



OUR WORDS

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

April 2010

Ohhh... Canada

President's Message

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Well, the Olympic Games are over now, but the bills will be coming in for years to pay for this relatively short sports extravaganza. These games cost Canadians a lot — some estimates run as high as 25 billion dollars! The Olympic games roused a strong sense of Nationalism and Canadians were proud to show our rich and beautiful country to the rest of the world. Who wouldn't be proud of a country like ours? I admit that when "Sid the Kid" scored the overtime goal and Canada won the Gold — I was elated.

But life has quickly returned to "normal" for most Canadians, working hard and facing increased costs, job losses, reduced services, the introduction of unfair taxes and the struggle to provide for our families.

How is it, in a country as

vast and rich in natural resources as Canada and with a relatively small population that we are unable to take care of ourselves? One simple answer is that our governments in Canada pander to the corporations by allowing them to pay little or no taxes. We've heard the announcements for too long and too often — "Government revenue is down and we all have to tighten our belts." So let's cut a lot of well-paid, tax paying jobs with good purchasing power, resulting in more reduced government revenue — more job losses and so on. Don't cut my taxes, increase my access to government services!

Health Care and Education - indeed all public services *should* be seen as good investments - not as ever-increasing burdens to be borne by 95% of Canadians.

We need a fair taxation system in Canada. Tax corporations like Olympic sponsors MacDonalds and Coca-Cola — just Great Corporate Citizens — EH?

The BC Federation of Labour (<http://www.bcfed.ca>) and the Canadian Labour Congress (<http://www.canadianlabour.ca>) have a wealth of sound, solid and remarkably straightforward proposals to help make Canada a country ALL Canadians can be really proud of.

As I was bemoaning the apathy that we are faced with (particularly in B.C.) to a friend the other day she comically replied - "Well, that's just being Canadian, isn't it? We don't like to make a fuss!"

Oh, Canada — Let's make a fuss! We really are capable of taking care of ourselves. If you are still with me - thanks for taking the time to read this. Time is another thing we seem to have less and less of. How many Canadians does it take to change things. Just one — you.

In Solidarity,
Paul Colton
President Local 2045

CUPE in BC

CUPE BC represents 80,000 public sector workers in the Provincial Division and another 40,000 or so in the Health Services Division (HEU). Of those, 26,000 work for School Districts, and 25,000 work for Municipalities and Regional

Districts.

On March 31st, workers in the CRD, along with Water Watch, CUPE BC, and many others, won the right to prove the business case for a public sewage treatment option in the Victoria area municipalities.

Recently, however, the Pro-

vincial Government moved to send our ambulance paramedics to the Health Care Sector, breaking up the 3,600 member unified bargaining unit which has fought for so long for improvements in service to those in emergency situations.

The fight goes on.

CUPE- our workplaces: Tacan, N. Zone Maintenance



Bev Parnham, is our Dispatcher and our Transportation and Maintenance Departments Administrative Assistant. She has worked at several sites throughout the District. In another persona, she's the Mayor of Port Hardy.



Teresa MacKenzie covers for Bev when her Mayoral duties intervene, and in the mean time she's the Secretary for our District Principal for First Nations. With some of her other skills, Teresa has fulfilled other duties in the Board Office.

Rick Kolich is working foreman for the transportation department. He handles all the mechanical foibles and is the vehicle inspector for our fleet of school buses, administrative and trades people's vehicles.



Joanne Ranger works as bus driver and has also become a driver-trainer. Here she is doing an emergency door exit inspection. Her routes include many of the schools in the Port Hardy area and out as far as the Airport.



Betty Murray, another of our capable bus drivers is waiting here for students at Fort Rupert Elementary School. She also serves Stories Beach, Fort Rupert, Eagleview, PHSS and around town.



Janice O'Connor, shown here dealing with the bane of every bus driver's existence, paper work. She covers schools around town and all the way out to Coal Harbour and also drives our inter-site Courier bus.

