

July 9, 1985

To: Executive, Canadian University Employees/CUPE

From: Fairleigh Wettig, President/Union Organizer

It is with a great deal of regret that I must inform you that I have accepted an offer of employment from the B.C. Government Employees' Union. My last day of work will be Friday, August 2, 1985 and I hope to take two weeks vacation, thereafter, before beginning the new position August 19, 1985.

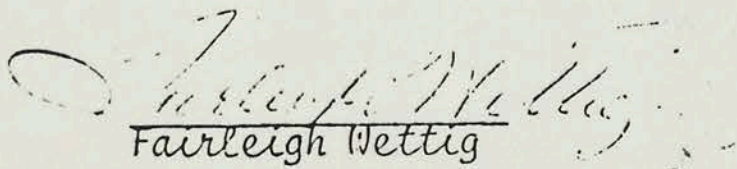
This was a very difficult decision for me to make and one which I laboured over for some time. It is my hope that you will recognize the deep affinity I have for our Union and that you will believe that I find it exceedingly difficult to say good-bye to so many who have shown me friendship, respect and moral support.

My decision was formulated in a practical way. The Union finds itself at a difficult crossroad. We have taken steps to ensure our survival for the greater and long term good of the membership. At the same time, those steps have entailed a consideration of compromise at the local level; a possible reduction of our own servicing staff. This consideration is necessary if we are not to demand a further financial burden on our membership in the form of another dues increase. My decision to accept this offer of employment was, in part, based on the knowledge that realistically we must downsize our local office.

The Union is fortunate to have a co-operative and responsible Executive as well as a marvelous group of people in the office. Patricia and Ted consistently give above and beyond the call of duty ... but even more, they do so without losing those basic human qualities that make them so approachable. It is my hope that they will stay and run again in future elections. If they were not to continue, their loss would be a significant one for the organization. In leaving I wish to impress upon everyone that, to my mind, we forget and have not always recognized, in a real way, the true value of such knowledgeable and capable individuals. As a Union it sometimes escapes us that we are also an employer. Just as we argue for equitable and fair terms of employment for our members, so must we strive to be an example of our own philosophies. We must encourage longevity and continuity of employment and in so doing, we can only benefit.

The years that I have spent on campus and particularly, in the Union Office, have taught me a great deal; not the least of which is that we have matured as an organization and can take pride in being an open, honest and accountable Union. The strides we have made were not easy. In future, they may well be tougher - I believe the Executive is up to that challenge. My thanks to you all for your assistance in what has been a challenging and rewarding job. I am sincerely grateful to the membership for their confidence and support over the years. Last but certainly not least, my heart-felt thanks and affection to Patricia, Ted and Rosemary for their friendship, help and patience (!) over the last two years. I'll miss you all!

Sincerely,


Fairleigh Wettig

CC: All Executive Members