

Annual Report to Members
Michel Turcotte, Recording Secretary

Brothers and Sisters:

Another year has gone by so quickly and it is that time of year again when the CUPE 2081 has its Annual General Meeting. I regretfully will not be joining you for the AGM due to a work meeting taking place out of province but I wanted you to know how much I have enjoyed working for you during the past year. If I am going to be honest, taking the minutes is probably the least fun aspect of the Recording Secretary position and the most fulfilling part is being able to represent and support members. In addition to taking the minutes, I have had the opportunity to participate in Executive and Membership meetings, be a delegate to the CUPE Vancouver Island District Council, and act as a steward on a number of occasions.

I have really enjoyed the opportunity to again be a delegate to the Vancouver Island District Council and only missed one meeting as over the last year. At the most recent meeting I was that ranking officer present and was able to make the Local's VIDC report where I highlighted some of the issues going on at Camosun. I have always learned a lot listening to the reports of other Locals as they battle with their employers for an equitable workplace. While my Recording Secretary position is not up for election this year, I would certainly accept nomination for and look forward to the opportunity of continuing to be a delegate to the VIDC for the coming year.

The most personally meaningful union activities that I had the opportunity to participate in this year is when I have had the opportunity to assist some of you in disputes with your employer to both protect your rights and ensure the collective agreement was being respected. Local 2081 does not currently have many stewards and I would urge more of you to become involved in that aspect of direct unionism. While being a steward can be discouraging at times, it can also be very satisfying. The strength of any union is in its members and I truly believe that the employer would not be as quick to try to get around the collective agreement if it knew there were more educated stewards in place to defend the rights of the members.

It has been a pleasure to serve you for the past year and I am looking forward to working with the newly elected members of the Executive over the coming year.

In Solidarity,

Michel Turcotte
Recording Secretary