

# The Update



# President's Report

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Tim Walters

Primary activities since the last Update:

Local:

- met with the faculty with 10, 20, 30, and 40 years of service, as well as retirees.
- Worked with Bob Eby on detailed budget information for the past decade. This information is immediately necessary to complete the exceptional work done by George Davison (FPSE Treasurer) on administrative density at colleges throughout the province, and in the longer term is a very useful negotiations tool. We are now in possession of comprehensive budget data for each year following the split, and are working with the OC lawyers to access financial information from prior to the split.
- Worked with my colleagues on the bargaining committee to process the results of the bargaining surveys and prepare our proposals for ratification at the WGM
- Worked with the STH Dean, the Executive, and our Science, Technology, and Health Council Reps to begin hiring for the forthcoming SCMT program.
- With other council and Executive members, I attended five of the winter socials: Term,



- o Associate Dean positions will continue to be available to internal candidates only.
- Met with the two BCGEU Presidents Cam McRobb (Vocational) and Dianne Crommer Evaluation Program. Both seem interested and will poll their members to confirm future participation.
- Attended a Kelowna rally in support of locked out IBEW 213 Fortis workers with other members of the Executive and Council, and presented them with a donation from the OCFA.

Provincial:

- How our colleagues at BC research universities are faring following a meeting with the President of CUFA
  - o Upcoming proposed (minor) adjustments to the college pension plan
  - o The state of provincial public sector bargaining. Most groups that have settled thus far (HSA, BCGEU) have accepted something in the vicinity of a 5.5% pay raise over 5 years, along with assorted minor contractual improvements.
  - o The potential risks associated with being a society rather than a union proper. As a result, our Secretary Treasurer Michelle Nicholson is working with our FPSE staff representative Zoe Towle to find out whether to and how to make this transition.
  - o The forthcoming anti-harassment and bullying training programs at all locals.
- I represented the OCFA at the BC Federation of Labour convention. Highlights included:
  - o Bangladesh Accord, a pact that would protect the rights of the garment workers who make their clothes in sweatshops around the world, and which would have prevented the 1138 workers from dying in April in what Jim Sinclair aptly called Joe Fresh: The Bay, Canadian Tire, Marks Work Warehouse and Lululemon have all refused to sign. Shop accordingly Coverage of the march was the headline story on the CTV evening news <http://bc.ctvnews.ca/protesters-storm-the-bay-in-vancouver-over-factory-workers-rights-1.1560198>. Bangladeshi union leader and force of nature Kalpona Akter led the march and later gave a disturbing speech about the conditions inside the factories where most of our clothes are made, and talked about how little it would cost corporations and consumers to make these workers safe and compensate them fairly.

- o An exceptional keynote by Sarah Laslett, labour professor with the Washington State Labor Education and Research Centre about the future of American (and likely thus also Canadian) unions and the part Worker's centres might/must play in the future of the labour movement.
- I participated in multiple FPSE conference calls about:
  - o The BCGEU Master agreement deal and its implications for public sector bargaining
  - o Upcoming (minor) proposed changes to the pension plan
  - o "Secondary institutions" have to find a way to make up this shortfall without any additional money. This will result in several hundred layoffs at FPSE locals in Winter 2014 as well as the decimation of publicly supported English as a Second Language Instruction in BC.
- I was nominated by the President of the Kwantlen Faculty Association Terri Van Steinburg to represent FPSE -2( Vancouver) SEU



negotiated three similar tentative agreements. BCGEU members in community health community





heritage. The fact that our people have always respected the land and have strong spiritual ceremonies that ties us to the land.

roadbuilders travelling through their land without permission, and the resulting Chilcotin War of 1864. The land is sacred to the people and is a source of life. The pond only meters from Teztan Biny (Fish Lake). Teztan Biny is an important spiritual, historic, and food source for the people.

The Chiefs urged all those in solidarity to ~~enter~~ the Federal Minister of the Environment, Minister Leona Aglukkaq, to ask that the New Prosperity Mine at Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) be rejected.

More information about the campaign can be found at:

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/campaignupdate-canadaurgert-action-needed>

<http://www.culturalsurvival.org/takeaction/canadasaveteztan-biny-fish-lake-again/takeaction-put-end-new-prosperitymine-proposal>

The event was hosted by the Okanagan College Faculty Association, and could not have been successful without the work of the Winter Resistance School; Levi Gahman; Gail Smith, Aboriginal Government.





Ann Marie McKinnon

### MARCH 8TH IS INTERNATIONAL

the Central Okanagan Women's Resource and Education Foundation (COWREF) is hosting  
March 8th, 2014 starting at 6:00 pm.

This is an annual community event, and this year we have invited Marcy Cohen. She has spent her life involved in social justice issues and was also the senior researcher and policy analyst for the Policy Alternatives BC. As a graduate student at Simon Fraser University in 1970, she helped to lead a convoy of cars from Vancouver to Ottawa, to challenge the reforms to the abortion laws in the spring of 1970. Among her many awards, Marcy Cohen has received the 2010 YMCA Women of Distinction Award.

and hear the Wee Feminist Choir! Come and drink wine, see friends and celebrate International Women's Day.

## FPSE International Solidarity Fund

APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 21, 2014

### Objectives

The fund:

- x promotes international solidarity projects and actions that support disadvantaged people organizing to realize their basic human rights, projects informed by the values of equality, respect, human dignity and social justice;
- x supports the development of solidarity relationships that are appropriately enduring and stable;
- x promotes building relationships with others seeking to advance the basic human right to education;
- x promotes awareness of policies or institutions in economically advantaged countries like Canada and the US that foster human rights violations in other countries;

x seeks to inform and enliven the work of our locals and our Federation by encouraging our



January 10, 2014

Dr. Tim Walters, President  
Okanagan College Faculty Association  
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Salmon Arm, BC V1E 2S4

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On behalf of Local 312 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and our members at FortisBC Inc. I wish to send a heartfelt thank you to your organization and membership for their generosity and support during the six month lockout.

The parties have agreed to "binding interest arbitration" with arbitrator Dalton Larson. This process starts January 15, 2014.

The membership demonstrated their solidarity with the labour dispute.

The labour movement in British Columbia is strong, as was displayed by the continuing

To all of you, thank you and the very best in 2014.

Fraternally,



Mike Flynn,  
Business Manager and  
Financial Secretary

MF/gj  
cope #378  
C&U09-01/140110/mf/thankyou/FortisBCdispute