

Annual Report National Advisory Committee on Pensions

We met in Ottawa in December 2008. At this meeting we attempted to take the environment into consideration by having the information on computer disks. We were suppose to have a lap top computer at the meeting, however there wasn't enough of them available for everyone.

Joel Harding of the CLC presented a talk on the Economic and Financial Crisis. Employers are on the attack to destroy our defined benefit pension plans and we must **NOT** let this happen! Many ideas have come from the Labor Movement to deal with the Economic Crisis. These are just a few:

- 1) Invest in our future: Infrastructure and Procurement
- 2) Increase access to Employment Insurance and Training
- 3) Protect workers pensions and increase public pension plans CPP and OAS
- 4) Save manufacturing and forestry jobs with government investment to support these sectors
- 5) Maintain and expand services for people. Maintain all existing transfers to the Provinces.

There have been Pension System Reviews in several provinces with many proposals. One proposal would allow employers to convert from DB plans to DC plans and with little or no problem. We must watch carefully when our government introduces Pension Legislation on P.E.I. to ensure that we get the best pension legislation possible for our members.

We had a great debate over the 2007 Strategic Direction Policy as it relates to pensions. We believe 60-65% of CUPE members have some type of pension plan. Do we think that everyone wants to be in a plan? Members who work part-time at more than one job or work for low wages may feel they cannot afford to pay into a pension plan.

We had a frank discussion with our National President Paul Moist on what the Strategic Direction Policy means for pensions.

We began working on Convention 2009 with pension resolutions, committee reports and the Pension Forum which will be held in Montreal on Sunday, October 4th, 2009.

We had an update from Union Development Department. They have trained 36 facilitators to give the Introduction to Pensions Workshop. The 5th Trustee Training Workshop was completed and the next one is scheduled to be held in Ottawa in late Spring 2009. Over the Internet live in January there was a pilot