

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONVENTION FROM THE PROVINCIAL TRUSTEES

This report was prepared by Virginia Gibberd on behalf of the Provincial Trustees and Alternate Provincial Trustees.

It has been an extremely busy year for the AUCE Provincial Trustees, who were involved not only with referendums, but also with the Affiliation Committee, the Special General Membership Meeting in February, and of course with the Special Convention in April.

The following referendums resulted from the 6th Annual Convention:

- Dues Increase (failed)
- Name Change to include word 'union' (failed)
- Election of the present Executive.

In May and June of 1979, a \$5.00 assessment referendum for the Local 2 & 6 Strike Funds, was successfully carried out and eventually netted approximately \$8800.

Provincial Trustee Joy Smith, after having done a great deal of work on the above-mentioned referendum ballots, had to resign for personal reasons in January of this year. Resultingly, at the Special Convention on Affiliation, three Alternate Trustees were elected to help with the referendum ballots concerning affiliation. Alternates provided a great help for the other Provincial Trustees, especially since, Vicki Nunwieler, a member of the Trustees Committee is an out-of-town member of Local 5 in Prince George.

Involvement is frustrated by distance. Local 5 reps to the Provincial Executive, and Provincial Trustees who are members of that Local, could be more involved if regular sub-committee meetings for all Trustees could be held on the same week-end as the regular monthly meetings of the Provincial Executive. Having to worry about long-distance phone bills, and not being able to call an impromptu meeting which would involve the Local 5 people certainly hampers in-depth planning and productive discussions.

In conducting the referendum ballots this year, and in particular the referendum on affiliation, we encountered several problems. The AUCE Provincial Constitution requires that ballots be sent only to those members on the latest per capita tax (dues check-off) lists. However, these lists are never as up-to-date as the membership lists which the local trustees prepare in order to provide labels for each new ballot. The Provincial Trustees have been looking at various ways to solve this constitutional and practical problem and an emergency Constitutional Amendment will be ready for the Convention.

There is also the ongoing problem of familiarising new and inexperienced Provincial Trustees and Local Trustees with the 'ropes' of preparing a referendum ballot. For the repeat ballot of the first question on Affiliation vs Independence, a very successful cross-local trustees meeting was held. It is hoped that in the future, cross-local Trustee meetings, which shall include Local 5-ers, will be held before every referendum ballot so that all Trustees can exchange information and problems they may have with up-dating membership lists, providing the Provincial with TWO sets of labels for the ballot envelopes, and for exchanging ideas on the distribution and collection of ballots.

The repeat referendum ballot on the first question of Affiliation, was, for all the added expense and time, a good 'learning tool'. The main reason the protest of Ballot #1 on Affiliation was upheld, was because of problems presented by the Local 1 (UBC) strike. The possibilities for conducting a referendum ballot while a Local is on strike are not provided for in the Constitution. Neither is there a clear-cut solution for carrying out a repeat ballot in the case of an upheld protest, i.e. repeat the referendum for only that local concerned (which would be prejudicial to the other locals, etc), or re-canvass the entire Provincial Association (which takes more time and money).

There is also the grey area between the Local Trustees' responsibility to distribute the ballot at the Local level, and, the Provincial Trustees responsibility to ensure it is received by the Local, with adequate time provided for distribution, sufficient voting time, and sufficient time to allow for ballots to be returned through the Post or through the Local inter-office mail systems. The Provincial Executive has prepared a Constitutional Amendment for the Convention, which proposes to deal with an alternative voting method for the membership of a Local that is on strike or locked-out.

One of the main problems encountered in preparing for a referendum ballot was the extreme lack of volunteers. It is a frustrating task 'guilting' people into contributing a couple of hours stuffing envelopes at the Provincial Office downtown. Unfortunately, because of the lack of volunteers, very few members spent very many hours preparing the ballots. We wonder where the other 2,796 members of AUCE Provincial are hiding out!

The AUCE Provincial Trustees would welcome any advice from the Convention Delegates regarding increased membership involvement in the referendum ballot work.

Another area addressed by the Trustees has been the up-dating of the Provincial Constitution. We were also responsible for suggesting some of the changes that are proposed in the form of Constitutional Amendments. One really crucial area that needs extra attention by the Trustees is the up-dating of the Local By-Laws. It is the responsibility of the Local Association to submit any By-Law Amendments to the Provincial Association BEFORE they are implemented at the Local level. In some senses this is an impractical method of dealing with changes; we have yet to devise a fast, practical method of getting the Local to submit those amendments, have the Provincial Trustees review them in order to see that there are no conflicts with the Provincial Constitution, and then have them approved at the Provincial Executive Meetings.

In all, it has been a year of challenges. We hope to leave the new Trustees with a clear sense of their responsibilities and we will propose a meeting with them in order to discuss the job and to suggest ways in which their duties can be easily assumed. - signed, Your Trusty Trustees:

Joy Smith , Vicki Nunweiler and Virginia Gibberd - Prov Trustees
Sheila Browne, Ada Ho, and Michele Pujol - Alternate Trustees.