

National Literacy Working Group Report Highlights, December 2009

2010 marks the 10th Anniversary of the CUPE Literacy Program!

The Committee (LWG) met in Ottawa, Ontario and spent 2 ½ days:

- *reconnecting* with CUPE literacy activists
- *reflecting* on the first 10 years of the CUPE literacy program and
- *working together* to make our program even more creative, inclusive and impactful!

The theme of the meeting was “Open Hearts, Celebrations, and Deepening Understanding” through the exploration of the committee’s journey, sharing its stories, hopes and dreams and vision.

Some of the group’s dreams for the future were:

- workplace learning programs in every local
- literacy and clear language “lens” is applied to everything we do in CUPE
- all workers have access to education and training
- a Standard Collective Agreement in clear language
- all workplace training is a joint effort between the employer and union
- labour’s approach to literacy is the model in workplace learning programs across the country
- every Division has a Literacy Committee

This is a time of transition for the working group as a number of long term members are retiring or moving into other roles in the union.

The Literacy Program receives funding of \$210,300.00 from the federal government: The theme of the project is: *Beyond the Mainstream – Creating Learning Opportunities at Work*. The goal of this project is to create opportunities to improve the literacy and essential skills of potential learners often missed by mainstream efforts. To do that, we need to identify and address the barriers faced by particular groups of workers. The project will focus on small and remote workplaces with Aboriginal and Francophone workers outside Quebec. The project will start in April 2010 and will run for 2 years.

2009 National Convention supports Clear Language: The LWG is very pleased with the decision made to revise the CUPE National Constitution into clear language. The LWG would like to thank the National Executive Board for putting forward this resolution. The LWG is looking forward to working on this project on the ad hoc committee that will be working on the revisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karyn Noble