

Literacy Reports to CUPE PEI

February 6, 2014

CUPE National Literacy Working Group Update:

I attended the last meeting of the 2 year term as a Co-Chair November 27-29, 2013 in Ottawa. Here are some highlights of the meeting:

Joint Meeting with the CUPE Learners' Council:

- The LWG met with the Learners' Council. The Learners' Council is transitioning to the Learning Champions Network (LCN). The goal of the LCN is to increase visibility by having members take on the role of champions for workplace programs.
- We worked together to share ideas about creating goals and objectives for learning commitments and how the Champions can reach out to fellow CUPE learners to encourage them in their learning journeys.
- Jinny Sims, New Democratic Party MP, Mike Luff of the Canadian Labour Congress and Brigid Hayes, an expert in literacy and essential skills (LES) and LES policies, joined us to discuss the Labour Market Agreements, the Canada Job Grant and their latest developments.

Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC):

- During our Literacy Working Group meeting, we had the opportunity to learn about the results of the PIAAC. The skills assessed in the PIAAC are literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology rich environments.
- This international study led by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) gave us an overview of results of the 22 countries that participated so far in this programme. More importantly, we now have an overview of the results of the 27,285 Canadian respondents who also represent immigrants, official language minorities and Aboriginal peoples.
- This information will allow us to have a better sense of the needs of Canadian workers which will help guide the work of our Committee.

Post Convention 2013:

- We reviewed the work of the Committee with respect to the National Convention. We shared our learnings about convention, resolutions, the selection process of the literacy award and the promotion of our work in the CUPE Village. This conversation will help our work for future conventions.

Regional Work:

- We updated each other on the literacy work we have been doing in our regions. We continue to do great work as activists in raising the profile of literacy and clear language within our regions. .

Promotion:

- We discussed upcoming promotion opportunities in 2014. We created a list of CUPE and community events and ideas to promote clear language and literacy at those events.

CUPE PEI Literacy Committee Update:

The Committee met on January 30, 2014. This was the first meeting of the newly formed Committee – 2 year term May 2013 – May 2015. Debra Wervers was elected the Secretary and Karyn Noble was elected the Chair. Other committee members include, Annie MacPhee, Bee Beaton, Linda Gillan Young and Louise Firlotte, Staff Advisor. The Committee is still missing a representative from the Municipal Sector. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2014.

Items discussed:

CUPE's Participation at Family Literacy Day:

- There was debriefing regarding the January 25th Family Literacy Day at the Confederation Centre. It was a great day!
- Thank you to the many volunteers for this event: Karyn & Jim Noble, George Ward, Bea Beaton, Melissa Bruce, Rose Lune Gaudet and Deborah Wervers.
- There was a large CUPE area – 2 zap banners, 3 computers with literacy programs for the children, literacy materials were passed out, literacy bags were given away and 2 children's craft tables were organized. The children's activities for this event was a great success, especially the computers.
- Thank you to the CUPE National Literacy Working Group which provided \$200 to help sponsor the event, provided materials, literacy bags and a mini Kobo ereader for the main giveaway prize. A draw was made: winner of the mini Kobo was Donna MacLean.
- Thank you to the CUPE PEI Division who paid for all the craft supplies.

CUPE PEI AGM Planning:

- Resolutions were discussed – Labour Market Agreements (LMA's) and the Canada Job Grant (CJG) and a Clear Language Standard Collective Agreement.
- Form Letter to MP's regarding LMA's and the CJG will be circulated
- Annual Report: various ideas were put forth.
- Book Drive: The Committee would like to organize this once again.
- PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy
- Awareness Activity: There were many ideas discussed.

Future Projects:

- Building on the CUPE's community literacy involvement – expanding and supporting Book Banks in Food Banks and Cool Books for Kids.

Political Action:

- Planning a meeting with Minister Roach re LMA's and the CJG with the PEI Federation of Labour, CUPE PEI and myself.

PEI Literacy Alliance Update:

I am currently in the first year of my second 2 year term as a Board Member. I continue to attend meetings on behalf of CUPE PEI.

- The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 26th.
- The Semi Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Noble