



21 NEWS/VIEWS

Membership Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each Month
7:30 pm – Italian Club – 2148 Connaught Street

LOCAL 21 – SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2008

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CUPE National

Representative

Aina Kagis

Local 21 Website: www.21.cupe.ca

Public Indoor Arenas Threatened with Closure

If city council takes the advice of a consultant's report, up to four (4) city indoor rinks, including your neighbourhood arena could be permanently closed. Closing our city indoor rinks and other recreational facilities makes no sense. Please let the mayor and your councillor know that you are not in favour of this happening.

There is more than enough demand for ice time in Regina to warrant keeping all eight (8) city arenas open, even with the addition of the IPSCO Place multi-purpose arenas in 2009. The city is currently developing a response to the consultant's report.

It's important that you make your voice heard now. Talk to your friends, family and neighbours. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper. Urge Mayor Pat Fiacco and your city councillor to keep all our public arenas open for the children, residents and user groups of our city. Demand a five (5) year moratorium on rink closures.

Increased Cost\$, Lower Revenue\$

Based on 2007 statistics, the City of Regina will lose over **\$660,000.00** in annual revenues **if** it was to close the four (4) indoor arenas targeted by the consultant's report. The city may also need to subsidize user fees for ice rentals at IPSCO Place, fees that it may have little control over.

Make Your Voice Heard!

Contact Mayor Pat Fiacco

Phone: 777-7339

e-mail: pfiacco@regina.ca

For more information visit: www.PublicRinks4All.ca

In the City

In Memory

Brother Tony Nippard Roadways

➔**Retirement:** Brother Don Assman, roadways coordinator retired on 3 October after 30+ years of service to the community. We all wish brother Assman the very best in health and happiness for many years to come. Good job Don.

➔**Union T-Shirts:** Are available for **\$5.00** each. Contact a Union representative or your Union office.

➔**CBA Rights:** If your negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement rights have been violated then contact David Jjian at **777-6908** or **550-7441** for Public Works or Danny Lainey at **537-1815** for Community & Corporate Services. Any other issues - contact your Union office at 352-8282.

➔**Grievances/CTBH:** A 1st step superior duty & testing grievance was held. Both parties are in agreement to continue further discussions. Three (3) more promotion grievances were lodged and more arbitrations have been scheduled.

➔**Local 21 Scholarships:** The membership of the Regina Outside City Workers', Local 21 has again given its' approval to provide seven (7) \$500.00 scholarships to children or wards of our members, for first year post secondary education.

To qualify for the Scholarship, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be a dependant of a member in good standing of Local 21.
2. The applicant must provide the essay as outlined below.
3. The applicant must be a 1st year post-secondary student.
4. The student must provide proof of registration to the post-secondary institute of their choice.
5. All applicants must be submitted to Local 21 on or before **31 October 2008**.
6. The student must supply a copy of their official grade 12 marks.
7. An applicant can only apply once.

Criteria in which all applicants will be assessed are as follows:

1. Eighty percent (80%) is based on the average of the grade 12 marks.
2. Twenty percent (20%) is based on a 250-word essay (1 page) answering the following question:

Why are Unions important to Society?

The essay will not be marked – receipt of essay with the applicant is all that is required to obtain these points. The winning scholarship applicant(s) may have their essay published in the Local 21 News and Views newsletter. The essay may also be published in other Union publications and becomes the property of Local 21. If you require any additional information, please contact the Union office at 352-8282.

General Information & Updates

Did You Know

Saskatchewan has over 250,000 kilometers of roads, more road surface than any other Canadian province. Its roads date back to when the province was originally surveyed for settlement in the late 1800s. Today there are 26,000 kilometers of highways and divided highways, 9,000 kilometers of paved municipal road, 5,000 kilometers of granular paved municipal roads, 7,000 kilometers of thin membrane surfaces, 5,600 kilometers of gravel highways and more than 197,000 kilometers of dirt roads.

Apprentice Numbers Hit an All-Time High

With the **Saskatchewan** booming economy and the high demand for skilled trade's people, the number of apprentices in the construction and trades industry is at an historic high. As of 30 June there were just over 8,100 apprentices compared to 6,800 in 2006-07 and 5,300 in 2005.

Public - Private Deals - Poor Record

Brother Tom Graham – President - **CUPE Saskatchewan**

In its September 23 editorial praising Public-Private Partnerships (**P3s**) the Leader-Post claims they account for "many large-scale projects that would otherwise never happen." P3 projects involve multiyear contracts that give private companies control over public assets and services.

The editorial makes passing reference to a number of P3 projects: highways in Ontario, the Confederation Bridge linking New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island and last week's decision by the Alberta government to contract a private firm to construct 18 new schools in Calgary and Edmonton and lease them back to the province over 30 years.

