

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL COUNCIL and other activities

I attended two National Aboriginal Council meetings in the past year and am pleased that Don Moran has been hired as a full time equality representative for National Office to deal with aboriginal issues. It has also been good to welcome new equality representatives in both the Maritimes/Atlantic Regions.

In the past year, I was part of the Governor General Leadership Conference planning group for PEI which included a trip to the Lennox Island Reserve which I arranged. Also as part of the UPEI International Development Week Committee, we hosted Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and I made contacts with both the Mikmaq Confederacy and PEI Native Council as well as the aboriginal youth project hosted by ACIC. Victoria chairs the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. One of her main concerns was impact of climate change on indigenous peoples and so it was an honour to represent the National Aboriginal Council on meetings re CUPE's National Power/Electricity strategy in March. The next NAC meeting is scheduled for early June.

I also participated in meetings to gear up CUPE PEI's equity/equality committee and have been active on the PEI Global Justice Committee. I also represent the Division on The PEI Working Group for a Livable Income where equality issues are also part of our mandate particularly as Women's Network, Advisory Council on The Status of Women and Council for Peoples with Disability are very active members. I have attended local events commemorating refugee rights day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Women's Day and Baraka Day for Black History Month. I also helped host meetings with Rights Action re the environmental crimes Canadian mining companies are perpetuating in indigenous communities in Indonesia and Central America. was happy to participate in training on the Racial Justice course in the pilot held in this Region.

