

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There are three issues facing AUCE over the next year.

- 1) Educational Cut-backs
- 2) Relations between the Provincial Association and its locals.
- 3) Affiliation.

None of these issues will be easy to deal with, All will force us to make tough decisions and all will affect the kind of union that we will become.

Educational cutbacks is the most critical issue facing us. These ongoing cutbacks threaten our very jobs and the institutions that we work at. Post Secondary Education in Canada has been underfunded for the last five years. This constant underfunding has led to increased class size, fewer courses being offered and reduction in staff and faculty positions due to attrition.

This year the situation has become critical. VCC Langara has been told to eliminate 100 sections from its academic offerings over the winter. North West College is being forced to eliminate up to three quarters of their university transfer courses. Okanagan College must cut back on their vocational courses - at a time when the minister of Labour is calling for major increases in vocational training. All Post Secondary Institutions are being affected.

The Provincial Government is implementing policies that will lead to indexing of tuition fees in Community Colleges.

At the same time the Federal Government is proposing to cut its funding of Post Secondary Education by one half.

Over the last year the Provincial Executive has been working with The BC Students' Federation and the College Institutes Educators' Association to develop joint policies to oppose these cut backs. A resolution to affirm the five point declaration jointly drawn up between our three organizations is coming to the convention. We must continue to work with these and other groups to oppose these major threats to our education system.

The second major issue facing AUCE is relations between the Provincial Association and the locals.

Strains have developed between the Provincial Association and Local One and Local Five. These disagreements could lead to a fragmentation of AUCE and eliminate AUCE's ability to represent its membership.

When the Provincial Membership voted to increase the Provincial Per Capita from \$2 to \$3.25 per month for full time members, the Provincial Executive, after discussing the issue decided to implement the increase effective in the month that the results became official.

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All Locals were informed of this decision and all locals except Local One began to remit the increased amount effective the month of August. Due to the severe financial hardship that Local One was facing (they had just ended a one month strike) it was decided to allow the increased amount to go into arrears and become an interest free loan to be repayed by June 1981.

The Local refused this offer and when they increased their local dues they remitted the increased portion of the dues effective the month their dues were increased. The five month portion of the dues between August and February was not paid and the membership has refused to pay.

One of the fundamental obligations of membership in an organisation is the paying of membership fees. It is important in AUCE as well. If the Provincial Association is to perform the obligations that the membership at convention or by referendum places on it, it must have the revenue to fulfill those obligations. If a local can opt out and refuse to pay provincial dues then how can any local expect the provincial to be able to fulfill its obligations? Any organisation that is so decentralised will become completely ineffectual.

A major priority of the Provincial Association was deciding how to affiliate. After four, exhausting and time consuming referendum ballots, accompanied by full discussion and debate, the membership of AUCE decided to affiliate to the Canadian Labour Congress intact as AUCE. The Provincial Executive was instructed to try to implement this decision by Lobbying the CLC to accept us.

It was understood, and accepted, that this decision would be made by the membership as a whole and that the provincial association as a whole would affiliate.

Contrary to this decision Local Five has joined the Canadian Confederation of Unions. You cannot belong to both organisations at the same time.

This decision to defy a Provincial Policy has place both the Local and the Provincial Association in a difficult position. We may be forced to request that Local Five leave AUCE if they continue to defy such a fundamental Provincial Policy.

AUCE as a whole must decide if they wish to have a Provincial Association strong enough to co-ordinate Provincial Education, assist the locals and to work with other groups to protect AUCE jobs. Do we really want to be a collection of independent, autonomous locals that do everything for themselves and rarely anything as a whole association?

