

## **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COUNCIL REPORT**

The CUPE National Aboriginal Council met twice in the last year most recently in May of 2011. The major focus of my work with the CUPE National Aboriginal Council is to work toward the formation of an "Eastern Bloc" Atlantic/Maritime Aboriginal Council. Hopefully our next may coincide with such a gathering. I have worked closely with NAC Representatives Stella Ward of N.B. and Don Webber from Newfoundland and Labrador as well as Diversity Vice President Brian Barron and CUPE Staffer Don Moran to make this possible in keeping with the wishes of the other Division's as well as CUPE National's support. Regional aboriginal councils now exist in every other region in Canada and the formation of a new one in the Atlantic/Maritimes Region will complete the vision we share for Canada as a whole. The CUPE PEI Division Executive have endorsed this model as have our equality committee. The issues our aboriginal members face in this region are similar in nature and through this we can be in a better position to work together.

I have also been active with many other initiatives of NAC including water issues, human rights and supporting such initiatives as promoting National Aboriginal Day.

I have also been active as co-chair of PEI's Equality Committee and promoting/organizing the bargaining equality conference held one day prior to Convention. This has been the major focus of this group's work and has led me to work in collaboration with other equity seeking groups on and off Island. I also wish to welcome Sister Mona Yammine to the Rainbow Committee as it is one which we work closely with. I did attend the provincial March 21st, International Day for the Elimination of Discrimination event at Blanchard Community Center as well as other events celebrating National Aboriginal Day. I have worked with members of Mikmaq Confereracy as well as Native Council on some initiatives as well including literacy and other issues. I also hope to work with CUPE's National Literacy Working Group in a project with National Aboriginal Council. I remain connected with equality issues through my work at UPEI as I have assisted the Diversity Office on some initiatives including Safe Spaces Campaign and rally against bullying and homophobia. I also remain connected to refugee issues and the work of the Newcomers Association and spoke at an event for refugee rights day in March. I also have been active within anti-poverty groups Poverty Bites and Working Group for a Livable Income which relate to the poverty issues within our communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leo Cheverie  
CUPE PEI Representative on National Aboriginal Council.