

CUPE 2950 LOCAL NEWS SEPTEMBER 2011

CUPE REMEMBERS JACK LAYTON

By Nancy Forhan, President

Canadians were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Jack Layton.

Jack became leader of the federal New Democratic Party in 2003 – and few would have predicted back then the heights he would take us to in the May 2nd federal election.

The public Jack Layton was well known and his accomplishments have been well documented. But to many of us involved in the labour movement Jack felt like a personal friend.

Jack attended all of our national CUPE conventions, as well as many of our BC provincial conventions. Delegates loved him and responded with genuine warmth. I remember the first time I met and spoke with Jack. It was at the National Convention in Toronto in 2007. Eleanore Wellwood and I had ducked off the Convention floor to get tea so we could be back in our seats and not miss a minute of Jack's speech. We were heading for the down escalator when I nearly ran into a man standing to the side of the pillar. When I looked up to say "Oh, sorry" I realized it was Jack and instead said "Oh, it's you!"

Luckily Eleanore stepped in and took over the conversation. I've met Jack a handful of times since then. He was always personable, friendly and truly interested in people's lives.

Jack Layton, the politician, did more for Canadian politics than any other leader before him. Jack, the person, had a much broader appeal with all Canadians.

On Monday morning, August 22, 2011, New Democrats lost a great leader, those of us in the labour movement lost a great mentor and all Canadians lost a great friend.

"If the Olympics can make us prouder Canadians - maybe Jack's life can make us better Canadians," Dr. Hawkes (officiate at Jack

continued...



NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEPT. 29
12-2
IBLC #182

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ZIPCARS	3
UBC THRIVE	5
HST	6
PLAN	7
GMM	8

Layton's funeral) said, before emerging from behind the lectern and pointing his finger at the thousands of mourners facing him.

"May we rise to the occasion, because the torch is now passed. The job of making the world a better place is now up to us."

R.I.P Brother Layton

Reprinted in part from:

cupe.ca/paul-moist/paul-moist-remembers-jack-layton



"Canada is a great country, one of the hopes of the world. We can be a better one – a country of greater equality, justice, and opportunity. 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. We can restore our good name in the world."

"My friends, 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."

- Jack Layton

ZIPCARS

By Cheryl Kincaid



A few months ago, I was given a Lazyboy recliner. The only problem was, we had to pick it up and we only have a small car when what we needed was a small truck. We'd thought about car sharing before but we'd always managed to work out the travel arrangements without it and buying a share for \$500 was out of our budget.

I'd heard about some new cars available on campus through Zipcars so I thought I'd check them out. It turned out to be exactly what we needed. A UBC rate of \$30 a year is available for staff, faculty and students. There's a step by step guide to setting up an account on the Zipcars website. There are 5 cars available on campus and many more all over the city. Zipcars has hourly (from \$7, the truck was \$10) and daily rates which includes all the costs – even gas. You need to be 19 and have a valid driver's license. The guide walks you through getting your driver's abstract from ICBC.

After my account was set up, they sent me a zipcard in the mail. I set up a reservation online for one of the small trucks not too far from where we lived. Everything was in the truck to strap the chair safely in the bed of the pickup. I waved my zipcard at the front window and it unlocked the truck doors. The key was inside along with a gas card and a FAQs booklet for any questions. When we were done getting the chair, I drove it back to its parking spot and waved the card at the reader to lock it all up again!

Trek: trek.ubc.ca/transportation-options/automobiles/carsharing/

Zipcars: follow the link on the trek site to get you to the Zipcar site with the UBC group rate.

NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEPT. 29
12-2
IBLC #182

Fellow 2950 member Meredith Laycock is hosting a free Appreciative Living Circle open only to CUPE local 2950 members.

The session will be held on 4 Tuesdays, October 4, 11, 18 and 25, from 5 to 6:30 pm, in the Union Office located in Mary Bollert Hall (6253 Marine Dr – across from the Rose Garden).

To register, email Meredith at:

Meredith.laycock@ubc.ca. Spaces are limited

To learn more about Appreciative Inquiry go to: www.hr.ubc.ca/learning-development/odl-service-solutions/appreciative-inquiry/ and to learn more about Appreciative Living Circles go to www.appreciativeliving.com.

CUPE NATIONAL PHOTO GALLERY



Labour Day Parade, Toronto 2011



Vancouver Island education CUPE Locals 947, 459, 441, and 382 are letting people know about the quality services they provide and telling the real story on education underfunding. The four Vancouver Island CUPE K-12 locals are taking their message to the streets on the backs of city buses.

Photos courtesy of cupe.ca.

UBC THRIVE: BUILDING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH FOR ALL

Join UBC Thrive to help build a healthier community for all. Thrive 2011 is a weeklong series of free events running from October 17-21, taking place all over UBC (including Robson Square, Point Grey and UBC Okanagan).

UBC Thrive is a community-driven initiative featuring a week of free events encouraging UBC staff, faculty and students to invest in and reflect on how to build positive mental health. An initiative from Health Promotion Programs (Human Resources) and Healthy Minds at UBC (the Vice-President, Students Office), UBC Thrive 2011 is about building positive mental health for all.

How does mental health get supported and developed in UBC workplaces?



