

REPORT TO THE SPECIAL CONVENTION BY THE AUCE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

Subsequent to the directions of the 6th Annual Convention, the Provincial Executive sent a letter to the CLC seeking affiliation for the Provincial Association. The CLC response was negative.

AUCE Locals elected their representatives to the Cross-Local Affiliation Committee and the Provincial Executive together with the elected reps organised regular meetings and commenced the research on options for affiliation.

The meetings commenced in September, and although the 1979 Convention had directed that the Committee report back to the membership of each local in no more than 3 months' time, it was realised that the volume of responsibility made this directive impossible to fulfill.

The Affiliation Committee, after meeting with Bill Smalley of the CLC, drafted an outline for Structure and Responsibilities which was approved by the Provincial Executive. The Provincial Executive monitored the decisions of the Affiliation Committee and business was referred back and forth.

One of the major responsibilities undertaken by the Provincial Executive was to ensure as much involvement as possible by the College of New Caledonia Local 5 in Prince George. It was financially unfeasible to fly Local 5 reps to every weekly meeting; what was decided and approved by the Local 5 reps was that the meeting audio tapes would be duplicated, sent to the Local, the reps would listen to the tapes and if any business decided on by the committee was not approved by the Local 5 reps they had the option of having action delayed until their opinions were made known. The Provincial Secretary-Treasurer initiated contact with the CLC affiliates, the Confederation of Canadian Unions, SORWUC and other labour organisations in order to pave the way for the research and meetings to take place. The Secretary-Treasurer also assisted the committee with correspondence and contact with the media.

Research went smoothly, as you will see by the Affiliation Committee reports. The Provincial Executive discussed Affiliation Committee progress regularly at monthly meetings.

In addition to ensuring the flow of communication between the membership and the Affiliation Committee several other tasks were undertaken by the Provincial Executive. In November of 1979, at the BC Federation of Labour Convention several references were made to our union in the Executive Council report. The Provincial Executive issued a press release in response to the inference by the BCFed that AUCE's conduct as an independent union was unbecoming to the trade union movement - our response stated that we had communicated with the 'Fed' in order that our actions, especially surrounding the Local 2 strike at SFU, were rendered with BCFed policy taken into consideration. The Press Release further stated that AUCE had applied for affiliation to the Canadian Labour Congress and had been denied. In February of 1980 the Provincial set up a meeting for the General Membership of the Provincial Association. While the meeting was not particularly well-attended, the meeting was informative. The session was video-taped and subsequently made available to the locals for their use.

In March of 1980 members of the Provincial Executive visited AUCE #5 with members from other locals who were conducting an educational seminar subsidised by the Canada Department of Labour. What happened at the Local 5 meeting, ostensibly to discuss affiliation, was really exciting. We ended up discussing the objectives of the union as a whole, problems of a small, somewhat isolated local in particular, and directions that would be shared by the Provincial and the Local that would ensure better services and communication.

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Provincial Executive Report - con't:

It's April now, and we are at the culmination of much organising and research. The Provincial Executive arranged for the Special Convention. Delegates have been elected and Resolutions have been received. The people on the Provincial Executive represent as much a cross-section of opinions on all options as possible. What we as an Executive did unanimously agree on was the fact that we think AUCE can exist as a viable organisation either as an independent, or as an affiliate of the Canadian Labour Congress, or with any other body that would accept AUCE intact. One motion that was recently entertained by the Provincial Executive and was defeated was the recommendation that AUCE affiliate to the Confederation of Canadian Unions. The Executive could not decide on where AUCE should go IF it is to go anywhere at all. All of us were strongly opposed to merger as the route for affiliation to the CLC. What we did most strongly agree upon is that the decision about AUCE's future should be made by the membership. We welcome the delegates to the Convention and are confident that the members present will ensure that the membership of our union is assured a part in the decision-making process.  
In Solidarity,

Sheila Perret, Secretary-Treasurer, on behalf of the Provincial Executive.

April 12th, 1980

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