



Literacy Working Group Report to the National Executive Board March 2011

Convention Awareness

Literacy Working Group members are busy this spring raising awareness at Division Conventions. Presentations, posters and fact sheets will remind locals how literacy and essential skills programs can help CUPE members in times of change.

LWG members are also informing locals about the Labour Market Agreements. These federal transfers are making it possible for provinces to develop and support upgrading programs at work. What will happen when the LMAs come to an end in 2013? We are encouraging CUPE locals and Divisions to add literacy and the LMAs to their political action work.

Preparing for National Convention

The call for nominations for the CUPE National Literacy Award will go out in the April mailout. The award is a great opportunity to shine the light on the activists who are making a difference for CUPE members. It is particularly powerful to see how many activists are literacy learners themselves.

Although the Literacy Award is the highlight of Convention for the Literacy Working Group, we are also looking forward to the presentation on the clear language version of the CUPE Constitution.

The Convention will bring to a close our celebration of the "first 10 years" of the Literacy Program. We are working on an interactive DVD to invite locals to join the journey for the next 10 years. The DVD highlights learner voices and includes hands-on activities and games.

Federal funded project is underway

The Office of Literacy and Essential Skills has funded our Literacy Program to continue work in three key areas:

- E-learning: increase access to learning opportunities for CUPE members in small workplaces and remote communities.
- Aboriginal Workers: adapt the community-based model we piloted in Bella Bella (BC) to be used in other communities. Introduce the learning representative model with the help of the National Aboriginal Council.
- Francophone workers outside Quebec: develop a model to integrate literacy and essential skills into existing and new workplace skills training programs.

The two-year project started in December and will run until the end of 2012. We are working with a number of partners and the project is helping to establish CUPE as a community leader.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bjorknas and Chad Ennis
Co-chairs, Literacy Working Group