



# Newsletter

May 2007

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## Issue 4: May 2007

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## New Executive Takes Office

The new Executive Board was elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on March 26. Jason Kelly, Ph.D. student in the Natural Resources Institute, became the new president of the local, taking the reins from Dorothy Wigmore. Jason Bland, newly-Ph.D. in Physics, and Suzanne Grierson, sessional lecturer for the School of Art, were re-elected as vice-president Unit 1 (Teaching Assistants) and vice-president Unit 2 (Sessionals) respectively. Suresh Neethirajan, Ph.D. student in Biosystems Engineering takes up the relatively new position of vice president Social Policy from Lynne Fernandez, while Muthukumar Bagavathiannan, Ph.D. student in Plant Science, takes over Darryl Draeger's responsibilities as the secretary of the local. Darryl Draeger and Lynne Fernandez were elected as trustees, joining Diana Thorneycroft briefly, since she is stepping down due to work commitments. Roman Yereniuk continues as treasurer of the local. In addition, Lloyd Lawrence has been hired as office co-ordinator and Peter MacKeigan continues in the role of executive assistant. The new executive team is looking forward to serving all members of the local in the forthcoming year!

## CUPE Manitoba Convention 2007

CUPE Manitoba held its annual convention at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, April 12-14, 2007. More than 300 representatives from locals throughout the province attended the gathering, including Suresh Neethirajan, Roman Yereniuk and Jason Kelly from CUPE 3909. The many speeches and presentations – most of which addressed the daily parade of proposed resolutions – were informative and useful in helping the newly elected executive members to understand the issues and strategies of our provincial CUPE representatives. A number of resolutions dealt with issues of great social significance – private-public partnerships, political action, youth engagement, child care, work health & safety, and many more. The national/provincial women's task force presented a variety of recommendations and engaged delegates in discussion on issues such as social services and minority-equality at the work place. More specifically and closer to home, the task force opened a debate on its own representation on the CUPE Manitoba Executive Committee.

Kevin Rebeck was re-elected CUPE Manitoba President and nominated for General Vice President CUPE National. Gale Morton and Tracy Bestall were elected Treasurer and Regional Vice President respectively. Premier Gary Doer addressed the convention on April 14, Saturday, promising to work against privatization.

## Sessional lecturers ratify contracts at U of S

Sessional lecturers at the University of Saskatchewan ratified two contract agreements with the university at a meeting held on Tuesday, April 17. The contract boosts wages by 24 per cent over the next three years for the union's 320 members. Sessionals are represented by the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3287. About 78 per cent of members at the meeting voted in favor of the two contracts, said union vice-chair Clint Hunker.

The union had been without a contract since August 2005. U of S sessional lecturers, who teach about one third of undergraduate courses, are currently paid a top rate of \$9,276 per six-credit course, about \$1,500 less than sessionals at the University of Regina, according to the union. The U of S Faculty Association will vote on a new contract with the university on Tuesday at a special general meeting. The faculty association had been without a contract for nearly 21 months before reaching a tentative agreement with the university. CUPE 3287 bargains separately from the faculty association.

(Source: The Starphoneix, Saskatoon)

**Next issue: Introducing your representatives!**