Here are some examples:

- Healthy potlucks and walking groups (food choices and physical activity impact one's brain functioning)
- Gratitude walls (expressing gratitude positively impacts one's mood)
- QPR Gatekeeper Training- UBC's suicide prevention training (developing an understanding of warning signs and how to help students, friends, family members and colleagues allows for early intervention and leads earlier diagnosis of mental illness)
- Educational workshops on health topics (mental health is impacted by physical health)

Health Promotion Programs invites departments/units to highlight health/wellness-related events in order to also help show how we all work to create a healthier UBC.

Join Thrive or learn more about upcoming events by visiting www.thrive.ubc.ca. For more information, you can contact Suzanne Jolly, Health Promotion Coordinator, at suzanne.jolly@ubc.ca or (604) 822-8792.

NEXT
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEPT. 29
12-2
IBLC #182



With the recent death of the HST in BC we see a return to somewhat improved tax fairness. Over the past 20 years, BC taxpayers have witnessed a very large increase in income inequality. It's important that we do not pursue policies that will make this problem worse — like the HST. Recent research done by the CCPA shows that the HST is only one piece of an inequitable provincial tax system, a system in which the richest 20% of British Columbians pay a lower overall/total effective tax rate than the rest of us. Much more needs to be done to make sure everyone contributes a fair share to fund the services and infrastructure BC needs.

Read more on the CCPA blog “Policy Note” at:
www.policynote.ca/so-the-hst-was-defeated-now-what/



Patti Bacchus is the chairwoman of the Vancouver Board of Education.

As Vancouver schools welcome students back to class, parents may be feeling some trepidation and concern over possible job action by teachers.

To find out more about the “teach-only” campaign and what it means for teachers and students alike, as well as bargaining updates and other labour news check out:
bctf.ca/publications/BCTFNews.aspx



Last year Liberals forced the public sector to send more than \$18.2 million to the Pacific Carbon Trust, which then used those resources to fund private sector projects. New Democrats note the Liberal policy cost the Surrey school district \$497,000, the Vancouver school district \$406,000, the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority \$1.15 million, and UBC \$1.52 million last year. To read more: bcndpcaucus.ca/en/new-democrats-call-for-immediate-fix-to-carbon-trust

FINANCES, DISABILITY BENEFITS AND THE RDSP – WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW?

Contributed by Tom Mooney, Parent, Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network

Having a desire to help a relative that lives with a disability, some parents, grandparents and extended family may want to set aside some money for that person. Some families may have considered it wise to open a Tax Free Savings Account (TFSA) believing that because it was “Tax Free” it must be exempt. After further investigation, they would have found that not to be the case. In fact, some families may have come very close to disqualifying their adult relatives from receiving provincial benefits for persons with disabilities (PWD).

However, there are a few ways that families can make financial contributions without impacting these benefits. In British Columbia, qualifying adults may receive a monthly support and shelter amount of just over \$900. For an individual to maintain eligibility, their personal assets including cash and bank accounts, can not exceed \$3,000. If they do, the person’s monthly benefit amount will be impacted.

There are only three types of financial instruments that I am aware of that are exempt from this:

1. a NON-discretionary trust with a \$100,000 balance limit,
2. a discretionary trust without limit, and
3. a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) with a life time contribution limit of \$200,000.

An RDSP also has the advantage of qualifying annually for matching federal grants of up to \$3,500 and up to a maximum lifetime of government grants totaling \$70,000. Plus, for individuals who have a low income, a federal bond of up to \$1,000 per year is available. Even if no personal contributions are made to the plan, a person can receive up to \$20,000 – the lifetime maximum for bonds. In total, up to \$90,000 of federal money is available to plan holders.

Rules and programs surrounding financial affairs for persons with disabilities and their

families are complex. With some education and support from originations like Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN), all families can work through the necessary steps to

increase the personal and financial security of loved ones with disabilities. Contact PLAN to learn about the seminars and workshops offered. They cover topics such as Wills and Estate planning, RDSPs, supported decision making (Representation Agreements) and personal networks. Please call (604) 439-9566 or visit www.plan.ca for more information.

****Please note: This article is not personal financial advice. Tom Mooney is a parent of a PWD recipient and a lifetime member of PLAN.*

Use this information as a starting point, to gather ideas that may assist you in developing your own plans. Always get professional advice.



Canadian Union of Public Employees
Local 2950

6253 Mary Bollert Hall
Vancouver, BC
V6T 1Z1

Phone: 604-822-1494
Fax: 604-822-1481
Email: office@cupe2950.ca
Web: www.cupe2950.ca

Nancy Forhan, President
Frans Van de Ven, Business Agent
Leslie Hodson, Admin. Assistant
Rachael Sullivan, Clerk

Loree Wilcox
CUPE National Representative
#500 - 4940 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 4K6
604-291-1940



CUPE 2950 General Membership Meeting Thursday, September 29, 2011 noon—2:00 pm IBLC #182 (1961 East Mall)



- The September GMM will be held in the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre #182.
- Please note the change in time for the meeting:
12:00-2:00 pm.
- **New business:** open and close nominations for CUPE National Conventions (Vancouver, October 31-November 4).
- To view the September agenda, go to:
www.cupe2950.ca/whatsnew/documents/agenda.pdf.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed or the articles published in *Local News* are not necessarily those of the Editor or Executive. If you have any questions, comments, letters, articles, please contact the Communications Committee at the Union Office or email us at office@cupe2950.ca.