



**INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY REPORT 2009–2010**

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CUPE International Solidarity Report 2009-2010 is published by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, 1375 St-Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0Z7.

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Union printed using vegetable-oil based inks on recycled paper processed chlorine free and containing 100% post-consumer waste, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.

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Cover photo: Sindicato Mexicano de Electricistas (SME) member speaking to hunger strikers protesting in front of Mexican central light and power utility.

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**THE STRENGTH** of CUPE's commitment to international solidarity work has never been stronger. CUPE members across the country have written letters, held rallies, welcomed delegations from around the globe, and attended conferences on pressing issues such as climate change, women's issues, and equality rights for all workers.

We have witnessed CUPE's robust commitment to international solidarity in many ways and on many issues. Whether it is the urgency in speaking out on the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement by alerting politicians to the problems of the agreement, or support for Burmese human rights workers, CUPE members stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers from around the globe.

From the enthusiasm that greeted our brothers from the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Philippines (ACT) and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) in the Philippines during their tour across Canada, to our joint work with the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU), CUPE members add their voice to the global movement for justice.





South Africa

CUPE's contribution of \$100,000 to Oxfam-Québec for Haiti earthquake relief was an exceptional gesture and showed how we can mobilize quickly with our partners to deliver assistance during times of crisis. CUPE pledged to be involved with the long-term reconstruction of Haiti and to support efforts of the Haitian people to rebuild their society.

Our actions are rooted in the foundation of our union, advocating on behalf of our members and working tirelessly to defend our rights as workers and citizens in the world community. We challenge our government and the rest of the Group of Eight (G8) countries to live up to their international commitments. In particular, CUPE has focused on the responsibility of rich nations to tackle the HIV/AIDS crisis through our campaign earlier this spring. Joining with African unions has been a rich and valuable

experience and we will continue to collaborate in the weeks and months ahead.

Contributing to our global justice fund is one way that we can promote our alternatives and make a lasting difference. This year we are reaching out to CUPE locals to ask them to join us in our international solidarity efforts. A small monthly contribution to the global justice fund is the easiest way to do this and means that CUPE will continue to lead in the fight for justice globally. We thank all of the members who have contributed in the past and we hope many more will join in the year ahead.

Paul Moist, National President

Claude Gagnéux, National Secretary-Treasurer



May Day rally with members of the municipal workers union of Port au Prince, Haiti.

## NOT SO NATURAL DISASTERS

The recent earthquake in Haiti is the most graphic example of how extreme poverty, sub-standard infrastructure and environmental degradation intensify a natural disaster. As the poorest country in the western hemisphere Haiti had no capacity to cope with the aftermath of the quake.

The reconstruction plan for Haiti must begin with respect for the self-determination of the Haitian people. The plan needs to build both a physical and social infrastructure that allows democracy and independence. Public services controlled by the people, a job strategy that takes into account the dignity and fair treatment of workers and a comprehensive plan for environmental sustainability are all necessary. Without this commitment Haitians will continue to face lives of poverty and be vulnerable to the growing impact of climate change. CUPE is working with the Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers (CTSP) an affiliate of the Public Services International (PSI) to provide solidarity and support. In early May, Secretary-Treasurer Claude Généreux traveled to Haiti as part of a PSI delegation. The delegation worked with the union to map out a plan to, among other

things, rebuild the union office, assist with education for the orphaned children of members, and provide shelter for members left homeless.

Climate change hurts poor countries more. We have to work to lower greenhouse gas emissions. There is also an urgent need to provide resources so that poor nations can adapt. A coordinated approach to address economic and social injustice, as well as work on the environment and climate change is necessary.

### **United Nations Climate Change Conference, 2009 (COP15)**

CUPE sent a full delegation to the Climate Change Conference in Denmark in December 2009. Led by National Secretary-Treasurer Claude Généreux, the delegation included national environment committee members Robert Coelho (CUPE 3904) and Carolyn Unsworth (Hospital Employees' Union), national executive board member Charles Fleury and CUPE national staff Pam Beattie and Matthew Firth. In addition, three others were sent as delegates: Nathalie Stringer (Air Transat component); Peter Falconer and staff representative Dave Shier (CUPE 1000).

COP15's goal was to enter into a binding global climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012. Unfortunately, the negotiations ended in failure with Canada being part of the problem.

Our delegates, along with many others from Canada, worked very hard to show the world that the actions of our government do not reflect the majority

of its citizens. Climate change has been the most significant issue for CUPE's National Environment Committee for many years; and considerable effort has been spent educating CUPE members about why trade unionists should be involved.

At the conference, our delegation tracked negotiations and paid particular attention to the work of Canadian negotiators. They engaged with labour activists from around the world about how climate change is affecting work in their country and what solutions workers have implemented. As part of a 400-member labour delegation led by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), CUPE helped send an important message to world leaders and the international media: climate change is a core labour issue and we are united in calling for action.