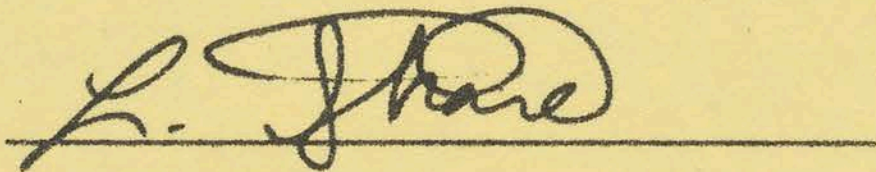
I found my year as AUCE Provincial President to be interesting, exciting, invigorating, draining, frustrating and very educational. Much was done. Much could not be done because there was too much to do and too few to do it.

Ultimately it was frustrating. So much time was spent working on the perpetual affiliation ballots that important things could not be done and when the affiliation debate ended the ongoing dispute with Local One over per capita and Local Five over its decision to join the CCU used all the energy that was left.

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If these disputes could be resolved there is so much that can be done. If we could pull together, and I think that we can, we could use our resources to build a strong effective union.

Local Five showed us that a strong committed membership can win good contracts. With Locals One, Two and Four negotiating contracts next year we must pull together so that we can show the kind of strength that AUCE has.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lid Strand", is written over a horizontal line.

Lid Strand, President

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE REPORT - SECRETARY-TREASURER

The report will be circulated at the Convention.

-Shella Perret

PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR'S REPORT - Lauma Avens

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

As Provincial Coordinator, holding office since November/80, it has been my responsibility to ensure that a regular Provincial Newsletter be published.

The Provincial Executive, particularly Lid Strand and Sheila Perret, very clearly recognizing the need for membership education and the dissemination of cross Local information have been very supportive and hard working helping to ensure that the Newsletter was published.

Being a member of the Local 5 Executive and Negotiating Team, the month of February through to April proved to be quite hectic as we were forced by our employer into strike action to obtain a decent contract. During this time, I was unable to either attend Provincial meetings or publish a newsletter.

There must be little question that we need a regular Provincial newsletter to keep us all informed of Provincial business, the news of our sister Locals as well as other political and Trade Union news.

It is my opinion that the work of obtaining material, writing articles, editing and layout is a massive job that cannot be properly done by an individual during his/her spare time after a 35-hour work week - certainly not if we want our newsletter to be an effective one.

The newsletter must contain relevant information and must fulfill an educational role for our membership.

During this convention, we shall be facing the issue of having a second full-time person for the Provincial with the major duty of the position being the publishing of the newsletter.

All Locals should seriously consider this issue since a regular newsletter from the Provincial containing all current news from each Local by each Local may indeed cut down the cost of publishing individual local newsletters.

June 8, 1981

AUCE PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE - Trustee's Report, by Sheila Blace

The first time I was ever in the AUCE Provincial office was last September when I began working a few hours a week, either before or after my short shift in the Music Department at Capilano College. So began my dashing for buses to and from Hastings & Cambie St. in Vancouver.

What I knew about Unions at that point wouldn't fill half a page. I had thought the Provincial to be an ominous bunch of domineering big-wigs - in other words "the enemy". To my surprise I found that it was a body made up of members from each local, who worked hard and long hours including at least one whole weekend each month and many evenings for the benefit of all the locals.

Since becoming a Provincial Trustee I have spent many hours phoning for volunteers - out of the 2800 members for a few hours of their time to help out with ballot work during the referendum and other times, and I found it very frustrating as it seemed only the faithful few regulars would donate an hour or whatever time they could. Just imagine if every member donated only 1 hour once a year what a lot of fantastic help they could give!!!

The office is a bee-hive of activity right now getting ready for the Convention. I never dreamed the amount of work that has to be done to get the show on the road.

I appreciate the experience I have gained as a Provincial Trustee and the knowledge I have acquired when I have looked after the office when the Secretary-Treasurer had to be away. It really kept hustling.

To wind up I would ask you to remember that the Provincial is a group of people just like you and me. It is here to help you if you need it, and please, say YES when I call you for an hour or two of your time.

Sheila Blace
PROVINCIAL TRUSTEE.
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