Passing reference is about all these privatization projects can withstand. Further investigation reveals they cost the public much more and deliver a lot less than services and infrastructure that are publicly financed, delivered and operated.

Take Ontario's Highway 407. Under a 99-year deal signed by the former Tory government, an international consortium operates the 108-kilometre highway and drivers pay an escalating toll to use it. It's a P3 version of "highway robbery." In 2006, one of the corporations in the consortium, SNC-Lavalin Group, reported an \$11.4-million increase in the company's share of profits from the highway. It's one reason why the union NUPGE has dubbed Highway 407 "the privatized gift that keeps on giving." The deal expires in another 90 years.

The editorial also mentions the Confederation Bridge. This is another P3 project that has greatly enriched its private-sector operator, SCDI, at the expense of the traveling public. SCDI, a consortium which is 85% foreign-owned, signed an agreement with the Government of Canada in the mid-1990s to build, operate and maintain the bridge for 35 years.

In return, SCDI is guaranteed a minimum annual return of \$13.9 million (1996 dollars) in toll revenues. According to the Auditor General of Canada, the deal cost \$45 million more because it was financed privately instead of publicly.

The Alberta government's P3 announcement that it has decided to hire a private company to build and operate 18 schools in Calgary and Edmonton also raises financial concerns. The Nova Scotia government cancelled its P3 school construction program in 2000 after costs spiraled out of control.

It's hard to believe the Leader-Post's assertion that without P3s, these large-scale projects would never happen. **If we can't afford to build public schools now during an economic boom, we need to question how our tax dollar\$ are being spent.**

SUN Challenges Public Service Essential Services Act

The **Saskatchewan** Union of Nurses (SUN) is pursuing a court challenge of the provincial Public Service Essential Services Act in Court of Queen's Bench on the grounds that it is unconstitutional. In its statement of claim, the nurses' Union is alleging the essential service legislation is in violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and cannot be justified.

The Union is requesting the court to declare portions of the legislation invalid on the grounds that it violates SUN members' rights to freedom of association as guaranteed under the Charter of Rights.

Private for - Profit Clinic\$

Private for-profit surgical and diagnostic clinics are a rapidly developing threat to Canadian public health care. Some are providing services until now found only in public hospitals. Below are 10 reasons why governments should stop and reverse the growth of private clinics and support public solutions to strengthen medicare.

1. Increased wait times.
2. Allow queue jumping and other violations of the Canada Health Act.
3. Draw health care workers away from the public system.
4. Have higher death rates and lower quality of care.
5. Cost more.
6. Offer unnecessary and potentially harmful treatments.
7. "Cream skim" healthier patients requiring less costly care.
8. Erode the quality of support staff jobs.
9. Heighten inequalities.
10. Undermine Canada's public health care system.

Labour Disputes

1. Grains Services Union (GSU) strike is over. 57% in favour and 43% opposed the new contract offer. 5-year offer consists of a **6%** signing bonus, and annual increases based on performance of 6,5,5,5%. In addition, the company is offering an annual incentive program that has the potential to add to an employee's total compensation in the range of 5,10,15% of their pay.
2. United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 1400: 18 September 2008 - Members of UFCW Canada Local 1400 working at Extra Foods, Real Canadian Wholesale Clubs and Real Canadian Superstores in the province of Saskatchewan have voted overwhelmingly in favour of strike action if required, by delivering their bargaining committees an overwhelming **96%** strike mandate.
3. SAHO health-care support workers. 5 key areas in this round of bargaining: Workers' rights, working conditions, compensation (wages) and benefits, recruitment and retention, and job security.
4. Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers Union (CEP) (Saskatchewan Potash Workers).
5. Communications, Energy and Paperworkers union (CEP), CEP Local 721G - 115 employees of Mercury Graphics Corp.
6. United Steelworkers (USW) - locals 7689, 7458 and 189 (Allan, Cory and Patience Lake mines).

Local 21 - Collective Bargaining Agreement – Article 5.5

Each employee claiming sick pay under the provisions of this agreement, shall be required to complete an employee absence report for absence not exceeding five (5) working days, declaring that his/her absence was a result of personal sickness. If an employee is absent from work through sickness for a period exceeding five (5) working days, he/she shall, in addition produce a medical certificate, signed by a duly qualified medical practitioner, certifying the said employee was unable to perform his/her work due to personal sickness.

Accommodation Tip of the Day

Dyslexia often operates as a practical barrier against employees who are required to undergo some form of cognitive testing as part of a hiring, promotion or training qualification program.

Visit the Canadian Injured Workers' Alliance (CIWA) website: www.ciwa.ca