

## **CUPE National Persons with Disabilities Working Group Report**

The persons with Disabilities National Workshop Working Group meet only once since my last report. We had a huge agenda which we were able to get through. I would like to share a few highlights with you.

We had a telephone presentation with a lady named Eileen McKee. She works with the Canadian Working Group on HIV/aids and Rehabilitation. She spoke to the mandate of her group to facilitate the collaboration between medical professionals and rehabilitation specialists in the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with episodic disabilities such as HIV/aids. She spoke to the challenges faced by people with the episodic disabilities and the disincentives to attempting to return to work. Her group conducted research on what other countries/economies are doing to accommodate people with episodic disabilities to be able to work. The group concluded and recommended that the CPP-D become more flexible. They also surveyed HR Professionals about their understanding of episodic disabilities, and has developed an online accredited course for HR Professionals to develop skills in dealing with these issues. She confirmed that there is a need to develop policy which supports people with episodic disabilities to return to work on a part time basis, to give them more security with respect to their employment and their benefits.

The CLC Disabilities Rights Conference was cancelled due to Labour unrest in the host hotel and to low registration for the event. The Group:

1. Chose 2 committee members to help audit the facilities for CUPE 2009 National Convention.
2. Set up a committee with the Group Staff advisor and Director of the Equality Branch to recommend and select the recipient of Disability Activism Award.
3. We agreed to work at a new and improved action plan for 2009 - 2011.
4. The group agreed to update the accessibility checklist.
5. The group noted the specific name has been changed to "International Day for Disabled Persons".

The group is very active and tries very hard to be creative and think outside the box. At this time, I would like to thank Sisters Conni Kilfoil, and Candance Rennick, and Brothers Paul Moist and Claude Genereux for their hard work and support.

Thank-you Brother Paul for writing a letter to Prime Minister Harper on behalf of 590,000 members and our persons with Disabilities National Working Group to urge the Government to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Thank-you to CUPE NEB. They adopted a new policy to ensure that members with Disabilities do not face barriers to participation at the National Conventions or at National events.

Thank-you all very very much.

Respectively Submitted,

Elaine Fagan

