

# ENVIR ACTION



Winter 2009

## New Green Bargaining Guide

**C**UPE has developed a new online guide to Green Contract Language. Entitled *Green Bargaining for CUPE Locals*, the guide explains how environmental contract language can be used to help green workplaces and communities.

The Strategic Directions policy adopted at the 2007 National Convention called on CUPE to take a leadership role on climate change. Helping Locals develop green contract language was pointed to as an action Locals can take to go green and fight climate change.

The online green bargaining guide provides real examples of contract language from CUPE collective agreements on environmental



statements and policies, workplace environment committees, climate change, energy conservation, transportation, just transition, green cleaning products, environmental health and non-polluting work.

All of the examples provided show CUPE Locals key areas to consider for bargaining environmental provisions into their collective agreements.

The guide can be viewed at:  
<http://cupe.ca/environment/green-bargaining-guide>

If you have green language from your collective agreement that you would like added to the guide, please email Matthew Firth ([mfirth@cupe.ca](mailto:mfirth@cupe.ca)).

## Earth Day Poster Winners

The CUPE National Environment Committee and the Health and Safety Branch at CUPE National once again conducted a very successful Earth Day Poster colouring contest in 2008. Approximately 350 posters were coloured and submitted by young people ranging in age from two to 15 from across Canada.

The posters show a deep understanding and concern for the state of the environment. Climate change, waste reduction, green transportation options, producing and buying locally grown food, soil, air and water contamination and other issues were beautifully and creatively portrayed in the posters. And the messages for action on the environment were front and centre in the posters. Our kids want a healthy, clean and green future. Congratulations to all who submitted posters. The winners from 2008 are:

Kamalpreet, British Columbia  
Shyenne, Manitoba  
Thomas, Nova Scotia  
Ben, Nova Scotia  
Brianna, British Columbia  
Vanessa, Ontario  
Kassandra, New Brunswick  
Chloe, Prince Edward Island  
Lucinda, British Columbia  
December, Alberta



**CUPE·SCFP**

Canadian Union of Public Employees  
Health and Safety Branch  
[cupe.ca](http://cupe.ca)

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Service de santé et sécurité  
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## Green Activist Corner

In the Fall of 2008, CUPE Local 3012 members at the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation adopted a Workplace Environment Policy. A few months later, Sister Denise MacDonald – who led the charge to adopt the policy – reports that the policy is having a huge impact on improving the environmental performance of her workplace.

“There is more recycling and composting and far less waste. At our events, we have stopped using disposables and have cut back on paper considerably,” Sister MacDonald explained. She added that her workplace is starting to develop a green culture, where the environmental impact of the work is now regularly taken into account.

Sister MacDonald urges other CUPE Locals to put green issues on the agenda at their workplaces. For example, working to adopt an environmental policy, bargaining green language and forming workplace environment committees. Local 3012's policy has even become the envy of workplaces that share building space with the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation in Regina. Other organizations are now taking Local 3012's policy and applying it to their own operations. Well done Sister MacDonald.

## New: guide, fact sheets, workshop

**C**UPE is developing a new online guide to setting up workplace environment committees. The guide will spell out how a workplace committee could be established, how it should be structured, how it should function and what environmental issues should be addressed. Some CUPE workplaces have already set up workplace environment committees, and provide examples of how committees operate. Look for this online guide to be launched on the CUPE National website for Earth Day, April 22, 2009.

A new series of fact sheets on water conservation in the workplace are also being developed. Look for those to come online at [cupe.ca](http://cupe.ca) mid-2009.

The Union Development Department of CUPE National,

with assistance from CUPE's National Environment Committee, CUPE economist Toby Sanger and senior officer Matthew Firth, has developed a new environment workshop for CUPE members. The course was first offered in a November 2008 test run in British Columbia. The new four-day environment workshop, called *Green Action*, is made up of learning modules, each one focused on a different environmental challenge. There is an introductory module on what is happening in our environment, one on climate change, one on water, one on how to green our workplaces, one on greening the union, and one on taking action in the community. A huge plus with the workshop is that it is virtually paperless. Contact your education representative in your region ([education@cupe.ca](mailto:education@cupe.ca)) for more information.

