

## CUPE PEI Women's Committee Report to Convention 2010

The Women's Committee met twice this past year. The members of the committee are; Karyn Noble, Division Liaison; Melissa Bruce, UPEI; Wanda Livingston, West Health; Shirley Johnston, East Health; Pauline Gass, Municipalities; Susan Cole, West Education; and Lori Mackay, East Education. Topics discussed by the committee include, women's caucus, convention resolutions, union education, International Women's Day, and December 6<sup>th</sup>.

CUPE women's caucus are a relatively new practice for CUPE PEI, so the Women's Committee spent a lot of time considering what is the best for the members on PEI. The women's caucus at the 2009 CUPE PEI Convention was a success for which we were very pleased. Three of the four resolutions that were discussed at the caucus were voted in favor of on the convention floor. Many of the women who attended the caucus spoke at the microphone encouraging members to support our initiatives. The committee looked at what worked and what hasn't worked at the recent caucuses and have made some changes for this year. Most notably, it will be called a Women's Luncheon instead of a caucus. We encourage all the women attending convention to please join us. Just pick up your lunch and we will meet in a room that will be advertised in the convention kits.

The Women's Committee worked in partnership with the Equality Committee and the Maritimes Region Equality Representative, Sister Maureen Michaud. We discussed the Equality Bargaining Conference with the Education and Equality representatives. We hope the Conference will take place in the fall of 2010. A press release was distributed to mark International Women's Day by the Equality Representative for which the committee gave their input. The committee supported the PEI Federation of Labour with the newly established December 6<sup>th</sup> Monument in the City of Summerside. As well, the committee helped with the Canadian Labour Congress' Postcard Campaign to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. We look forward to working further with an Equality Coalition of the PEI Federation of Labour.

Two very important issues that we feel are important for women's involvement in their union are local womens' committees and childcare policies. We encourage locals to consider establishing both. Members of the Women's Committee would be glad to help you out if you are interested in making them a priority for your local. Education is also an important factor in women's involvement in the union. The committee is very encouraged by the number of women who are participating in Union Development Courses. The Women Breaking Barriers Course is going to take place very shortly and we are excited to have it back on the Island again!

The committee would like to thank The Division for their support and cooperation; especially for the accommodations made to convention so that we are able to host our Women's Luncheon.

In Solidarity  
The Committee

