

# Your union at work

Volume 1, Issue 2

MARCH 2009

[www.cupe2626.ca](http://www.cupe2626.ca)

ELECTIONS / AGA: March 4th, 2009, 6-8PM, Alumni Auditorium

FACEBOOK: **Your union is on Facebook. Add it to your friends' list, so you can be posted on upcoming events and be part of its online community!!!**

## Did you know...

In the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA):

- Members have privileges similar to those of uOttawa full-time workers (parking spaces, softwares, etc.). Read the CBA for details.
- A grievance can be filed no later than 30 days after the incident(s) occurred, or came to be known by the member(s).

## Health and Safety

- Pay close attention to the safety of your workplace. Concerns have been expressed regarding the older buildings on campus.
- Please report any concern you may have regarding the safety of your workplace to the union.
- Examples of dangers: snow removal, electrical installations, renovations, slippery floors, etc...

## AGA and Elections, March 4th, 6-8PM



By Fereshteh Modaresi, VP1, Communication

The key decisions concerning your Union are made at the Annual General Assembly (AGA).

It will be held on March 4, 2009 at Alumni Auditorium from 17:30 to 20:00.

The major goals of the AGA include presenting an account of the activities of CUPE 2626 over the past year, to hold elections, to adopt a budget for the upcoming academic year and to respond to your questions regarding our budget from the previous year.

We will be electing new executives and it is crucial that you participate in choosing your representatives. You will also have the opportunity to address your questions.

Quorum is needed in order to hold the meeting and your presence

will empower your Union. Our reception starts at 17:30 with free food and drink and will be followed by the assembly meeting at 18:00. Prizes will be drawn among the participants.

All members are welcome to run for paid positions, vote, and have their voices heard. I hope to see you **all at this year's assembly.**

Please visit the union's Web site section on the elections, which explain duties for each position and the election process, as well as CUPE's Web site for helpful guides and tips for the upcoming EC

Current EC (all positions are open for elections):

President: Vinay Mulgundmath  
VP1, Comm: Fereshteh Modaresi  
VP2, Finance: Maryam Haghighi  
Chief Steward, French: Sean Kelly  
Chief Steward, English:

Massoud Khazabi  
Undergrad Rep: Mike De Santis  
CUPE2626-1 Rep: Reza Ghazal  
Officers without Portfolio (3):

Mathieu Brûlé, Lucy Cui,  
Olivier Desharnais-Roy  
President of Assembly: Dan Dicaire  
Member in Good Standing:

Benham Shadravan  
Trustees (3): None

## Tuition Rebate

By Reza Ghazal, SFRB Students Rep

Your union launched a campaign to inform its members about the winter 2009 tuition rebate deadline (end of February).

Stewards and EC members have been campaigning actively. They used various communication channels, emails, tabling at University Center and RGN, posters, etc..

Up to now, we report a significant increase in the number of applicants. The campaign has been a great success. We hope it might force the university to make the rebate automatic, as it refused to do so during the last round of bargaining..

How the Tuition Rebate works

**If CUPE 2626 members' tuition fees** go up by 2% or more since their first semester, they can get some cash back. They need to apply for the rebate.

Some faculties, like Law, Sciences and Engineering, are more likely to raise tuition fees. Members enrolled in these faculties should be aware of this rebate and apply if they are eligible.

If you would like more information, please contact the union office. Remember, applications don't cost a thing, so why not apply anyway!

The tuition rebate is your rebate. Apply now!

## New union tools for a new century

By Olivier Desharnais-Roy, OWP

Cartoons often portray unions as old-fashioned picket lines addicts unable to face modernity. It seems they are unaware of the new tools used by unions to drive support from the members and the public.

If picket lines are still an efficient way against a stubborn employer, cyber-activism is now part of the strategy handbook of any union.

Cyber-activism uses online petitions, emails, Web sites, as well as cyber-picket lines, among other things. Through HTML forms and other

means, visitors can send support to union members and ask employers for a better deal for their workers. MPs, officials, lobbies, interest groups have also been targeted and pressured to intervene for the good of their constituents, customers, workers. All this

**by the click of a mouse...**

During the strike at YorkU, thousands of emails of support were sent to CUPE 3903, while others were sent to the administration of the university to pressure it to negotiate in good faith.

Other conflicts, like the one op-

posing CUPE 1334 to the University of Guelph, have been averted thanks to the emails and Internet campaigns set up by CUPE.

On its Web site, www.cupe.ca, CUPE has a "Campaigns" section, where visitors can be cyber-activists. LabourStart.org and UnionBook.org are other Web sites that link together unions, their members and the public from all around Canada and the world.

What are you waiting to be union cyber-activists? Cyber-activism is just **one click away...**

SCFP-CUPE 2626

85 UNIVERSITY, UCU 303  
 OTTAWA, ON K1N 6N5  
 INFO@CUPE2626.CA  
 PHONE : (613) 562-5345  
 FAX : (613) 562-5220