Where has the school year gone?

By Brigitte Scott

Where has the school year gone? The last time many of us met as a group was at the October EWSC Conference in Saskatoon. Plans are already under way for the 2008 EWSC Conference. For those of you who like to plan ahead this years conference dates are November 4 and 5, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon.

At the October 2007 EWSC Conference, Omar Murray (L. 4754 Bus Driver from Maple Creek) was elected as Vice Chair; Sheila Bindig (L.4799 Transportation Secretary Horizon S.D. #205) as Secretary-Treasurer; 3 Members at Large (Odd Years) elected: Rita McKaig (L.3730 Head Caretaker, Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board), Will Bauer (L.8443 Caretaker Fireman, Saskatoon Public School Board) and a new member joined our team - Carmen Graham (L.4254 Administrative Assistant with the Prairie Spirit School Division #206). All positions are a two-year term.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Marie Moore from L. 4799 for all her hard work during the recent provincial bargaining lobbying campaign.

Please see Where has the school year gone? on page 2

East to west have the template

By Brigitte Scott

The template for provincial bargaining for the education sector is already there. Teachers and other public sector workers, provincial government employees, SIAST and health care workers in Saskatchewan bargain provincially.

The provincial bargaining template in the education sector has been established in other provinces across Canada:

- In New Brunswick the New Brunswick Council of School District Unions (NBCSDU) is chartered as Local 1253 representing 30 locals with 2300 members. In New Brunswick schools were run by municipalities, county councils, and churches. Bargaining was local, board-by-board and only a few large school boards were organized.

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Marie brought a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to the Executive. Marie stepped down from the EWSC due to the heavy workload at her own local.

As part of the Bylaw Review Committee I ventured into a little history lesson on the EWSC and discovered this wording for Article 2 of the bylaws:

_The purpose and mandate of the EWSC is to unite Education Locals of the Canadian Union of Public employees with the objectives of coordinating bargaining of wages and working conditions, and to maintain a line of communication on all matters considered to be in the best interest of the member Locals._

You as affiliated locals have the opportunity to participate in the development of the EWSC through your delegate status at the annual conference. Through affiliation with EWSC your local has access to:

- the annual fall conference that offers a wide range of workshops and an opportunity to network with other education workers from across the province
- have access to province wide bargaining achievement/Saskatchewan School Board Benefits Plan data
- access to the EWSC Provincial quarterly newsletter
- EWSC web page

For details on how your local can affiliate to the EWSC please feel free to contact any member of the EWSC Executive.

At the October 2007 conference CUPE National President, Paul Moist presented a document that provided a snap shot of CUPE’s Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 membership across Canada. The report gave insight on:

- public expenditure on JK-12 Education
- JK-12 Enrolment Trends and Projections
- Employment Trends in the sector
- Privatization Trends in the JK-12 Sector
- Provincial Bargaining Structures from across the country
- Settlement Trends across the country

For ongoing news and activities go to our web site at [www.saskedworkers.cupe.ca/](http://www.saskedworkers.cupe.ca/)

_In Solidarity, Brigitte Scott – EWSC Chair - Saskatchewan_

“_What your affiliation with the EWSC provides your local and education workers across the province._”
Dear Earl:
What percentages of education workers are unionized? I like percentages Rita.

Dear I like Percentages Rita:
CUPE represents over 6,200 of the 8,850 (70%) of school board support staff in 19 of the 28 school divisions in the province.

Dear Earl:
How many school divisions were there before amalgamations? Curious George from Outlook.

Dear Curious George from Outlook:
There were 59 and we now have 28.

Dear Earl:
I am a young worker with young children. Does the EWSC provide babysitting services at their conferences? Robert

Dear Robert:
Yes we do, contact us 30 days before the next conference.

Dear Earl:
I understand that provincial bargaining will help increase my wages, but how about benefits? I am new at this Kevin

Dear I am new at this Kevin:
Great question.... health and dental plans will be included in a provincial agreement.