### **Blue Summit**

In November 2009, CUPE along with the Council of Canadians, celebrated 10 years of water activism by sponsoring the Blue Summit. CUPE members and community partners gathered together to renew and expand the campaign for public water and wastewater services. Learning from our victories and challenges we took a serious look at the state of public water in Canada and discussed where to go over the next 10 years.

One of the highlights of the summit was being able to hear first-hand about the campaigns being waged in other parts of the world and how we in Canada can apply the lessons learned and support others. We heard from Veronica Ngwerume of Zimbabwe about the struggles women





Ghanaian delegate Al Hassan Adam at Blue Summit, Ottawa.

deal with in accessing water and how significant it is when you are dealing with health concerns like HIV/AIDS. Ghanaian speaker, Al Hassan Adam, was an inspiration on the topic of fighting the privatization of water in Ghana.

Public-public partnerships were introduced to many CUPE members for the first time. We were privileged to have the discussion led by Emanuele Lobina from the Public Services International Research Unit (PSIRU) in the U.K. and Martin Pigeon, researcher and activist with the network Reclaiming Public Water, in Brussels. Both brothers provided credible alternatives to the privatization agenda.

## **HIV/AIDS**

In support of a campaign led by African unions, CUPE took the lead in Canada

to call on the G8 countries to live up to their commitments on HIV/AIDS. In advance of the G8 Summit in June, the African regional organization of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) set up a lobby campaign to pressure the G8 host country, Canada, to focus attention on promises made by the G8 for universal access to HIV/AIDS services by 2010.

CUPE, in co-operation with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) embarked on a major e-campaign in support of universal access to HIV/AIDS services. Our aim was to get as many union members and the public-at-large to send a strong message to the Canadian government in support of universal access.



International guest Mariano José Guerra at CUPE's national convention, Montreal.

## GLOBAL JUSTICE FORUM

Delegates at CUPE's 24<sup>th</sup> national convention in Montreal were treated to an exciting evening of speakers from around the world at the global justice forum.

Delegates heard about the struggle in Colombia from Mariano José Guerra. Guerra belongs to FENALTRASE (National Federation of Public Sector Workers) based in Medellin, Antioquia, Colombia.

Brother Guerra has worked as a public prosecutor and is currently a lawyer for victims of violence, including people affected by landmines, forced displacement and extrajudicial assassinations. He has represented Colombian civil society at international meetings of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and has been a candidate with the Alternative Democratic Pole, a coalition of opposition parties. For his work in the labour movement and as a prosecutor of paramilitary and military cases, Brother Guerra has received numerous death threats and lives with security measures to protect his life.



FENALTRASE is a federation of state workers that includes over 80 per cent of the state unions in Colombia, with a membership of 150,000. It includes national, provincial and municipal organizations with workers from health, justice, public service, ministerial, transportation, agrarian, education, and national registry sectors.

Also speaking at the forum was Saw Kwehsay, the information and campaign coordinator in Thailand of the Peace Way Foundation–Burma Issues. Kwehsay was born in a small Burmese village that was destroyed by the Burmese army in 1976. He started working as the human rights information collector in his own village area and provided basic human rights training to the local villagers.

The Peace Way Foundation promotes justice and peace and is calling for the respect of human rights. CUPE supports Kwehsay's work through the global justice fund project with CUPE 2440, workers at CUSO-VSO.

Delegates also had the opportunity to hear Nomvula Julie Hadi, the recently elected Deputy President of the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU).

Comrade Hadi lives in the industrial city of Port Elizabeth. She has been a SAMWU shop steward since 1997 and worked as a senior clerk for the Nelson Mandela Municipality.

Before joining the municipality she worked in the auto industry and was a shop steward in the metalworkers union of the Congress of South African Trade

Unions (COSATU) for many years. She has been an activist all her adult life. At 17, she became active in the banned African National Congress (ANC) Youth League, and later the ANC Women's League.

She is passionate about cementing the linkages between the union and social/community movements, and has been a courageous advocate for gender equality. South Africans have had political freedom for 15 years (since independence in 1994), but not economic freedom. While the new South African president has opened up some dialogue with unions, the gap between the poor and the rich continues to grow.

Later in the week, Colombian activist Berenice Ceylata made an impassioned speech to delegates. Her organization, the Association for Social Research and Action (NOMADESC), is a partner of CUPE through CUPE BC and the global justice fund. Ceylata works tirelessly to promote human rights in Colombia and NOMADESC is in the forefront of many struggles, supporting unionists, indigenous and Afro-Colombian organizations.



Members of the Mexican electrical workers' union protest corruption in the sale of the state utility.

