



# OUR WORDS

<http://2045.cupe.ca/>

January 2010

## We're Number One

### President's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the Canadian provinces' race to the bottom, B.C. is number one. We have the highest rates of senior poverty, homelessness, child poverty, and privatization of public services and resources. We have the lowest minimum wage in Canada and regardless of what the B.C. Liberals keep telling us, we have the smallest public service per capita of any Canadian province.

This government's agenda of privatization and attacking worker's rights to free collective bargaining has never been more blatant. Last year in B.C., more government revenue came from post-secondary tuition than from taxes levied on corporations. After 130 years of real eco-

nomie history in B.C., it is clear that reducing taxes (especially corporate) and encouraging private investments does nothing to stimulate the economy. In fact, the results are exactly the opposite. We need to re-invest a certain minimum of our gross domestic product in public services and resource infrastructure – that's what creates a vibrant and healthy economy for both the public and private sectors.

We need political action. The last provincial election produced the lowest voter turnout in B.C.'s political history. We need to conquer the apathy! Sisters and Brothers, talk to your families and friends and get involved. The Paramedics' situation is just the latest example of the Liberal agenda. You must know that we are next. We need solidarity like never before. See you at a union meeting.

In Solidarity,  
Paul Colton

## K-12 Presidents' Council

More than 50 school district local presidents met January 15<sup>th</sup> with K-12 Sector Coordinator Bill Pegler, National Representative John Malcolmson, CUPE Regional Director Robin Jones, Strong Communities Local Government Liaison Heather Inglis, CMAW (Construction Maintenance and Allied Workers, our sister K-12 union in Prince George) representatives Brian Trotter and Denice Baruda to discuss issues common to us all in the upcoming round of bargaining.

The group acknowledged the need to address wages and benefits, job security, education and training, and recognition and respect for educa-

tion assistants, health and safety language, confronting violence and ensuring that locals have the tools to keep workplaces safe and harassment-free.

John Malcolmson spoke on education finance and the impact of funding shortfalls related to things like increased medical services premiums, costs for new carbon reduction requirements and cuts to programs like the Annual Facilities Grant.

Robin Jones and Heather Inglis spoke about the provincial bargaining context and the fight for free collective bargaining for the 26,000 K-12 sector and all public sector workers as evidenced by the recent legislated contract for paramedics in this difficult bargaining climate.

## CUPE in our workplaces—Alert Bay’s New School



Vicki Taylor, our school secretary, shown here with her battery of machinery to help her keep the school on an even keel. Vicki has held this position twice, starting in the 80s, returning in the 90s and still going strong.



Lori Wyant, one of our SEWs, helps fill in for others as needed, and cooks at Big Al's restaurant on her weekends. Lori started here as an ESD tutor before the regulations on that position took it out of the bargaining unit.



Karen Reece is a SEW and a First Nations In-School Support worker. She has also filled in for other when they were away. Karen is an avid reader and supports the school in many ways in the community.



Joe Smith is our custodian. He also helps with our equipment and materials moving needs as we adjust to the new surroundings in our “hybrid” new and old facility. In his spare time he cleans many other buildings on the island.



Jan Lehde, shown here as our Child and Youth care worker, came to us from a SEW position in Port McNeill school. Since this photo was taken she has taken a teaching position at the T'lisala'gilakw School.



Dianna Smith, a former student here, is our noon-hour supervisor. Like many of us she helps out in other positions as needed. Here she is shown filling in as Learning Assistance Teacher.

# Healthy, Tasty Banana Nut Bread Recipe

## # of Loaves

4	3	2	1	
4	3	2	1	cup(s) (460-345-230-115 grams) walnuts, toasted, coarsely chopped <sup>1</sup>
7½	5¼	3½	1¾	cups (980-735-490-245 grams) whole wheat flour
3	2¼	1½	¾	cups (600-450-300-150 grams) Demerara sugar
4	3	2	1	tsp (20-15-10-5 ml) baking powder
1	¾	½	¼	tsp (5-3¾-2½-1¼ ml) baking soda
1	¾	½	¼	tsp (5-3¾-2½-1¼ ml) salt
2	1½	1	½	tsp (10-7½-5-2½ ml) ground cinnamon
8	6	4	2	large eggs, lightly beaten
2	1½	1	½	cup(s) (452-339-226-113 ml) margarine (or butter)
12	9	6	3	very ripe well-mashed bananas (about 6-4½-3-1½ cups)
4	3	2	1	tsp pure vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°F (~175-180°C) and place oven rack to middle position. Butter and flour (or spray with a non-stick vegetable/flour spray) the bottom and sides of your 9" x 5" x 3" (23 x 13 x 8 cm) loaf pan(s). Set aside.

