



April 2005

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Global Justice in a Global Community

A message from the CUPE National Officers:

Congratulations on this first *Global Justice Mondiale* newsletter. CUPE has a reputation for defending the rights of workers and building strong communities across Canada. We are also building a reputation for our important international work. This newsletter will show how CUPE is on the front line locally and globally.

CUPE members are making the connections between issues we face in our workplaces and communities and those that workers are facing around the world. Globalization is privatizing our jobs in Canada, just as it is internationally. That link is direct and dangerous.

With brothers and sisters all over the world we share common values; of solidarity, peace and equality; of respect and tolerance for others. Strong effective unions are built on these principles and whether you work for a hospital in Lethbridge or one in Bogotá, you should have the same rights to security and a decent income.

Through Global Justice we practice solidarity with workers around the world in practical and strategic ways. We support projects with unions and community partners who are fighting for a fair wage, dignity for workers, social justice and against privatization in their countries. We support education, research and communications work. CUPE financially assists sisters and brothers dealing with HIV/AIDS or with rebuilding their communities after disasters like the Tsunami. We support workers' struggles and collective bargaining rights through our 'urgent action network'. We host international guests at union events and we participate in international meetings. We proudly stand for equal rights and social justice for workers everywhere.

Our 'Rebuilding Strong Communities' in Canada is based on strong social justice values. *Global Justice Mondiale* promotes these same values internationally. We encourage everyone to support your Global Justice committees and contribute to the Global Justice Fund. We are part of a global movement that will make another world possible!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Moist'.

PAUL MOIST
National President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Claude Génereux'.

CLAUDE GÉNEREUX
National Secretary-Treasurer

Strategic Goals and Directions

The National Committee for Global Justice, with members representing every division, provides leadership on global justice issues as outlined by National Convention Policy (*2001 On the Front Line Locally and Globally and 2003 Strategic Directions*).

Working with national and division committees and community partners, we are committed to strengthening the

movement to oppose corporate globalization and its effect – locally, nationally and globally. We link CUPE campaigns and strategies with international analysis and partner projects on key issues of concern: privatization, free trade, deregulation and militarization. Our National *Global Justice Mondiale* Fund supports strategic project work.



Barbara Wood (middle), executive director of CoDevelopment Canada presents their annual International Solidarity Award to CUPE National Committee for Global Justice co-chair Edgar Godoy and CUPE BC regional vice-president Colleen Jordan

Here's What We're Doing!

Global Justice Mondiale connects CUPE members with partners around the world in our common struggle for rights and justice. We coordinate activities that educate and strengthen member networks around common goals.

We make recommendations to the *Global Justice Mondiale* Fund that supports practical and strategic projects with sister unions in countries such as South Africa, El Salvador and Colombia. You and your

CUPE local can directly work with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Locals across Canada are contributing to and promoting the Fund as they educate members and build union solidarity. Some examples of where CUPE members have been active include:

Health Workers' Exchange – Argentina

In August 2003, CUPE hosted the first exchange among health care workers from five countries of the southern hemisphere. In November 2004, CUPE supported and participated in the second exchange with unions from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The Exchanges are critically important to building solidarity and a hemispheric health care movement. In this way, we can seriously oppose trade agreements that threaten to privatize health care, and propose alternative trade and health care policies to our governments.

Leading this exchange for the *Global Justice Mondiale* Committee has been brother Edgar Godoy, Local 2191, co-chair of the National Committee.



Marlene Tartsch (Manitoba Local 1618) marches in an anti-privatization parade during the Health Workers' Exchange in Argentina last November.

HIV/AIDS Fundraiser - Manitoba

Thirty-five million people are infected with the disease across Africa. Workers, union members, our brothers and sisters and their families are suffering as a result. The Manitoba Global Justice committee wanted to help. A social evening at the end of October raised \$3,000 to assist orphans at a School for the Deaf in Uganda (through the Teachers Union in Kampala) and to assist union members in South Africa in their battle with HIV/AIDS.

Frontline Tour Against Privatization: Colombians in Canada

Five public sector Colombian unionists/activists were invited to Canada by CUPE, CUPW and PSAC last year. They were able to tell Canadian workers about the courageous struggle that Colombian workers are fighting to stop privatization, free trade and corruption.

"I just didn't know! A huge success! An eye-opener! When can they come back?" were a few of the comments heard after each leg of the Atlantic and Western tours. "Let's expand the tour across Canada to spread their message. We need to know more about struggles like these. None of us have died to keep our public services, they have," were other comments.

World Social Forum - Brazil

Phenomenal! What can one say about 150,000 activists from all over the world in 2,600 different workshops at one conference? CUPE's National Secretary-

Treasurer, Claude Généreux was there as part of the CLC delegation. The event was an opportunity to strengthen our relationship with other Canadian and international activists and organizations.

Calendar of Events

April 27 - 30	Fourth Hemispheric Conference of Struggle Against the FTAA - Cuba
June 11 - 17	Canadian Labour Congress Convention
October 3 - 7	CUPE National Convention - Winnipeg
November 4 - 5	Summit of the Americas/Mobilization against FTAA - Argentina
December 3	International Day for Disabled Persons
December 6	Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
December 8	World AIDS Day
December 19	International Human Rights Day

Your National *Global Justice Mondiale* committee:

Barb Moore	▪	Nova Scotia (national co-chair)
Doreen Wall	▪	Prince Edward Island
Jeanne Clarke	▪	Newfoundland/Labrador
John Evans	▪	Hospital Employees' Union
Gerald LeBlanc	▪	New Brunswick
Claude Arseneault	▪	Quebec
Edgar Godoy	▪	Ontario
Denyse Lambert	▪	Manitoba
Jose Juarez	▪	Saskatchewan
Margaret Templeton	▪	Alberta
Ken Davidson	▪	British Columbia
Bill Hynd	▪	OXFAM Canada
Don Cockburn	▪	CUSO
Fred Muzin	▪	National Executive Board

Help Make Poverty History

At the start of the 21st century, 1.2 billion people live in abject poverty, most of them women. More than 50,000 people die every day from poverty-related causes.

A major global campaign to end poverty has been launched and is supported by *Global Justice Mondiale*. Union, community, faith and political groups are calling for urgent and meaningful policy changes – More and Better Aid, Trade Justice, Cancel the Debt and End Child Poverty in Canada.

Go to www.makepovertyhistory.ca to learn more and to sign on. Tell the politicians it's time to make poverty history.

This Newsletter

Thanks to Denyse Lambert and Dennis Lewycky, Manitoba, for their assistance with the development of this first newsletter.

We hope you've enjoyed what we had to say in this brief newsletter report. Stay tuned! There will be more to report when our next newsletter features articles on your union's work with sisters and brothers across the globe.

You can see this newsletter and much more on Global Justice at www.cupe.ca/www/globaljustice. Encourage other members to visit the site and get involved.

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