

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

As you are all well aware, the environment is crucial to our well being in the future. As your committee rep from our Island, I have heard from our CUPE Sisters & Brothers across Canada about their issues and concerns - hey, we aren't doing so bad here.

- Our re-cycling facility/system is way ahead of other provinces and generally we are continually looking at ways to help the environment.
- Buying locally
- Our schools have amazing programs, field trips etc. which keeps all students interested and wanting to protect the planet.
- Island Transit continues to grow .
- Education out there regarding water issues, pesticides, sustainable energy, waste management etc.
- Agricultural industry has all sorts boundaries and guidelines regarding our environment.
- Conservation is very evident in the fishing industry.
- Forestry ?

The issues in other provinces are, of course bigger in every capacity - oil sands, nuclear waste dumps, GMO seeds, water, forestry, climate change, conservation, hospital waste, construction and everyone's carbon footprint - all of which provide a base for awesome discussions.

The last meeting in December 2008 was a paperless meeting - was great! All the information (reports, forms, general information, agenda etc.) and page to take notes was provided on a memory stick given to each committee rep. Everyone had a laptop and those that didn't were able to borrow one from CUPE - thank you Local 1145 for allowing your laptop to travel! CUPE National has a lovely Conference Room for these purposes. Next meeting is scheduled for April 3,4 and 5th - will also be a paperless meeting.

The "POWER UP" Conference in Regina was for the most part paperless as well. No laptop required - all the information was shown on large screens - each participant received a memory stick with an overview of the agenda to be viewed at their convenience.

President, Paul Moist, reported that National did not have to send a truckload of paper to this meeting - saving fuel, trees, and a lot of energy. Hopefully, this will also be the case at CUPE PEI Convention in May and CUPE National Convention in October.

Since this is a non-active committee, it's very difficult to write an interesting report, that being said, have a good meeting and please let's all try to help in protecting our Island from environmental disasters and continue the good things already being done -

Respectfully submitted
Judy MacKay