Guy Carlson comes to us from Sointula every day, where people still try to talk him into doing plumbing work in their homes. But he works with us now. Here he's seen repairing the wash hose for cleaning the North Zone's buses.



Craig McLaughlin is one of our carpenters, here shown facing the job of removing the fuel pump structure at Tacan site. This was for filling gasoline buses. Now we mostly drive diesels, and we get our fuel from a commercial card lock.



Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookie Recipe

Ingredients

¼ cup butter - more for chewy cookies
 ½ cup brown sugar
 ½ cup granulated sugar
 1 egg
 ¾ tsp vanilla
 1-1/8 cup flour
 ½ tsp salt
 ½ tsp baking soda
 ½ cup oatmeal
 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°F (~175-180°C). Grease cookie sheets. Cream butter gradually, adding the two sugars and beating until light and smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Mix flour, salt and baking soda together; add to the first mixture, blending well. Stir in the oats and chips. Drop by spoonful on cookie sheets, about one inch apart. Bake for 10 minutes or until lightly browned. If you find the cookies are browning too fast on the bottom halfway through baking, place another cookie sheet under the one with the cookies.

Some Informative Reading

Looking for something interesting to read about what's shaping our society and our thoughts in this early 21st century?

The Spirit Level by British epidemiologists Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett shows that there is one common factor linking the healthiest and happiest societies: the degree of equality among their members. Not wealth; not resources; not culture, climate, diet, or system of government. Furthermore, more-unequal societies are bad for almost everyone within them—the well-off as well as the poor.

Their remarkable data reveals striking differences, not only among the nations of the world but even within their provinces or states. Almost every modern social problem—ill-health, violence, lack of community life, teen pregnancy, mental illness—is more likely to occur in a less-equal society.

The Spirit Level is pioneering in its research, powerful in its revelations, and inspiring in its conclusion. Armed with this new understanding of why communities prosper, we have the tools to revitalize our politics and help all our fellow citizens, from the bottom of the ladder to the top.

Life, Inc. by award-winning writer, documentary filmmaker, and scholar Douglas Rushkoff traces how corporations went from being convenient legal fictions to being the dominant fact of contemporary life. Indeed, as Rushkoff shows, most of us have so willingly adopted the values of corporations that we're no longer aware of it.

Most of all, *Life Inc.* shows how the current financial crisis is actually an opportunity to reverse this six-hundred-year-old trend and to begin to create, invest, and transact directly rather than outsource all this activity to institutions that exist solely for their own sakes.

Rushkoff illuminates both how we've become disconnected from our world and how we can reconnect to our towns, to the value we can create, and, mostly, to one another. As the speculative economy collapses under its own weight, *Life Inc.* shows us how to build a real and human-scaled society to take its place.

"Read this book if you want to understand how the current economic meltdown started 400 years ago, how so much of what you consider to be a natural evolution of daily life was carefully designed to profit a few, and how corporatism has so colonized every part of life that most of us don't even recognize how our lives and fortunes are channeled and manipulated by it."—Howard Rheingold, author of *Smart Mobs*

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.

Your CUPE Local 2045 AGM Elections

Position	Incumbent(s)	Term	Ending
President	Paul Colton	Two years	April 2012
Recording Secretary	Peter Galitzine	Two years	April 2012
Chief Shop Steward	Colleen Rushant	Two years	April 2012
Director	Wendi Dunlap	Two years	April 2012
Trustee	Colleen Martin	Three years	April 2013
Labour Management Committee	Cathy Poje Judy Fyles Paul Colton Fran Johnson (alt.)	Two years	April 2012
Job Evaluation Committee	Cathy Poje	Three years	April 2013
Newsletter Committee	Peter Galitzine Shelley Wilson CW Petersen	Two years	April 2012

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

See and Hear from those willing to put their name(s) on the line
to volunteer on your behalf.

We'll be Convening at

Port Hardy Secondary School

Saturday April 10th, At 10:00 A.M.

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

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.