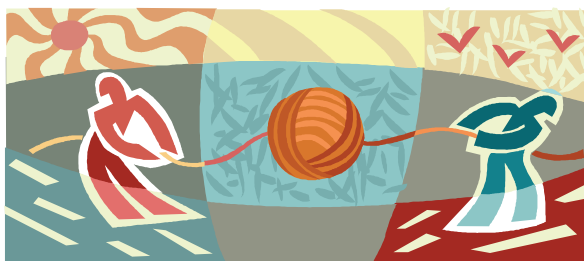


»»» Focus: Bargaining 2010

Welcome

We're excited to present another action-packed quarterly issue of the **cupe connector**.

Help make future issues of the **cupe connector** better by making suggestions for improvement and submitting content!



The collective agreements for all of our units are up this year. Comox has finished their negotiations and ratified their contract on July 19. The rest of our agreements end on December 31st. Our bargaining committees

have begun working with our national representative, Alistair MacKenzie, in preparation for the upcoming negotiations. We have arranged for a special education session for our committees at the beginning of October. Connie Credico will be facilitating the training sessions, and an added benefit is that Alistair will be co-facilitating. We are pleased to provide this opportunity for the members that are new to bargaining. It will also serve as a refresher to those who are experienced. It is a great opportunity for our units to learn together and share issues that are specific to local governments. ■

CUPE 556 out in the community

Our 260+ members, mean 260 families that are an integral part of our community. Our members and their families take part in many events and many are regular volunteers in community organizations. One such example is, Dakota, daughter of Beverly Nelson (CVRD). Her community mindedness and generous spirit is commendable, and at such a young age. She donated a foot of hair to "Locks of Love" and fundraised for "Cops for Cancer" again, this time she raised \$825.00! We are all proud of her and Dakota would like to thank all who pledged her. Another recent example, is the CVRD's Gord Hodge. Gord is not only a regular referee for local minor hockey, he recently took vacation days to volunteer for and participate in the BC Senior games. Whether it be for recreation or charity, our



Dakota Nelson donates a foot of hair to "Locks of Love".

members and their families do make a difference. If the organization you are involved with has an accomplishment or an upcoming event to share, let us know. ■

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VANCOUVER ISLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL VIDC Steward's Conference

Member facilitator search

Member facilitators are the backbone of CUPE's education program. Here in BC CUPE offers 250-300 workshops per year. Without member facilitators we would only be able to offer a fraction of that number. Do you have excellent presentation skills, a solid support and understanding of trade union principles and values and an enthusiasm for belonging to unions in general and CUPE in particular? Are interested in becoming a facilitator?

[more information here](#)

CUPE's Vancouver Island District Council held its first ever Stewards Conference September 30, October 1 and 2, 2010 at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo. The VIDC is committed to ongoing education of CUPE members and organizes the education sessions for the Island. With CUPE declaring 2010 the Year of the Steward, this was a great opportunity to launch a conference specifically for Stewards. The conference provided a unique opportunity for Stewards to come together to share experiences and build skills for their ongoing commitment to representing CUPE members at their workplaces. ■

Shop stewards appreciation dinner

The executive will be hosting a shop stewards appreciation dinner again this year. This will take place on November 10th at 6:30 p.m. Monte Cristo's by the River. Stewards, please set aside this date and details will be provided in the near future. Such a small token of appreciation for all you do for us. We hope that you all will be able to attend. ■



Buying Local campaign postponed

Susan Zander postponed the Local First pilot project till the fall. With Trish Mack off work and summer, it seemed best to wait until everyone's return. ■

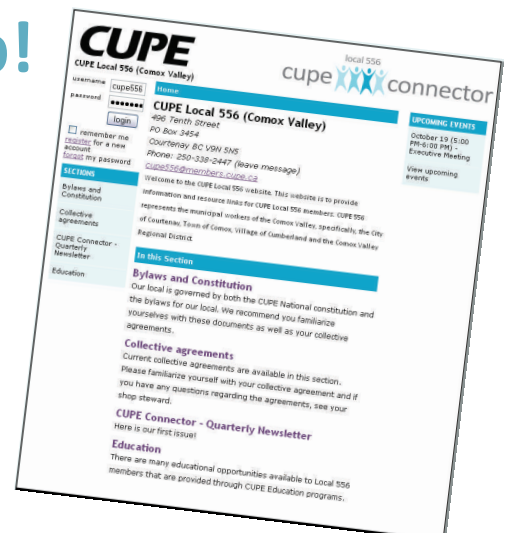


We're on the web!

