

TO: The AUCE membership

FROM: Kitti Cheema

As candidate for Union Organiser I am running on the following platform:

Government attacks on Public Sector workers are coming with increased severity because of the severity of the economic crisis. Governments at all levels have mortgaged the Canadian workers to foreign finance capital and are making the workers pay for this debt. Witness Trudeau's 6 & 5 per cent "solution" and the Socreds Compensation Stabilization Act.

The government is meeting with increased resistance from working people and therefore has begun a new trend. This trend started with the AIB in 1976 and has been developed by the so-called workers party (NDP-style) of Levesque in Quebec. First, the PQ refused to stick to the negotiated contract of the Public Sector workers. Then, a Decree was passed rolling back wages by 20%. When this did not work, legislation was passed to enforce severe penalties on teachers who continued to resist through strike action.

It is important to note these attacks are not restricted to the Public Sector. Forcing wages down in this sector results in wages being forced down in the Private Sector as well. Statistics show this is in fact happening.

We in AUCE should be prepared not only to support the teachers just struggle in Quebec but also to fight to protect ourselves when we are the target as we were in 1976. At this time the AIB rolled back our wages months after they were negotiated forcing most of us to pay back large sums of money.

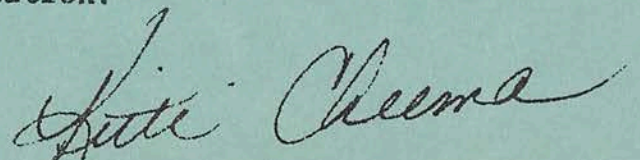
The following are very important issues for the AUCE membership to fight for:

1. Guaranteed JOB SECURITY and NO LAY-OFFS.
2. No REDUCTIONS IN THE WORK FORCE through attrition, discontinuing positions, technological change or any other means.
3. HEALTH AND SAFETY of AUCE members must be protected, particularly where VDT'S are concerned.

Independence or Merger?

AUCE should remain an independant union. However, neither independence nor merger will solve our problems. The decisive factor has never been the organisation but the necessity for a trade union which defends the interests of the membership. Other trade unions are big and have lots of money, yet their leadership sells out the membership. The decisive element is neither money, size nor "professionals". It is a conscious, organised membership which fights to defend and extend their political, economic and other rights. To constantly drag the membership into this debate creates a diversion and acts as a roadblock which prevents AUCE members from dealing with the real issues facing them. It succeeds in keeping us split, fighting amongst ourselves and by doing this plays into the hands of the University administration. It helps the University administration continue to violate the contract with impunity when the entire membership is too busy to deal with it.

This is my platform. If elected, I will consider this platform my mandate from the membership and will fight for its implementation.



Why I Want to be the 'new' Carole Cameron

Yes folks, AUCE Local 1 is actually having an election for one of the three paid positions, and in the process we're losing one of the best people we've had in our office. And yes, I'm willing to stand for the position (or should I say sit for it), even though, as Carole, Shirley and Pat point out, their jobs are stressful, demanding and nerve-wracking. So, why do I want it?

According to our office personnel two of the key criteria for the position of Union Organizer are the ability to make good coffee and sing around the office. I do sing off-key (with a little help from my friends), make rather good coffee and am a very organized person. I've been a shop steward for six years in the Math Department, successfully handled reclassifications, been the Executive Rep. for Division E and served as co-Chair of our Strike Committee before leaving UBC in 1980.

If elected to replace Carole I will work hard to represent our Union's interests. Hopefully, my coffee-making skills and singing voice will contribute to what is a very efficiently functioning unit.

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