## SPEAKING OUT

### Iran

In June 2009, CUPE participated in a demonstration at the Iranian embassy in Ottawa to support the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) call for a global day of solidarity with workers of Iran. It coincided with the massive waves of protests in Iran following the presidential election. Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Public Services Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) sent a joint letter protesting the repression and jailing of union activists. Many CUPE members with family and friends in Iran are tireless in their support for justice. One of those members is Brother Farid C. Partovi, of CUPE 4772 who works diligently to keep CUPE members informed about the situation of workers in that country. [info@workers-iran.org](mailto:info@workers-iran.org)



CUPE delegates Stuart Ryan, Joe MacDonald, Rebecca Warden and Kelti Cameron in the Philippines.

### **Coup d'état in Honduras**

CUPE was appalled to hear of the coup d'état in Honduras last June and responded immediately. Our letter to the Prime Minister asked that Canada use its influence in the country to insist on the president's reinstatement. Even though almost every country in the hemisphere condemned the coup and imposed sanctions, Canada's response was weak, not explicitly asking for President Zelaya's reinstatement, nor stopping government aid. CUPE supported two missions to Honduras, one to document the human rights abuses and the second was the Rights Action election observation mission. CUPE 3903 member Tyler Shiple participated in the election observation. CUPE 1004 member Steve Stewart led another solidarity delegation in September, meeting with CUPE's

project partner, the women's organization CODEMUH. After documenting arrests, harassment and beatings of those opposing the coup, Stewart was detained by Honduran Special Intelligence Forces. A Honduran citizen present at the police headquarters managed to smuggle their names and nationalities out of the station and contacted a lawyer working for Honduras Resists. The timely intervention of the lawyer prevented the transfer of Stewart to the Forces base. CUPE continues to be involved in monitoring the situation in Honduras through our work with the Americas Policy Group (APG) of the Canadian Centre for International Co-operation (CCIC).

### **Human rights defenders, Burma**

The project initiated by CUPE 2440 is now in its second year. This last year, with



CUPE's support, several training and networking meetings brought together human rights defenders from 18 organizations to share information and best practices. Training was held about International Criminal Court procedures and Human Rights and Gender Awareness.

### **The case of Abousfian Abdelrazik**

Abousfian Abdelrazik might still be living in the Canadian embassy in Sudan if it wasn't for the efforts of thousands of Canadians, including a number of CUPE members. CUPE National joined the campaign by writing to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lawrence Cannon, to protest Canada's refusal to return Mr. Abdelrazik home even though the Canadian government had stated that he had a right to do so. Thankfully, Mr. Abdelrazik was finally reunited with his family in Montreal.

### **Mexican Electrical Workers Union**

Mexico, under the leadership of President Calderón, has seen an increase in repression and violence against workers and their unions. One of the most significant was the firing of 44,000 electrical workers at Central Light and Power Company (Luz y Fuerza) because of their opposition to the privatization of the electricity system. In October 2009, the government liquidated the company and rejected any form of negotiation with the Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME). Massive protests in Mexico City and international support have led to some improvements for the laid-off workers.

Shelly Gordon, CUPE researcher specializing in the energy sector, was part of a

delegation to Mexico representing unions affiliated to both the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL/CIO).

The delegates met with officials from both the Canadian and U.S. embassies to convey the union's side of the story and impress upon them that the unions in all three countries will be opposing trade agreements with Mexico as long as it continues to break its own labour and human rights laws.

The union delegation from Canada and the U.S. was inspired by the solidarity and strength of SME members. CUPE has provided financial assistance to the union and will continue its support through our work with the Tri-National Energy Sector working group.

### **LabourStart**

CUPE members and staff routinely participate in LabourStart's global e-campaigns in support of trade union rights. Thousands of support and protest messages were sent in 2009/10 on issues as diverse as South African stewards fired for encouraging workers to refuse unsafe work, to Turkish public sector union leader Seher Tümer who is starting her second year of imprisonment awaiting trial for her union activities. You can add your voice by checking out [www.labourstart.org](http://www.labourstart.org).

### **Colombia free trade agreement and election monitoring mission**

For over a year CUPE, along with other unions, citizens groups and sympathetic parliamentarians have stopped the Harper government from implementing the free



