

Canadian Union of Public Employees

#100 - 7535 6th Street,
Burnaby, B.C.
V3N 3M2

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Telephone: 520-6301

SEP 15 1985

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES
UNION (C.U.P.E.)
September 15, 1985

Greetings:

As you are probably aware CUPE members are on strike in Powell River and Penticton.

As a result of the strike in Penticton the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Labour Relations Association has locked out all our members in most Okanagan Centres. (The City of Vernon does not belong to the accredited employers association and therefore has not locked out our members there).

Last year, at a Provincial Bargaining Conference, a coordinated bargaining strategy was adopted by CUPE B.C. affiliates. Nine central issues were established as key demands and these were put on the bargaining table by most Locals. (A copy of this strategy paper is enclosed). This policy was subsequently adopted at the CUPE B.C. Convention in June, 1985.

The major issue identified at regional meetings last Fall was Job Security. Powell River and the Okanagan Locals are walking the picket lines for this issue.

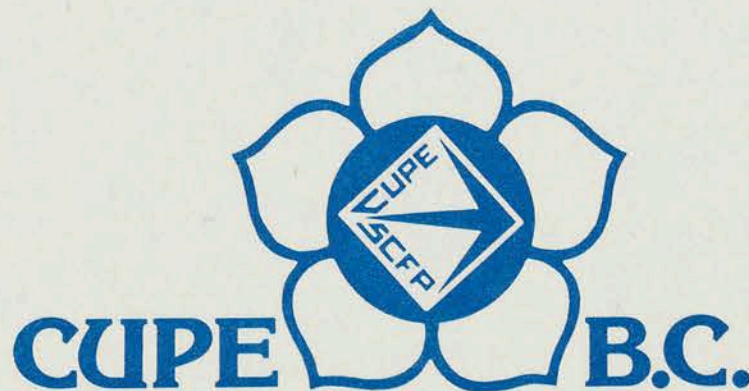
In both areas the employers have put numerous demands for concessions on the table and refused to move. As well they are demanding a reduction in wages. (It is important to note here that no other CUPE settlement this year has contained concessions).

In order to assist these members the CUPE B.C. Executive Board approved strike pay of \$250.00 a week. This includes the \$75.00 from the National Union and the regular \$25.00 from CUPE B.C. We did this to keep the employer from starving our members and their families into submission. It is working! In both cases the employers have asked our Locals to come back to the bargaining table and negotiations are proceeding with the help of mediators.

Defence Fund monies are low! Can you help?

CUPE B.C. members are contributing an hour's pay a week to the Defence Fund to make sure the strike pay is maintained.

Please consider making a contribution.



PRESIDENT
MIKE DUMLER


SECRETARY-TREASURER
BERNICE KIRK

We are enclosing information Bulletins explaining what the strike/lockout is all about. We also have speakers available for your meetings either from the picket lines, or one of us.

For more information please contact Sister Kirk at the CUPE B.C. Office 520-6301.

The need is urgent, please help!

In Solidarity,


Mike Dumler, President


Bernice Kirk, Secretary-Treasurer.

c.c. Jeff Rose
Jean-Claude Laniel
Len Stair
Pascal Ingenito
B.C. Staff

CUPE member Dal Hennig has been doing the job at the cemetery for 20 years but he was booted out. Dal's job was handed to the mayor's son-in-law!

Within weeks, CUPE Local 608 was on strike after an 88 percent strike vote. We are out in Penticton against political patronage in contracting out; and to protect our contract against concessions.

The OMMLRA decided to defend patronage in Penticton and push for concessions by locking the doors on CUPE members in 12 other communities. Even though the city councils of Kamloops and Logan Lake voted against the lockout, the OMMLRA forced them to do it – with a court order.

The OMMLRA stated recently that CUPE members must drop their job security request and accept concessions to end the lockout. Our members and their families can't afford to do that.

The lockout continues.

These CUPE members need the funds from the assessment to keep their households operating – just as you would if you were in their position.

The assessment is important

CUPE's bargaining clout in B.C. depends, almost completely, on the successful collection of this assessment from local unions. Here's why:

Our employers are afraid of a solidarity that produces \$250 a week. It scares them because they can no longer even try to starve us into submission.

