated cash transfer with funding allocated to:

1. immediately restore per-capita funding to 1992 levels;
2. over three years, reduce tuition fees to 1992 levels;
3. over five years, eliminate deferred maintenance at Canada's colleges and universities.

A new government should restore the entire inflation adjusted cuts since the Harper Conservatives came to power from our three federal research granting councils and allocate these funds equally and unconditionally.

A new government should eliminate all incentives to privatize and pursue public-private partnerships on our campuses, and commit to increasing public funding for research, and the operation, building and renewal of our campus infrastructure. ★



## Write for the Spark!

YOU are CUPE 3909!

*The Spark!* Is YOUR newsletter!

Submit content to: [sec.cupe3909@gmail.com](mailto:sec.cupe3909@gmail.com)

## Global Struggles, Global Solidarity

***International Workers'  
Memorial Day – 28 April 2011***

**Public service workers:  
meeting the challenge of  
emergencies and disasters**

*Public Services International, April 2011*

Emergencies and disasters are a fact of life. Climate change may increase the frequency and magnitude of some forms of natural disasters.

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has been in place since 2000 and encourages establishment of regional and national platforms for disaster risk reduction, comprising multi-stakeholder mechanisms. Less certain is the ability of nations and communities to plan for, prevent or lessen the damage from such events.

Public Services International, the global union federation that represents 20 million members, insists that public service workers must be consulted and involved in planning, decision-making and delivery at all levels of disaster scenarios. Public service workers are the skilled first responders in times of crisis. Emergency services, healthcare, water and energy workers risk their health and lives on the frontlines in the service of their communities.

Governments are responsible for protecting people. Investment in strong public safety regulations, well-trained and properly equipped public service workers and quality public services are key to effective disaster readiness, risk reduction, response and recovery. When proper building standards are enforced, needless injuries and deaths are avoided in times of disaster. Well-informed urban planning can reduce risks from climate crises. And a well-trained public workforce and strong emergency and health services can quickly and effectively help people during and

*Cont'd on page 16*

## Workers' Memorial Day, cont'd

after a crisis.

A comparison of the impact of the 2009 earthquakes in Haiti and in Chile, two developing countries in the Inter-Americas region, is instructive. In Chile, thanks in large part to public policy, strong construction regulations and public infrastructure and emergency response investments – loss of life and building damage were remarkably less than occurred in Haiti. In Haiti, where building codes and emergency services were poor – 320,000 people lost their lives and the country's infrastructure was destroyed, even though the quake in Chile was far stronger than in Haiti.

Most recently, the 2011 earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan (and the subsequent tsunami in Japan) demonstrated that even high resource countries that are well prepared suffer damage and rely heavily on the quality of their public service infrastructure to limit the multiple harms that disasters entail.

Public Services International urges the United Nations, relevant UN entities, governments and non-governmental organizations to consult and work with trade unions globally to strengthen emergency prevention and response infrastructures at regional and national levels, and to ensure that emergency workers are well-trained and well-equipped to meet any challenge.

This call is in keeping with the World Health Organization's January 2011 resolution on Strengthening national health emergency and disaster management capacities and resilience of health systems that urges member states to "strengthen the role of the local health workforce in the health emergency management system to provide local leadership and health services, through enhanced planning, training and access to other resources."

These actions require committed investment in quality pub-

lic services.

Investments in public services save lives.

They are investments in jobs that build economies, and investments in services that ensure sustainable communities.

Of added concern is the trend to privatize public services in the wake of major disasters. Disasters should not be viewed as opportunities to profit at the expense of vulnerable populations!



In the aftermath of environmental disasters – such as in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and in New Orleans, USA after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 – governments and financial institutions have exploited the vulnerability of local populations to privatize public services as part of "reconstruction". Privatization can be swiftly imposed in public water, energy, health, education, construction and government administration sectors. Shamefully, such market opportunism has been applied even where voters had previously rejected privatization.

Handing over public service responsibilities to private market interests has not proven to be sustainable – for either fiscal economy or effectiveness of service delivery.

In many instances, trade union rights are attacked at the same time, further weakening civil society's ability to assert the collective interest in building quality public services for the benefit of all.

On International Workers' Memorial Day, this 28 April 2011, PSI members, our families and communities join together to remember and mourn our sisters and brothers who have been killed or injured at work when saving the lives of others, and we pledge to continue our fight for the rights of the living.

*Public Services International (PSI) is an international organization to represent public sector workers globally. CUPE is an affiliate of PSI*

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