



## APRIL 28: LEARNING FROM CHILDREN

CUPE Local 394 member Richard Mayberry of Richmond, B.C. did not know what to expect when he decided to take the message of April 28 to the schools.

A health and safety representative and co-chair of his Local's workplace joint committee, Brother Mayberry asked his son's teacher at Steves Elementary School if her class could make a poster to be used in the Richmond Day of Mourning ceremony. The teacher gave him the green light but Mayberry had to speak to the class about the reasons behind the Day of Mourning.

The students were "very interested and excited in helping me," he said. When he returned a week later, Mayberry said he was "overwhelmed at the finished product done by seven and eight-year-olds. The poster truly reflected how they viewed the importance of workplace health and safety."

Mayberry took the poster, created by his son and grade two and three classmates, and displayed it at Richmond's April 28 ceremony where it drew many positive comments. He said the poster sent an important message to the workers: "that these youngsters are a very good reason for coming home healthy and safe at the end of each workday."

The poster is now displayed in the Richmond Workers' Compensation Board office.



*Richard Mayberry (CUPE Local 394) with Robb Armstrong and Karen Sinclair (City of Richmond's Health and Safety office) standing beside April 28 poster created by grade two and three students.*

## NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE FOR NATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY AWARD

Know someone who has made a significant health and safety contribution? Someone whose actions have helped others by solving problems, achieving important victories, improving workplace conditions and helping to recognize occupational illness or disease?

Nominate them now for CUPE's National Health and Safety Award. The person must be a CUPE member or a CUPE retiree in good standing and must be a health and safety leader and activist. Closing date for nominations is **September 1, 2005**.

To get a nomination form, contact the National Health and Safety Branch.

# CALL FOR INQUEST INTO B.C. MEMBER'S DEATH

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CUPE has called for an inquest into the death of Angelo Mastrobuono of Local 339 in Nelson, B.C.

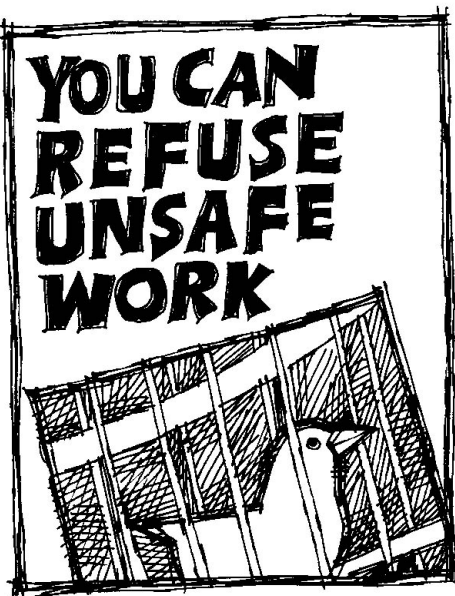
Brother Mastrobuono, 54, was killed on January 2. He was shoveling sand from a truck when the vehicle slid into a concrete barrier, flipped and rolled down a hill. Mastrobuono's brother, Rocco, suffered a broken leg from the same incident.

CUPE wants an inquest into the death to determine the details and what can be done to prevent further fatalities.

CUPE National sends its condolences to Brother Mastrobuono's family, friends and his sisters and brothers at Local 339.



*Anthony Cutrone, CUPE Local 4299 President, with Donna Wright, Ontario Health and Safety representative, after receiving his award from the Windsor Occupational Health Information Service.*



## H&S ACTIVIST RECOGNIZED WITH AWARD

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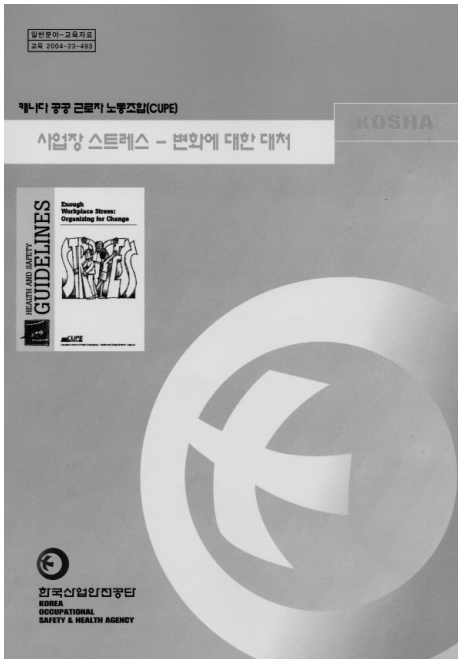
Brother Anthony Cutrone, President of Local 4299 and co-chair of his workplace joint health and safety committee, has received the Windsor Occupational Health Information Service Award of Recognition.

The award, which was presented on April 29 in Windsor, recognizes Cutrone's efforts to protect the health, safety and well-being of members of his workplace and community.

