

Island Views

Vancouver Island District Council
www.vidc.cupe.ca
 Twitter: @vanisldc
 Email: vanisldc@gmail.com



President's Message

It has been a whirlwind of events and excitement since we last met. The strategic planning session was a major success with some fantastic feedback including suggestions for our next VIDC meeting.

Let's start with the CUPE National 50th Convention. There were many memorable moments including but not limited to: National District Council to discuss funding and cost share ideas and events; On convention floor voting to increase CUPE strike pay by 50 per cent to \$300/week, the first raise since 1997; Voting in favor of a National Sector council; and creating a National Worker of Colour award in the name of Brother Ed Blackman. We debated issues, and rallied at the legislature in support of Quebec City Blue Collar workers. In addition to 38 resolutions adding to CUPE policy, the Strategic Directions policy paper was debated and created to move into the next 50 years of our union. Convention Gallery was a great place for CUPE members from across the country to check out booths. VIDC shared a booth with the other British Columbia councils. We had a slideshow of our council and the activities we participate in. If you would like a copy of the convention photo come and see me. I am honored to have attended convention on your behalf.

Sarah brought greetings to Parksville Education Weeklong from VIDC.

In the K-12 sector there have been 5 locals so far that have ratified their collective agree-

ments. With many locals scheduling ratification votes in the coming weeks, it is with hope that there will be a strong membership presence at these meetings. It is a fantastic place to start conversation about "our" union. Please remember to take some time for yourself this season and reflect on all the good things in this world and why we strive to make it a better place for everyone. Heads Up...Next VIDC meeting we will be holding a workshop on the Saturday morning before our general meeting @ 10:30am. Please bring your delegates and enjoy our Public Speaking – How to speak to a resolution at Convention.

"As we take our first steps into our next 50 years, let us never forget the past leaders and activists who built our union and let us resolve to strive to be just as effective as we lead today with an eye on our future members who want us to succeed." – From the CUPE National Convention Report

**In Solidarity,
 Amber Leonard-Much love
 President VIDC**



Special points of interest:

- *President's Message pg. 1*
- *CUPE 606 picnic pg. 2*
- *Photo gallery pg. 3*
- *JDRF fundraising drive pg. 4*

IN THE NEWS...



Conservatives continue legislative attack to curtail organizing rights A Conservative backbencher has [tabled](#) Bill C-525, which attempts to curtail the ability of workers to organize and establish a union. The bill would make secret ballots mandatory, which will encourage intimidation and unfair practices by some employers. The bill also imposes what NDP MP Alexandre Boulerice calls "a form of vote rigging" in union certification votes, by counting everyone who didn't vote as being opposed to the union. The reverse would also be true in disaffiliations – those who don't vote will count as voting to decertify the union.

Harper slips attack on workers' rights into latest budget PSAC [criticized](#) the Harper government's budget bill for stripping the democratic rights of federal public sector employees and undermining health and safety protections in the Canadian Labour Code. PSAC says that the suite of changes set labour standards back by thirty years. To deny strike rights, Tories could arbitrarily determine what public servants are "essential." Public sector workers will no longer be able to decide voluntarily to go to arbitration for their agreements. Arbitration boards will no longer be independent. The bill changes the definition of "danger" in reference to dangerous work, to include only "imminent" risks, which PSAC calls a "life-threatening change" that will make it difficult for workers under federal jurisdiction to refuse dangerous work.





Since September 24, 1963 - CUPE 606 Celebrates 50 years

Local 606 held our 50th anniversary celebration picnic at Transfer Beach, Ladysmith on Saturday, September 21st. After much planning and organizing of our cost-share committee, I



am proud to say it was a great success!

The picnic brought members

and their families from both Cowichan and Nanaimo/Ladysmith together to celebrate, enjoy the festivities and recognize how far we have come as a trade union. We were happy to have local NDP dignitaries attend.

Our very own Amber Leonard, Michelle Waite, Lisa Paine and Trevor Davies were in attendance. Paul Moist, Barry O'Neill and Paul Faoro also graced us with their presence and shared words of Solidarity with the crowd.



David Gogo, as well as local entertainer Ryan McMahon provided entertainment. St. Johns Ambulance was on hand. The famous CUPE Trailer was on display and donations



were collected for the local Food Bank. Guests enjoyed hotdogs,

drinks and a 50th birthday cake! We had a large offering of CUPE memorabilia from the local, CUPE BC and CUPE National which was well received by the crowd.

Overall, it was a wonderful afternoon of fun in the sun and occasional rain! It was great to come together and celebrate this union of which we are all so proud to be a part.

In Solidarity,
Tara Brooks
GVP Local 606

Report from the 2013 Annual General Meeting of the Municipal Pension Plan

The theme for this year's AGM was "Taking the Long View". In attendance were current and retired members, and HR personal.

The Municipal Pension Plan (MPP) is the sixth largest Pension Plan in Canada with assets of \$28 Billion. Last year, the Pension Corp paid out \$91 million to 7,100 members. Twenty-five percent of pensions to retirees come from employers and members with the other 75% coming from investments. In 2012, the rate of return was 10.3% against a benchmark of 8.2%, proving to be a good year for investments compared to the fallout of 2008.

