

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COUNCIL Report

I have been pleased to have represented Prince Edward Island on CUPE's National Aboriginal Council for both 2008-2010 and being reappointed for 2010-2012.

The Council met twice in past year —November 16-18, 2009 in Winnipeg where we participated in events commemorating Louis Riel Day. We also met after reappointment at the All Committees National Meeting in Montreal from March 29-April 1, 2010 in Montreal. We met jointly with the National Rainbow Committee as well during these times.

I was also asked by the National Aboriginal Council to represent them re National Energy Issues at National Sectoral Meetings re aboriginal workers for a conference hosted by the National Electricity Sectoral Council last November and that also allowed me to attend the Blue Summit on water issues co hosted by CUPE and Council of Canadians which was held just afterwards in Ottawa. Water issues remain a priority of our National Council.

I also co-chaired the Provincial Equality Committee this past year and it endorsed the establishment of a regional Aboriginal Council for the Atlantic/Maritimes Regions. The PEI Division of CUPE endorsed this effort as well. At the recent Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador Divisions this was also endorsed and those Conventions were attended by DVP Brian Barron and staff member Don Moran. This will be something that will complete the formation of regional/provincial Aboriginal Councils in every region in Canada. I would like to identify more aboriginal members from Prince Edward Island who can be involved in this exciting development.

I also attended a local consultation re the formation of the Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg on behalf of CUPE Division President Milo Murray. I have also participated in events re International Development Week, Aboriginal awareness events at UPEI, International Day for the Elimination of Racism, National Aboriginal Day. I am pleased that Chief Brian Francis from Scotch fort and Chief of Abegweit Band as well as Mikmaq Confederacy will attend Convention to bring greetings. I hope to continue working with the Confederacy and PEI Native Council to promote the CUPE National Aboriginal work on Abegweit (Prince Edward Island).

In Solidarity,
Leo Cherrie