

## President's Report

Welcome back from our Summer Hiatus!

Since we met last, things have been extremely busy around the office and the college. Here is the Reader's Digest version:

**Article 28 discussions** - ITS, Trades & Tech, Student Services which also involve School of Access and Learning Services, and Health & Human Services have taken up a large amount of time.

**Duty to Accommodate** - This is an ever-growing area and we have been in discussions with the employer about how they work and how they are to be implemented.

**Respects in the Workplace** – Instances are on the rise between member on member and member on supervisor. Unsurprisingly enough, the college's response to each instance has, what I would kindly call, been ineffective.

**Contracting Out** – We are girding up for another year of frustrating meetings regarding contracting out. We have decided to be a little more direct in challenging the employer about bringing work back into the college. I will keep you abreast as we move along.

**Bargaining** – We came to a successful conclusion to negotiations after almost walking away from the table a couple of times. Despite the meager raises, we did manage to get benefit improvements to life insurance, vision and dental and Pharmacare formulary coverage.

**CUPE BC Committees** - I am pleased to announce that Keith Todd and I were selected to sit on provincial committees. Keith was selected to the Political Action Committee and I was selected to the Colleges Committee and the Anti-Contracting Out Committee. Keith will be my alternate without a vote at the Colleges Committee if I cannot attend for any reason.

In case you haven't heard, watched or read the news lately, we are in the midst of a federal election. I will be forwarding information along to you and the membership regarding voter registration information and other newsworthy items. Let me be perfectly clear on this – it is CUPE BC's position that we want the NDP form the next government. I will be exploring the possibility of donating my President Leave Time to Brother Todd so he can go around and talk to members to get them excited to vote and to get them excited to vote NDP! I will also be putting the call out for all members to volunteer time at their constituency candidate's office leading up to the election. I encourage each of you to volunteer whatever time you can to your local NDP candidate.

I want to take this opportunity to send out some huge props to Sister Gran and Brother Nicholas for coming into the office and starting the job of organizing the bargaining notes from

this past round and all the previous rounds. As we strive to become a more professionally operating local, this was seen as an integral task to undertake, especially since Brother Nicholas has recently submitted his retirement notice and will be leaving us on Dec 31 of this year!

It is my continued goal to try and empower each and every one of you on the Executive to make the most out of your elected term. I have tried hard not to be a micromanager and for the most part, think I have succeeded. I think we have made some incredible strides in this area. To that end, if you have an idea for a project about how we can do our job better, please let me know and if it is feasible, I will grant you union leave, be it PRT or union paid to get it done! This is your union and your executive. You have the opportunity to shape it however you desire.

In Solidarity,

Tony Nelson, President  
CUPE Local 2081  
Camosun College Support Staff