Visit us at www.556.cupe.ca

for the latest

- > news
- > resources
- > documents
- > photos
- > and more!



Meet a member



Greg Murphy (Town of Comox)

Place of work:	Equipment operator for Town of Comox for 15 years
Years in the Comox Valley:	39
Originally from:	Saskatoon, SK
Union/Community Involvement:	Sergeant at Arms for Local 556 for many years Has been a member of the Black Creek Lions since 1982
Favourite place:	Mosaic Stadium (home of the Saskatchewan Rough Riders)
Family:	Too many to list!
Favourite saying:	Go Riders!
Things I don't like:	Broccoli

Mosaic Stadium



Just Bouquets

Bouquets to all members who attend CUPE meetings - your union is what you make it - we need to grow strong together.

Fields of golden flowers to the 1,740 people that stepped up to volunteer at the BC Senior Games held in Campbell River and the Comox Valley! Amazing numbers for our communities.

Thanks to Cheryl and Greg for getting this newsletter up and running...we so needed it! Well done!

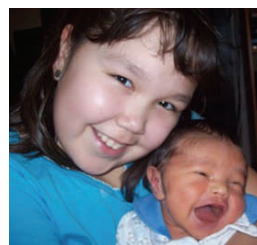
What bouquets would you like to give in our next issue?

cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Angela Pavan**, daughter of proud parents Americo & Claudette Pavan on achieving a Bachelor of Education degree (French Immersion - Secondary) from Campus St. Jean, University of Alberta in Edmonton. She began her position of teaching at école Alexandre Taché in St. Albert, Alberta. We are proud to have provided Angela with a little assistance in reaching her goals by the education bursaries in her first year of studies. The rest was all her hard work. Good luck/Bonne chance with your career!



Belated birth announcement. Beverly Nelson (CVRD) is still on maternity leave, but finally sent in a photo of daughter Dakota with new brother Jackson Eli Nelson Puglas. Jackson was born on February 15th at 3:47 a.m.

Social Committee Update

The social committee has been trying to arrange for a Hallowe'en get-together, but with the difficulty in finding a location for the event, may have to plan for something in November instead. Stay tuned to see what they come up with.



Bargaining Green

CUPE Locals want to put environmental provisions into their collective agreements. This can improve CUPE members' lives, while benefiting the environment.



Bargaining green provisions is a new direction for CUPE. Traditionally, bargaining focuses on wages, hours of work, job security, grievance procedures, workplace democracy and other issues. All of these add value to workers' lives. Green language will do the same. It will also help protect workers from changes that are coming as Canada shifts away from an intense carbon-based economy. ■

What does this mean?

How can you put 'green' into a collective agreement? You can start with an environmental statement or policy, workplace environment committees, green cleaning products and much more.

Check out CUPE national's website for more details and talk to your bargaining committee members.

<http://cupe.ca/environment/green-bargaining-guide>

Humour mill



Featured video (may not be suitable for all audiences)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5Wuwi9ZKxE>

Quote for the Day

"A little more laughter and a little less worry. A little more kindness and a little less hurry."

Do you have a favourite quote? Send it in for the next newsletter issue.

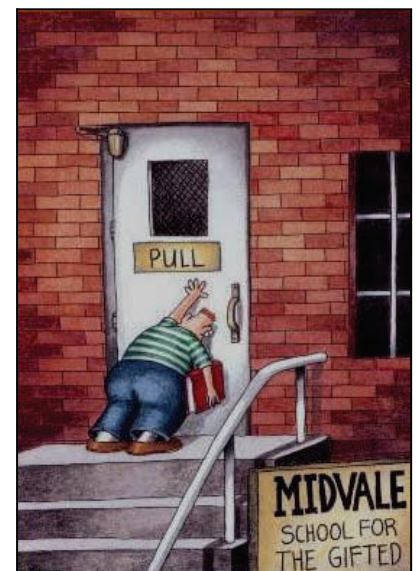
Puns for educated minds

The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

Classic Gary Larson



General Meeting highlights



New Member Kits

The new member kits were prepared and given to the Unit Vice Presidents for distribution to each unit. ■