July 1, 2013 will see both contributions from both members and employers increase by 0.7% for a total 1.4% increase. Factors leading to the increase include the plan not meeting the 6.75% annual benchmark, lack of real salary growth and people living longer. The oldest retiree is 111 -- a retired nurse who has been drawing a pension since 1967.

The long view is promising for the MPP and its members. One out of every seventeen British Columbians and one out of every eleven adult workers are members of the plan. Remember your wages are deferred wages. The MPP is a defined benefit plan that pays for life. The board of trustees consider annually if a cost of living adjustment is required.

I would encourage you to visit the pension corporation website or call them in person. There is a great report on the Economic Impact of Public Sector Pension Plans from the Conference Board of Canada on the MPP website mpp.pensionsbc.ca

Our pension plans are not "gold plated" as reported over and over again by the Canadian Tax Payers Federation the Fraser Institute and the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses. Your Pension is one of the pillars that provide dignity and respect in our third phase of life, retirement...

In Solidarity,
Keith Todd

**VIDC WEBSITE
GOES LIVE!**



Check out the new VIDC website at: www.vidc.cupe.ca. Information on locals and meeting dates can be found there. You can also find us on Twitter @vanisldc.





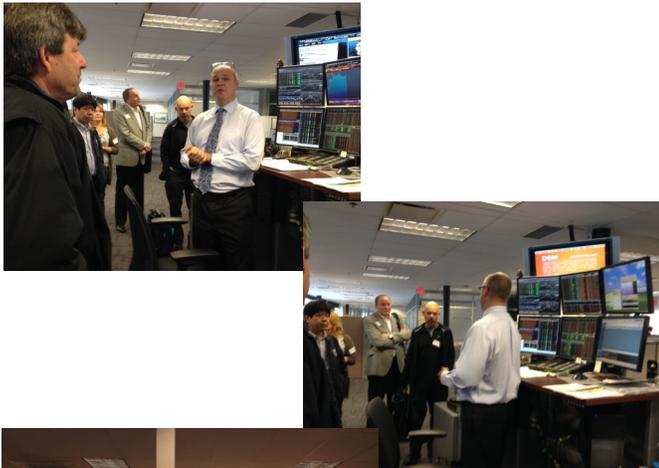
PHOTO GALLERY...



Pictures of CUPE National's 50th Convention



Members hard at work during the VIDC Strategic Planning Session held in September.



A tour of the Municipal Pension Plan offices on October 16th with the BCIMC as well as the Municipal Pension Corporation with Paul Faoro, Frank Lee.



International Solidarity presentations made by Sharlene Patterson, Doug Sprenger & David Huxtable, at the September VIDC meeting.

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November, 2013

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JUVENILE DIABETES

RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Mission & Values

For over 40 years, JDRF has been a global leader in the search for an end to type 1 diabetes (T1D), through both research funding and advocacy. During that time, we have always talked about a cure as a singular destination: a return to normal physiology.

JDRF's Research Goals

JDRF's research is committed to improving the lives of every person with T1D and to curing this disease. JDRF's research goals are realized by the projects being supported in three basic areas: Cure, Treat, Prevent

Cure therapies (Restoring a person's insulin-producing capability and halting or reversing the body's misguided immune attack on the pancreas);

Treatment therapies (Developing new devices and therapies that transform the way people with T1D treat the disease today in order to help them live healthier lives now and in the future); and,

Preventive therapy research (Keeping future generations from getting T1D or stopping the disease process before it damages the pancreas).

These therapeutic areas are a bold step in our promise to move the diabetes research landscape towards a cure as soon as possible. It is based on the progress and success of research over the past four decades in uncovering the most promising pathways to a cure.



<http://www.tenpercentshift.ca/>

Donate to JDRF

It is because of the generous support of our donors and volunteers that JDRF has been associated with the most major scientific breakthroughs in type 1 diabetes (T1D) research to date in Canada and around the world. **For more info. go to www.jdrf.ca**

WHAT HAS YOUR LOCAL BEEN UP TO?

The delegates of Vancouver Island District Council would love to hear what your Local has been up to. Tell us your story, share your pics. Let us know if you have a facebook story we could share or post on our website. Simply contact a member of the **Communication & Technology committee** and they will help you submit your item. It's that easy!

Sherrene Ross - therosshut@shaw.ca
Michele Favarger - favarger@shaw.ca
Andrea Craddock - randyc5@telus.net
Martha Higgins - higginz@telus.net

Want to sit on CUPE's National Committees? Here's how to do it.

Do you want to make a contribution to the work of the national union on the many important issues and activities that shape our direction? Do you have members in your local that would like this opportunity? It is that time once again to establish CUPE's national committees and working groups. The term of appointment is for the years 2014-2015.

Our process for making appointments to each of our 17 national committees is through an application process and is designed to ensure that it is accessible to all members.

We encourage all activists and members to complete the application online or use the printable and return it to CUPE National office no later than **January 7, 2014**. Both are available at: <http://cupe.ca/about/committee-applications>