

POLITICAL ACTION AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2010



The Political Action and Awareness Committee (PA) has been very busy working with the bargaining committee to achieve a collective agreement. We have been rallying on the steps of the legislature, doorsteps of our local MLA's and walking down the streets of our cities protesting the "brash tactics of SAHO". As the picture shows we were on the steps of the Legislature protesting with Bill 80, Aboriginal people protesting the FNU cuts and our coalition partners. Our purple flags and shirts have always set us apart from the other unions. We wave our flags proudly.



DID YOU KNOW?

- SEIU-West members gave Brad Wall the boot in Swift Current!
- Keifer Sutherland unveiled the Tommy Douglas Statue last week in Weyburn
- The Federal NDP MP's caucused in Regina in September
- Working people make up the majority of the country's citizens and voters
- The government of the day plans to lay off 75% of the provinces Education Assistants. Who will help our children that need special attention in the schools?
- By privatizing our healthcare it will diminish the healthcare professionals in the public system. Staff shortages will be even worse than they are now. We will have to work even harder.

The PA Committee wrote a letter to every Mayor or Reeve in every city, town, or village within our jurisdiction about our bargaining crisis. Few responded. Letters to the editors of papers were also done. We wrote letters and had members write letters to our MLA's and visited as many of them as would meet with us. Very few would meet with us. And when they did their response was they knew nothing of the process or they responded by comparing us to the "auto workers" who broke the industry. It did engage our members. We appreciate all of you who helped us with these letters and the visits.



The Political Action and Awareness Committee in conjunction with the Education Committee have now trained nine members to facilitate and take the Labour Issues information out to our members. We will be working with Unit Chairs to bring this information out to your unit. Our goal is to reach as many members as possible with this very important information.



“Freedom, like Peace, is indivisible. I must protect my neighbour’s rights in order to safeguard my own”

Rev. T. C. Douglas

Are you a Rider’s fan? Do you have one of their license plates? Do you know that the government gave the job of making these to a company in Nova Scotia and took it away from a unionized company in Regina?

The Potash Story

“This privatization was the worst fiscal decision in the province’s history and has been aggravated by subsequent royalty giveaways to private potash companies...The cost of privatization exceeded the benefits by between \$18-billion and \$36-billion. In other words, the Saskatchewan Government gave up between \$17,000 and \$35,000 for every man, woman and child in the province.”

Erin Weir, economist

SEIU-West will be attending the New Democrats Leaders Gala in Saskatoon on October 21st at TCU Place. If you would like to attend please email Sandy at dsweyland@sasktel.net or call 231-7867.

All levels of government make decisions that affect our lives. Provincially implementing legislation such as Bill’s 5 & 6 and Bill 80. Robbing our education systems by taking funding away from very important services. What will happen to those children coming up? How will they be educated? Federally taking away all monies that have anything to do with women such as funding to women’s groups that better the lives of abused and struggling women. Municipal governments making changes to our systems. We need to be watchdogs for our families and keep on top of what is happening. We need to work on committees such as this one to help our members get the information they need to vote wisely and even more so get out and vote for causes that affect us in our daily lives. If you would like to be a part of this committee and work on campaigns, work in an election , write letters for us, or just inform us of situations that are happening in your workplace please email either Connie @ mumsi@sasktel.net or Sandy at dsweyland@sasktel.net we would love to have you work with our committee. This can only make Stronger Units thus making a Stronger Union.

The more dedicated people we have out there to work and make a change the more changes we will make.



This man has got to go!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Connie Jattansingh & Sandy Weyland - co-chairs
- Esther Dupperon –Regina
- Nicole Harris – Saskatoon
- Shirley Tremblay – Moose Jaw
- Cori Deis – Moose Jaw
- Sharon Cameron- Humboldt
- Karen Hyra – Lanigan



Connie Jattansingh and Sandy Weyland.