To successfully collect this assessment means that, next time 'round, your local union can continue hard bargaining for a fair collective agreement without the fear of personal financial difficulties if you're forced into a strike or lockout.

Do you need any help explaining this to your membership?

Some local unions will pay their assessment by using funds on hand. But others may have to explain the situation to a full membership meeting very soon.

If you would like some help at your membership meeting, CUPE B.C. has speakers available who are most willing to lend you a hand. Workers who are on strike or locked out will be pleased to attend your meeting to explain their situation to your members. And the CUPE B.C. executive is always prepared to assist you.

Please don't approach your membership unprepared.

If you decide you would like a guest speaker, please contact the CUPE B.C. Secretary Treasurer, Bernice Kirk, at 520-6301. Please give her as much advance notice as possible, because she needs a bit of time to arrange transportation and accommodation for your guest speaker(s).

**Let's show these employers
they can't kick CUPE members
around without dealing with
the rest of us.**

CUPE  B.C.

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SEP 11 8 1986
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES
UNION (C.U.P.E.)

HELP!

There are 1,100 CUPE members walking picket lines in British Columbia right now. They're out to preserve their contracts. And they need your help.

This has been a hectic year of collective bargaining for CUPE in British Columbia. Bargaining Committees and National Representatives have appeared at negotiating tables on behalf of 125 local unions. Miraculously, an overwhelming majority of contracts were successfully negotiated without incident. Some are still to be concluded. But two have resulted in strikes, and CUPE members are locked out in twelve Okanagan cities and towns.

Despite these problems, we have done well. We successfully negotiated agreements for more than 100 local unions so far and not one local union accepted concessions. That is an excellent achievement.

But there are two areas where employers are insisting that CUPE members take concessions or there will be no contract. One is the City of Powell River. The other is in Kamloops and in 12 Okanagan communities.

CUPE members in those areas are walking the picket lines because they won't take cuts in their collective agreements. And the cost of helping to maintain the homes and families of these CUPE members during those important battles, falls on all of us.

Here's how this has happened, and how you can help . . .

\$250 a week is not a lot

In the past, CUPE members who were locked out or on strike could only count on receiving \$100 from their union. CUPE B.C. members decided that wasn't enough money to keep families together during a labour dispute.

After many months of discussion and debate, the members decided that CUPE B.C. would make sure members on picket lines receive \$250 a week.

In an overwhelming show of support, representatives of local unions decided that if you are forced off your job or you decide to take strike action, you'll be paid enough to keep your household together.

In order to pay for this, CUPE members agreed we would all chip in, through a local union assessment, to help those on the picket lines.

The time has come to help out

CUPE B.C. has dipped to the bottom of our Defence Fund to keep the paycheques going to Powell River, Kamloops and the Okanagan for the past few months. We must now turn to our members and ask that each local union honour its commitment to an assessment – because your Defence Fund desperately needs your financial help.

We need that assessment now.

The cost should be an average of \$10 per member per week. And the assessment will only continue until the Defence Fund is back to its normal level.

Here's what caused the Powell River Strike:

The Powell River Civic Employees (CUPE 798) voted 98 percent for strike action when their employer refused to remove his demand for 66 contract concessions plus wage rollbacks.

The strength of the strike vote and strong community response forced Mayor Colin Palmer to withdraw most of his demands for concessions, but last-minute bargaining against a strike deadline still wouldn't move the mayor off his position of concessions enough to avert a walkout.

The 148 members of CUPE 798 went on strike on Monday, August 14 at 6:30 a.m. This is the first civic strike in the 31-year history of Powell River. Our members are still on the picket lines.

Your local union assessment will help the families of these striking workers.

Here's what happened in the Okanagan:

CUPE has more than a thousand members who are civic employees in 12 Okanagan communities and in Kamloops. These members negotiate with an accredited employer agency called the Okanagan Mainline Municipal Labour Relations Association (OMMLRA).

CUPE's bargaining proposals included the very important request for action on job security. Contracting out has been rampant in the Okanagan and our members there want to take a first step to control it.

While we were at the table discussing the issue of job security, the employer was demanding concessions. Meanwhile, the mayor of Penticton and his city council voted unanimously to contract out the maintenance of the Peachbowl and the municipal cemetery.

The Peachbowl jobs went to the mayor's golfing buddies, and CUPE members were given the boot.