Place the nuts on a baking sheet and bake for about 8-10 minutes or until lightly toasted. Let cool and then chop coarsely, if not already chopped<sup>1</sup>.

In a large bowl, combine the mashed bananas, eggs, melted butter and vanilla with a rubber spatula or wooden spoon. Lightly fold the wet ingredients (banana mixture) into the dry ingredi-

ents just until combined and the batter is thick and chunky. (The important thing is not to over-mix the batter. You do not want it smooth. Over-mixing the batter will yield tough, rubbery bread.) Scrape batter into prepared pan(s). Bake until nicely browned and a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean. For one loaf this might be 55-60 minutes. For four loaves, bake @ 350°F for forty-five minutes, turn loaves and turn heat down to 325°F for another forty-five minutes.

*1. In case of nut allergy, delete this part.*

## Bargaining updates for all three bargaining units

In case anyone in the bargaining unit doesn't know it, our School District Collective Agreement is due to expire at the end of this June. Apparently very few suggestions have come in to the bargaining committee for improvements to the language. Either this means we have a great Collective Agreement or not too many people have got around to contacting the bargaining committee. Members are [Paul Colton](#), [Jody Welch](#), [Peter Galitzine](#) and Colleen Rushant. There's still time

if you have suggestions for improvement.

Recently, members of the Port Hardy Recreation Department bargaining held a strike vote in an effort to avoid an impasse in their bargaining process. While it is fervently hoped that the need should not arise for a strike, the mandate was solid.

A few days earlier, for much the same reason, the Port Alice Municipal bargaining unit also took a strike vote, and their mandate was 100%.

**CUPE Local 2045 Our Words and the website <http://2045.cupe.ca>** are produced by the Newsletter/Communications Committee. Members are — [CW Petersen](#), [Shelley Wilson](#) and [Peter Galitzine](#). Articles and suggestions for improvement are gratefully accepted up to two weeks in advance of publication. Our next publication date is April 5, 2010.

## Your CUPE Local 2045 Executive

<b>President</b>	Paul Colton	two-year-term, ending	April 2010
<b>Vice-President</b>	Jody Welch	two-year-term, ending	April 2011
<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b>	Muffy Jones	two-year-term, ending	April 2011
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Peter Galitzine	two-year-term, ending	April 2010
<b>Chief Shop Steward</b>	Colleen Rushant	two-year-term, ending	April 2010
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	Ron Berry	two-year-term, ending	April 2011
<b>Director</b>	Vacant	two-year-term, ending	April 2010

Needless to say, this brings up, for the attention of the nominating committee to be chosen at the upcoming meeting, the need to list the President, Recording Secretary, Chief Shop Steward and a Director's position all coming up for re-election at the April 10 Annual General Meeting, as well as non-executive position elections.

## Grievance Committee

The Grievance Committee consists of President [Paul Colton](#), Chief Shop Steward [Colleen Rushant](#) and two stewards of her choosing.

In this case, and for the present, the two other stewards are [Jody Welch](#) and [Peter Galitzine](#).

There is an alternate position, currently vacant.

In addition to that, we try to keep a list of worksite stewards/contact people. Our list is not up to date, so worksite stewards, please notify Colleen of your existence, training and workload capabilities. We will then publish the list on the site, so people will know who to contact.

## We're looking to see a lot of you at the meeting this Saturday.

See and Hear what your executive's been doing on your behalf, their trials and their triumphs.

We'll be Convening at

**Port Hardy Secondary School**

**Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>, At 10:00 A.M.**

We'll have all the usual discussions of what's been going on, where and how

It's our Union - It's your Union - What's being done for us, to us and by us  
are our own responsibility.

Additionally, we'll have elections, for

One Director - term to end April 2010

One By-Laws Committee Member - term to last until we as a local feel a need to  
Elect new members.

Coffee—Tea—Refreshments—Mileage

And of course the newly revamped Snowball Draw

One Draw for a Jacket or Vest, five for \$25 Gift Certificates good at local merchants.