CUPE Local 556 Webmaster

In addition to helping prepare the quarterly newsletters, Greg Beebe (CVRD member) has agreed to be the webmaster for our local's website. Having a website is one thing, but maintaining it takes time and the right skills. With his experience and creativity, we are looking forward to see what he comes up with. Thanks Greg! ■

Training for Bargaining Committees

The President advised that we had received an e-mail from Connie Credico regarding a special bargaining training session requested for the local. Alistair MacKenzie, our national representative advised that the dates are October 4th to 6th, 2010 and that he will be a co-facilitator. ■

Newsletter/mailling distribution list

The CUPE Connector newsletter was circulated. A link to the newsletter via our website was emailed to those members we had addresses for. We have addresses for the CVRD and Cumberland and the Vice President is working on Courtenay's List. The president and Comox Unit Vice President are to compile the email addresses for the Comox unit. If we haven't got your email address, let your unit vice know or email us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca

It is important that we are able to communicate with members via their home e-mail addresses.

Western Canadian Municipal Conference

Two of our unit vice presidents, Mike Murphy (CVRD) and Rod Armstrong (Courtenay) attended the Western Canadian Municipal Conference in Regina, Saskatchewan from June 10th to 12th, 2010. They reported that the conference was a fantastic forum to network with other municipalities. Learning about current bargaining strategies, settlements and victories. During the conference there were many breakout sessions and workshops on a variety of subjects. One topic was contracting in and what it means for the unionized worker. There were discussions on the the lower mainland garbage takeover by the local union and the money it saved, how the contracting out snow removal provided lower quality service and cost the taxpayers more. Unit reports given throughout the conference seemed to show unionized worker take great pride in their work and that many felt poor management decisions reflected on the workers. ■

Good of the Union

The winners of the three \$50 draws were:

- Dianna Gaulder
- Fred Ennis
- Sue Tompkins

CUPE 556

Upcoming meetings

Next General Meeting:
Wed, November 24, 2010
at 7:00 p.m.

Location: 496-10th Street
(CUPE Local 556 office)

Your current executive officers

Cindy Major, President
(Comox Recreation)

Lisa McPherson, Vice President
(City of Courtenay)

Rod Armstrong, Unit Vice President
(City of Courtenay)

Debra Andrew, Unit Vice President
(Town of Comox)

Mike Murphy, Unit Vice President
(CVRD)

Joanne Pilson, Unit Vice President
(Village of Cumberland)

Claudette Pavan, Recording Secretary
(CVRD)

Cheryl Sellers, Secretary-Treasurer
(Comox Valley Regional District)

Dave Stewart, Sergeant at Arms
(Comox Valley Regional District)

Fred Ennis, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Mike Major, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Eric Jernslett, Trustee
(City of Courtenay)

Telephone
250-338-2447
(leave message)

Email
cupe556@members.cupe.ca

Address
496-10th Street
PO Box 3454
Courtenay, BC V9N 5N5

Website
www.556.cupe.ca



Counterpoint—Summer 2010

From pensions to paramedics, from public water to workplace literacy, you'll find stories about issues facing CUPE members across the country in the summer edition of Counterpoint, CUPE's national quarterly publication.

If you would like a free subscription, submit your name and mailing address to cupe556@members.ca and we will forward it to CUPE National. Or be green and check them out online at <http://cupe.ca/counterpoint/> ■



To receive our next quarterly issue, be sure we have your current e-mail address.

E-mail us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca with 'subscribe' in the subject line.

Suggestion or submission?

E-mail us at cupe556@members.cupe.ca



cupe connector classifieds

FOR SALE

Cedar mailbox

17" wide and 14" high.
\$35 Call 338-5452



FOR SALE

Classic TR6

1969 TR6 with matching trailer, manuals and tune-up tools, red with white top
\$14,000.
Call 250-336-8526



FOR SALE

Aquarium

Aquarium with fluorescent lighting system
48"x16"x16" (53 gallons)
Light: GLO T5 HO Linear fluorescent lighting system
Asking Price: \$100.00 Call Heather at 250-339-0396

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Website

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