

### 2020 WINTER UPDATE REPORT – VICE PRESIDENT

[DECEMBER 2020]

Greetings,

To say 2020 has been a challenging year is beyond cliché and seems like an empty statement. But yet I'm sure we can all actually relate to it in principal. The pandemic affects us all, not one of us is immune to its affects, even though how it befalls each of us differs greatly. We are in this together as they say, but the circumstances in which we are in it vary to quite an extent. The metaphor of us all being an ocean, with some in yachts, others in lifeboats, some in canoes and countless others treading the water seems a fitting one to me.

In these situations where challenges occur on a societal level we can certainly see the discrepancies revealed by how it befalls various people depending on their circumstances. It highlights the injustices and needs of many different communities. Who do we see struggling? Who is doing fine or even making record profits?

We need to really come together and work together for real changes to redress inadequacies. Which seems like a greater challenge in these days of isolation. Now as much as before, people and communities need to unite to work towards common goals. I recently participated as a delegate in the BC Federation of Labour convention, attending from home on line for two days. I really got a great deal of inspiration from it, as I once again began to feel a sense of connection to a larger community. Many of the resolutions we as delegates voted on felt relevant and were trying to create needed changes in our communities.

Sometimes we get bogged down in our own little myopic areas and I always like the refreshing wake up when I realize that our local is also connected to something bigger. Whether its a district council, provincial or federal CUPE convention or committee. There many of us who are working together towards a better and more just society. We have a long way to go, but we have also come so far. The task would be too much to carry alone, but in each other we can carry that fire to illuminate the darkest days of our here and now, and of our unknown tomorrows.

In solidarity

SHANE JOHNSON  
VICE PRESIDENT, CUPE Local 2081

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