Cutrone is a custodian in the Ontario South-western French Catholic School Board and has been involved in many health and safety campaigns in the schools. He facilitates co-op students in the Young Worker Awareness Program, acts as a resource to teachers' unions in his school board and is involved with a health and safety coalition of school board workers in South-west Ontario that dealt with asbestos in schools.

Congratulations Brother Cutrone!

## KOREANS PICK UP STRESS GUIDELINE



CUPE Health and Safety guidelines end up in many places and are used by a wide variety of people. But, imagine the surprise of the National Branch when a request came through from our sisters and brothers in Korea wanting to translate our stress guideline into Korean.

The Branch received the request from the Korea Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA) in Inchoen, Korea. KOSHA is a government agency that conducts research, develops materials and educates workers and employers with the goal of workplace hazard prevention.

## HAZARDS MAGAZINE CARRIES CUPE'S MESSAGE

The Health and Safety Branch message, *Enough!*, was broadcast to our sisters and brothers internationally in the Spring 2005 issue of *Hazards* magazine.

National Health and Safety Branch Director Anthony Pizzino wrote an article for *Hazards* titled "Enough Said." In it, Brother Pizzino detailed the shift in CUPE's approach to health and safety: from talk of worker cooperation and having a joint stake in health and safety to workers taking a stance of militant defence of their health and safety rights.

Pizzino pointed out in the magazine article that Canada is second only to Italy in terms of the highest workplace injury and death rates of all industrialized nations.

You can find the article online at [www.hazards.org/haz89/cupe.htm](http://www.hazards.org/haz89/cupe.htm)

*Hazards* is an independent, union-friendly magazine that provides health and safety information and resources to unionists in the U.K. and around the world. Visit *Hazards* online at [www.hazards.org](http://www.hazards.org) and consider supporting the magazine by subscribing.

## NEW FROM THE NATIONAL H&S BRANCH

**A new fact sheet on Shiftwork** – Shiftworkers face many hazards no matter what job they do. Increased incidence of depression, shorter life expectancy, stress from balancing family and work, and an increased incidence of breast cancer for women who work nightshifts, are just some of the hazards that affect the lives of shiftworkers. To get copies of the Shiftwork fact sheet, contact the Health and Safety Branch.

The Branch is also **redesigning the Health and Safety web pages** on [www.cupe.ca](http://www.cupe.ca). The improvements will give members more information in a clearer format. We hope to have the improvements done very soon. To visit our current pages, go to [www.cupe.ca/www/healthandsafety](http://www.cupe.ca/www/healthandsafety)

**A day-long workshop on Workplace Toxins** is available from the Health and Safety Branch. The workshop is geared towards Ontario school custodians but can be modified to address any CUPE workplace. It was presented to Ontario custodians and educational assistants at the Ontario School Co-ordinating Committee Conference in Ottawa on April 15. The demand for information on workplace toxins has been growing and the response from participants was very positive.

The Branch has also produced day-long workshops on Ergonomics, Indoor Air Quality and Joint Committees.





# YOU ASKED US: MOBILE PHONES

## “Will my mobile phone give me a brain tumour?”

There has been a lot of media coverage and scientific research on the real and potential dangers of mobile phones. To date, the only conclusive evidence shows that the rate of brain tumours in mobile phone users is the same as in non-users.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the U.S. is in the midst of a long-term study comparing usage of mobile phones by 800 people who have brain tumours with 800 others who don't have brain tumours. The study should be completed within five years with an update due in 2006. Despite the lack of evidence, there are real concerns for workers who use mobile phones frequently.

Mobile phones function like most other electrical devices. They use radiofrequency (RF) energy and emit electromagnetic radiation. Newer digital phones transmit and receive electromagnetic radiation at less than

one watt of power. The radiation from mobile phones is non-ionizing and the electromagnetic waves run at low frequencies.

A mobile phone's main source of RF energy is its antenna. The closer the antenna is to a user's head, the greater the user's exposure to RF energy. It is important to say that *no exposure to RF energy is the safest level*. At high enough levels, RF energy can be harmful because it can heat living tissue to the point of biological damage. Mobile phones do not produce high levels of RF energy but prolonged use has the potential to damage a user's health.

To minimize any harmful exposure, mobile users should:

- Use a headset or speakerphone (to keep the antenna away from your head – this way of using a phone is also better ergonomically);
- When choosing a mobile phone consider the distance from your head to the antenna (the longer the distance, the safer the phone);
- Use a mobile phone for short conversations;
- Use a mobile phone where the reception is good and hold the phone so that your hand is not covering it to keep RF energy to a minimum;
- In your car, use an external antenna mounted on the vehicle.

For more information on the NCI study, visit their website at [www.nci.nih.gov](http://www.nci.nih.gov)

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