

CUPE National Childcare Working Group Report 2010

CUPE represents 100,000 child care workers across Canada. CUPE is one of the leading advocates for a cross-country system of early learning and child care. CUPE National Child Care Working Group has been active since 1981. CUPE National Child Care Working Group works in coalition nationally with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada and Code Blue for Child Care. To learn more about activities of the National Child Care Working go to www.cupe.ca/childcare.

CUPE PEI Division web site continues to be updated regularly with work of the National Childcare Working Group and affiliates. Reports from all National Committee meetings attended are also posted on CUPE PEI web site.

Organizing Child Care Workers continues to be priority for the National Child Care Working Group.

Over the past year myself and Sister Shawna Quinn as alternate rep to the National Childcare Working Group had the privilege of representing CUPE Prince Edward Island on the National Childcare Working Group. Our goal is to continue to advocate for Childcare issues on Prince Edward Island and across Canada by keeping members informed, involved and up to date on concerns, events, successes and initiatives in the Childcare Sector.

Resolutions that pertained to childcare that were presented and passed at CUPE PEI Convention 2009 have been followed up on by CUPE PEI Division Executive. CUPE PEI Division has encouraged and continues to encourage all CUPE Locals across Prince Edward Island to have childcare policies put in place in their local. We thank those locals that have acted on this resolutions and made provision for childcare in the local bylaws. A second resolutions passed at CUPE PEI Convention 2009 pertained to onsite childcare, there has been no interest shown from locals for onsite child care at the upcoming convention. A memo was sent to all Locals asking if there was an interest for onsite child care at the upcoming convention, there was no responses from any locals from this memo.

CUPE PEI Division continues to support childcare by renewing its membership with the Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada.

I continue to sit on the CUPE PEI Equity Committee, which is also a strong advocate for childcare issues.

May 25th and 26th 2009 the National Child Care Working Group met in Ottawa. Highlights from the meeting were recommending a new National Child Care Policy for both on-site and child/dependent allowances. "Children Welcome a Guide for providing On-Site Child Care at CUPE Events" was accepted and moved to production stage. Various parts of the "A Great Place to Grow Public Child Care" campaign was discussed. A presentation by Zeenat Janmohamed of the Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development Education, on her updated publication "Building Bridges Queer Families in Early Childhood Education" took place. The National Child Care Working Group agreed to pass on the publication and to work with the National Pink Triangle Committee on this issue. The working group also worked on reports and resolutions for the CUPE National Convention.

In September the National Childcare Working group took part in a conference call with all members across Canada participating. The call was to put final touches on the Anti-privatization campaign, "A Great Place to Grow Public child care".

During CUPE National Convention, I took part in the Child Care Sector Meeting which was held Sunday, October 4th from 10:00 am until noon.

The campaign "A Great Place to Grow Public child care" consisted of many events, one being a child care tour in seven different provinces across Canada. I had the opportunity to attend the event that took place in Fredericton, New Brunswick on October 27th, 2009. A book was launched during the tour, "About Canada, Child Care". There were also many new childcare promotional material introduced, U tube video, stickers, etc.

November 19th, I was invited to attend the Black Ribbon Event sponsored by Early Childhood Education Association on PEI. The event was to signify PEI child care's urgent need of significant financial investment. There were many parents, children, childcare centers, Early Childhood Educators and media at the event held in front of the legislative buildings in Charlottetown.

National Child Day was November 20th, 2009; this was proudly posted on our CUPE Charlottetown office sign. Many Elementary Schools across Prince Edward Island celebrated this day in various ways, cookies were baked for students, juice provided and fun activities were planned.

January 28th and 29th, 2010 the National Child Care Working Group met in Ottawa, Sister Shawna Quinn attended the meetings as the alternate rep. The two days consisted of discussing the on-site child care and dependent care policy, the CUPE National Strategic Directions document and resolutions that were passed at the CUPE National Convention in October. The committee also reviewed the draft summary of the Child Care Tour evaluations and what the next steps would be for the National Campaign for Public Child Care.

March 8th, 2010, there was a press release issued by CUPE PEI Division recognizing International Women's Day, the failure to establish national child care was highlighted in this press release as one of the challenges facing us today.

In March 2010, new Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development was introduced, Doug Currie. Minister Currie has stated that two of his greatest interest is Education and Early Childhood Development. He has also stated that he is working with the Early Childhood Sector to develop a vision and a five year plan to build a system of strong and sustainable early childhood services in the province. We look forward to working with Minister Currie to obtain these goals.

Also in March Kathleen Flanagan, who is working on a project sponsored by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in partnership with the Department of Health and Wellness, Community Services/Seniors/Labour, and Executive Council Office contacted me to do a telephone interview as CUPE National Child Care Working Group member from PEI. The project she is working on is to develop a framework for early childhood development in PEI, along with a five year action plan. The work will focus on early learning and care programs and services, and will also consider how these services relate to the broad array of community and public health services for children.

Being a member of the National Child Care Working Group has been a wonderful experience, I have made some life long connections! I congratulate Sister Shawna Quinn on her appointment to the CUPE National Child Care Working Group and look forward to continue working with her on child care issues provincially and nationally. I thank CUPE for the great opportunity!

Respectively submitted,

Stacy Delaney