

Your union at work

Volume 1, Issue 1

February 2009

Did you know...

In the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA):

- No worker should work more than 25 hours per week, and more than 40 hours per two weeks;
- Open positions should be posted at the department/faculty 7 to 15 days prior to the beginning of the contract;
- Disciplinary measures have to be enforced according to the procedure in the CBA.

Health and Safety

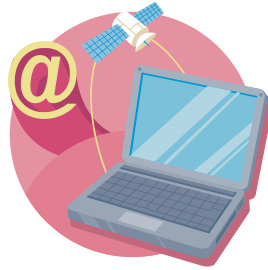
- Pay close attention to the safety of your workplace. Concerns have been expressed regarding the older buildings on campus.
- Please report any concern you may have regarding the safety of your workplace to the union.
- Examples of dangers: snow removal, electrical installations, renovations, slippery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



TUITION REBATE: If your registration fees went up (2%+) since you first registered, fill the form before the end of February (www.cupe2626.ca/english/forms_en.htm)

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

Email Removal Grievance: Victory!!!



By Sean Kelly, Chief Steward Franco-phone

The University removed a member's access to his @uottawa.ca email account after accusing him of breaching the *User Code of Conduct for Computing Resources* by sending "unsolicited bulk electronic mail" (ie. "spam").

The emails in question were of a political and critical nature regarding actions taken by University administrators. However, former University President Gilles Patry noted in an email obtained by a Freedom of Information request that the administration of the University sends unsolicited emails to students regularly.

The terms of the agreement reached at Mediation are:

- the Member got back his @uottawa.ca email account,
 - the University cancelled library fines incurred due to the Member not receiving the library's book recall emails sent only to the blocked email account, and
 - the Member admits no wrongdoing.
- As such, this is a victory against political censorship and double standards.

It reasserts our members' ability to participate fully in the political life of the University.

Although the *User Code of Conduct for Computing Resources* clearly states that "disciplinary measures against violators are governed by [...] collective agreements", the University chose to disregard our Collective Agreement when they removed the Member's access to his email account. (See for example article 28.1.3 and article 15: *Discipline*.)

Furthermore, the University refused to deal with this grievance at Steps 2, 3 and 4. In this context, the resolution of this grievance is also a victory for the perseverance of the Union.

Kick the Bottle!

By Mathieu Brûlé, OWP

For years, we have been told about the health benefits of bottled water over our municipal water sources.

As time has gone by, several of their claims have been disproved as it has been revealed that some bottled water companies have been selling back to us the tap water that we have already paid for through our municipal taxes. In recent years, the detrimental impact of the non-biodegradable bottles on our environment has also been noted.

As a result, CUPE Ontario has recently launched a campaign to bring attention to the negative impact of the bottled-water industry, as well as to promote investment into safe and accessible water.

As part of this campaign, SCFP-CUPE 2626 has decided to turn its office space and its events, into bottled-water free zones! We will be working with a number of groups on campus to help promote investment into safe and accessible public water sources on campus.

For more information on these efforts, or on our campaign to become a greener local, please visit our union's website: www.cupe2626.ca or CUPE Ontario: www.cupe.on.ca.

Your SCFP-CUPE local goes green

By Vinay Mulgundmath, President

Global environment is a major issue today and more than half of carbon emissions are work related. On this basis, it's fair to conclude that tackling climate change means changing the way we work. Hence action should start from within the workplace in order to achieve a sustainable environment and society.

Our local has made a commitment to go green! The Local executive has formed a union environ-

ment committee with an objective to introduce the "green" culture in our workplace.

Our local has committed to implement the 4Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover) to achieve our goal. This involves holding paperless meetings and banning bottled water at our meetings and events. Our local is actively involved with the employer in achieving this objective across the University of Ottawa campus.

The Local drew on the environmental resources provided by CUPE National, (<http://cupe.ca/environment>) to assist with the formation of the environmental committee and to measure the environmental performance of the Local.

I encourage you to visit the "green" section on our website (www.cupe2626.ca/english/green_en.htm), suggest ideas and even join our green committee!

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