

OSSTF D35 WLUSA, Collective Bargaining 2011 Update

Summer, Pensions & Research

I hope that this quick update finds you all safe and in good spirits. This summer has proven to be a very challenging time for all our hearts and minds.

The loss of our friend Jack Layton has been hard to bear for many Canadians. His passing has been a very reflective one for me personally, and I can speak on behalf of the entire Collective Bargaining Committee (CBC) team when I say that we offer our collective prayers and thoughts to all those who have been touched by his leadership and friendship, most specially our condolences to his family.

The Collective Bargaining Committee has been very busy working over the last few weeks finding and securing an Actuary to work on our behalf. I am happy to report that we are now working with H. Clare Pitcher, FSA, FCIA and Cindy Rynne from Buck Consulting.

You can find information on them at their website: <http://www.acsbuckcanada.com/buckconsultantsca/>

We are proceeding with the evaluation of all our options around our pension plan and benefits, guided now by the professional advice of our actuarial team.

As promised, before we proceed with negotiations, we will call a meeting of the entire membership in September.

I want to continue to encourage all of the membership to email us your concerns and thoughts. I assure you we read and consider each of them. Your patience and understanding throughout this very challenging time is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I want to make a few comments regarding the effort and time that the OSSTF Provincial Executive has made, particularly over the past few weeks.

The end of July and the middle of August is normally a very busy time for OSSTF Provincial Leadership. This year was no exception. OSSTF provincial has been working extremely closely with us on negotiations while preparing for the major Annual Provincial Leadership Conference.

OSSTF Leadership 2011 was held in Toronto and was four days filled with training and workshops for bargaining unit presidents and leaders. Topics ranged from occupational health & safety to social media to improving skills for mediation, bargaining and negotia-

tions.

This year both Connie and I attended the OSSTF Leadership Conference and our experience leaves us confident that WLUSA is on track and in good hands with the leadership and guidance of OSSTF Provincial.

Yours in Solidarity.

Niru

Niru Philip, CBC Chair, OSSTF D35 WLUSA.

Remembering Layton: In 2002, Jack "walked with WLUSA"

WLUSA joins the thousands of individual Canadians and dozens of Canadian unions in mourning the loss of NDP leader Jack Layton last week.

WLUSA's connection to Jack is a concrete one. When we were on strike during the fall term of 2002, Layton, then a Toronto city councilor and president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, came to Laurier and walked the picket line with us (this was a year before he became leader of the federal NDP).

Doug Koebel, a WLUSA member working in distribution services, vividly remembers that day:

"Sometime during the later stages of our strike, while picketing on the front line in front of the Aird building, this gentleman approached me and introduced himself to me. It was Jack Layton. After the introductions, he proceeded to walk with me and share his insights on our particular situation. Right then, this showed me just the type of man he was. It was an awesome experience that I will never forget. R.I.P. Jack. You touched us all in a very special way, and we are much better for it."

Last week, Canadian labour leaders responded to Layton's passing. Regardless of our individual politics, it is clear that he was an important voice for unions, for labour, and for working people across Canada.

"All Canadians, regardless of their political beliefs, have lost a friend today," said Ken Coran, OSSTF president.

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Jack "walked with WLUSA"

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"Jack Layton was a champion for working and middle class Canadians. He inspired us all with a vision of a society where everyone could enjoy the benefits of living in this great country. At a time when politics has become increasingly calculating and brutish, Jack managed to stay above it all."

The Canadian Labour Congress website bore this headline: "Canadians have lost a fighter. Workers have lost a champion."

Ken Georgetti, CLC President, wrote, "Every day, Jack fought for the issues that matter to working people. He truly believed in a Canada where we all had a share and a stake our country's prosperity and where nobody was left behind. He fought for better pensions. He fought to end poverty and homelessness. He fought for a greener economy and a cleaner environment. He fought for peace. He fought for people."

In a letter written just days before he passed away, Layton thanked the thousands of Canadians who had written to wish him well.

He wrote these now iconic words:

"We can build a prosperous economy and a society that shares its benefits more fairly. We can look after our seniors. We can offer better futures for our children. We can do our part to save the world's environment.

"Love is better than anger. Hope is better than fear. Optimism is better than despair. So let us be loving, hopeful and optimistic. And we'll change the world."



Fall Term with WLUSA

WLUSA Committee Assignments for 2011/2012:

Collective Bargaining Committee (CBC):

Chair, Niru Philip

Communications/Political Action Committee (CPAC):

co-Chairs, Fran Parry and Rene Paquin

Membership Committee: Chair, Matthew Little

Grievance Committee: Chair, Doug Roberts

Council of Reps: Chair, Doug Roberts

Social Committee: Chair, Wendy Rittinger

Donations Committee: Sheila Watson-Crowther

Nominations Committee: TBA

Social Committee Needs Volunteers

The Social Committee is looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping out on this committee, please contact the WLUSA office, ext.2952 or email Suzanne Mulhall smulhall@wlu.ca

Council Reps Needed for Some Areas

Matthew Little will be seeking Council Rep volunteers in areas where there are vacancies. Please consider stepping up and becoming involved and putting your name forward.

Meeting Dates for 2011/2012

(please mark in your calendars)

Annual General Meeting:

Wednesday, 25 April, 2012:

12:00-2:00 p.m., The Turret

General Meetings:

Wednesday, 28 September, 2011

12:00-2:00 p.m., R137 - 202 Regina St.

4:00-4:30 p.m., R138 - 202 Regina St.

Wednesday, 30 November, 2011

12:00-2:00 p.m., Paul Martin Centre

4:00 - 4:30 p.m., R138 - 202 Regina St.

Wednesday, 18 January, 2012

12:00-2:00 p.m., Paul Martin Centre

4:00-4:30 p.m., R138 - 202 Regina St.

Wednesday, 28 March, 2012

12:00-2:00 p.m., Paul Martin Centre

4:00-4:30 p.m., R138 - 202 Regina St.

The University has approved these dates and will inform Managers. As per Article 3.4 WLUSA members are to request approval to attend these meetings from their immediate supervisor at least one day prior to the meeting. (Please let WLUSA know if you have not been permitted to attend a meeting.)

Contact

Please check the WLUSA.CA website for all WLUSA general and bargaining related updates. (web administrator: Rene Paquin)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the WLUSA office:

- Suzanne Mulhall, administrative assistant, ext 2952
- Connie Palenik, WLUSA president, ext 2706

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