-Industrial Relations Act. Under that Act public servants employed by the province had no bargaining rights. Wages and benefits varied widely. In 1968 province-wide bargaining units were defined. Today their bargaining is centralized with one contract.

- In the province of British Columbia the CUPE K-12 Sectoral Bargaining Committee signed a Letter of Understanding on May 21, 2006 and by June 30, 2006 - 65 collective agreements were pulled into one agreement. The LTD expanded to 23,000 members, 10 million for adjustments, training; trades received over 3.3 million, benefits in some districts brought into line with others. Their next round of bargaining is 2010 and education workers are tweaking to establish more standardization of benefit plans and looking at increases for LTD.

- As your elected Chair of EWSC I had the great privilege to be witness to a very historic event occurring in Nova Scotia. In December 2007 on behalf of the EWSC in Saskatchewan, I represented our members at the Nova Scotia School Board Council of Unions Annual Conference in Halifax. In May of 2005, the NSSBCU adopted the Terms of Reference for new Member Employee Benefit Committee. In June 2005 a province-wide Benefit Plan was in effect for all non-teaching employees working for Nova Scotia School Boards. Leading up to their December conference the NSSBCU had been working hard to conclude the “frame work agreement” which will see all CUPE workers in Nova Scotia receiving the same rates of pay in their classification.

During the EWSC provincial bargaining lobbying here in Saskatchewan we received warm support by MLA’s in the Sask Party, NDP, and Liberal party. We anticipate meeting with the new government over the next months to further discuss a framework agreement for education workers.

Provincial bargaining is a win-win for the education workers, the school boards, and the government, as it makes good economic sense. One bargaining unit, one cost!

Many people enjoy living and raising their children in smaller towns. A great equalizer between workers in the urban centers and the rural communities would be wage/benefit equity across the province. All communities would benefit as we collectively work to build stronger communities where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Join us in our continued work towards achieving provincial bargaining.

"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."  
Sir Winston Churchill
SSBA 2007 Convention
By Brigitte Scott

The 2007 SSBA convention was kicked off on **Sunday, November 25, 2007** by a dynamic keynote address from John Abbott “What Kind of Education for What Kind of World?”

“This township believes in functional literacy that is the ability to be comfortable with all the change of rapidly evolving, highly technological society.”

**Monday, November 26, 2007** started off with a Networking Breakfast at 8:00 A.M. and was followed by introductions of special guests and I was recognized as Chair of Ed Workers Steering Committee. The introduction of all special guests was followed by the Annual Meeting. The annual meeting included the president’s address, Bylaws and Resolutions, Nominations for President and Vice President of the SSBA.

In the P.M. the new Minister of Education Ken Krawetz had arrived back from the Grey Cup win in Toronto and brought greetings from the government.

- In his address to the convention Krawetz gave an overview of his past involvement with the SSBA board and reflected on working with the boards of education as a proud member for 10 years.
- The Minister talked about his own years as a teacher and that his wife and son are still teaching today.
- The Minister flagged three key issues that need to be addressed under his portfolio as Minister of Education:
  1. Must change property tax the provincial government 20%/80%
  2. 30 minute to moderate physical activities each day
  3. Increase in distance education

**Tuesday, November 27, 2007**

LEADS Invitation
By Ann St. Denis

Members of the EWSC were invited to make a presentation to the executive of LEADS about provincial bargaining. We believed this would be beneficial because the Directors and Superintendents play an important role in establishing priorities for the various boards of education. Sister Brigitte Scott, EWSC Chair, Brother Bill Cronin, Staff Advisor to EWSC, and me attended their meeting on November 22, 2007. We did a presentation of our A Fair Way, A Better Way campaign, and were asked a number of questions by the executive. I am pleased to say that we were well received by this group, and we will continue to liaise with them during our campaign. Ann St. Denis, CUPE National Staff Rep