José Goyes, Colombia

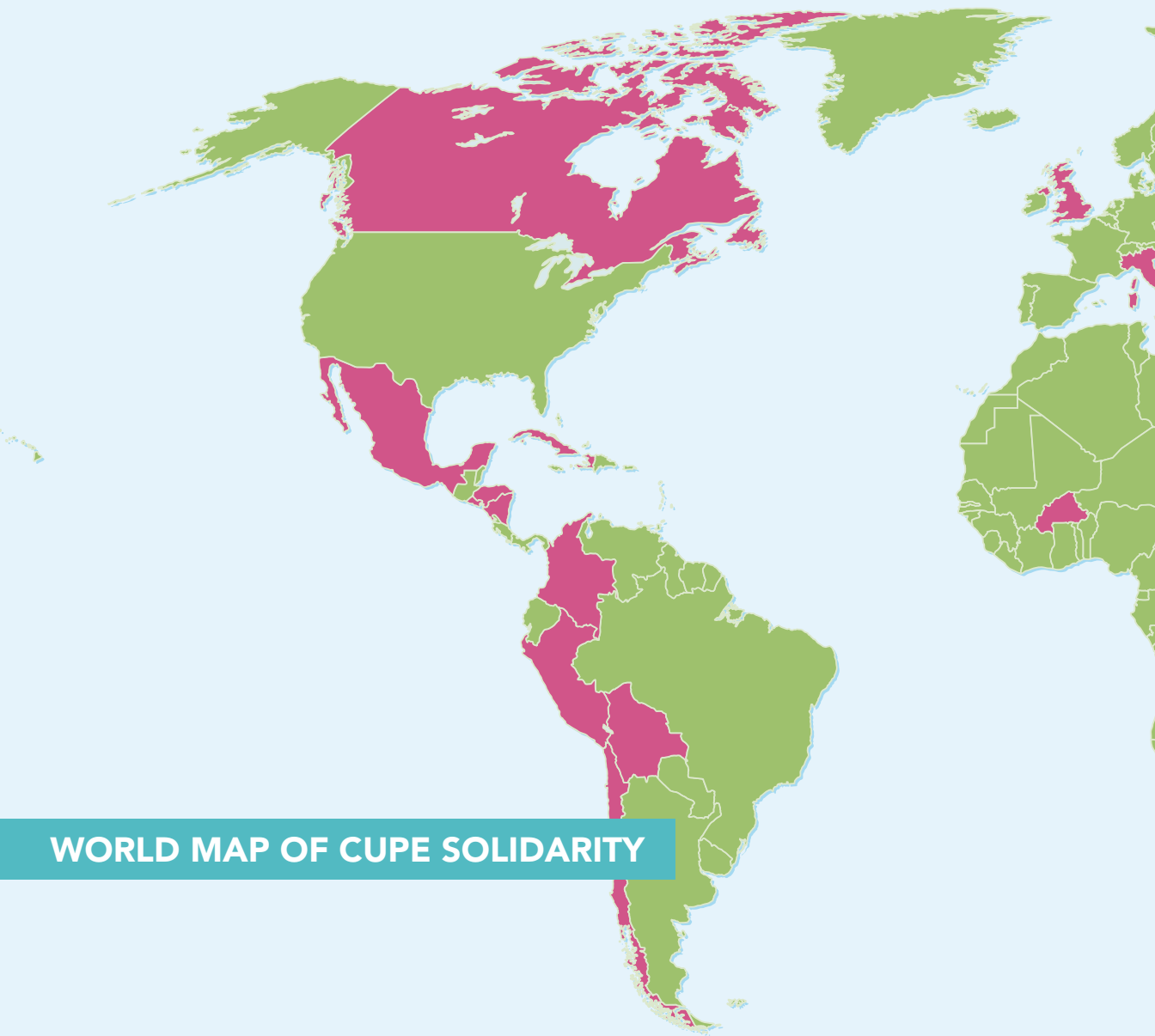
trade agreement with Colombia. At this moment the government, back from prorogation, reintroduced the legislation. We have been consistent in our call for an independent human rights assessment prior to any kind of trade agreement. CUPE members have written letters, signed emails and petitions and there have been events across the country opposing the trade deal. We have had Colombians testify to the parliamentary trade committee, and we've helped disseminate reports that document human rights abuses and murders of trade unionists as well as the displacement of indigenous peoples from their land.

The most recent action that CUPE has sponsored was our participation in an international pre-election observer's mission. CUPE 1004 member Barbara Wood led one of the groups in the mission and was accompanied by Ricardo Miranda of CUPE 4095. In the province of Cordoba,

they heard the hair raising testimony of 569 selective assassinations in 2009, the highest number ever recorded. The victims were primarily local politicians and community, indigenous, and union leaders. A wide range of people told the observers that the assassinations were carried out by paramilitaries, despite claims from Colombia's government that paramilitary forces have been demobilized.

The monitoring mission was organized in conjunction with Misión de Observación Electoral (MOE), a Colombian organization, and included 22 observers from the U.S., European Union, Mexico, Panama, and Australia.

No matter the outcome of the trade agreement, CUPE will carry on its solidarity work for justice and peace with our sisters and brothers in Colombia.



## WORLD MAP OF CUPE SOLIDARITY

### South and Central America and the Caribbean

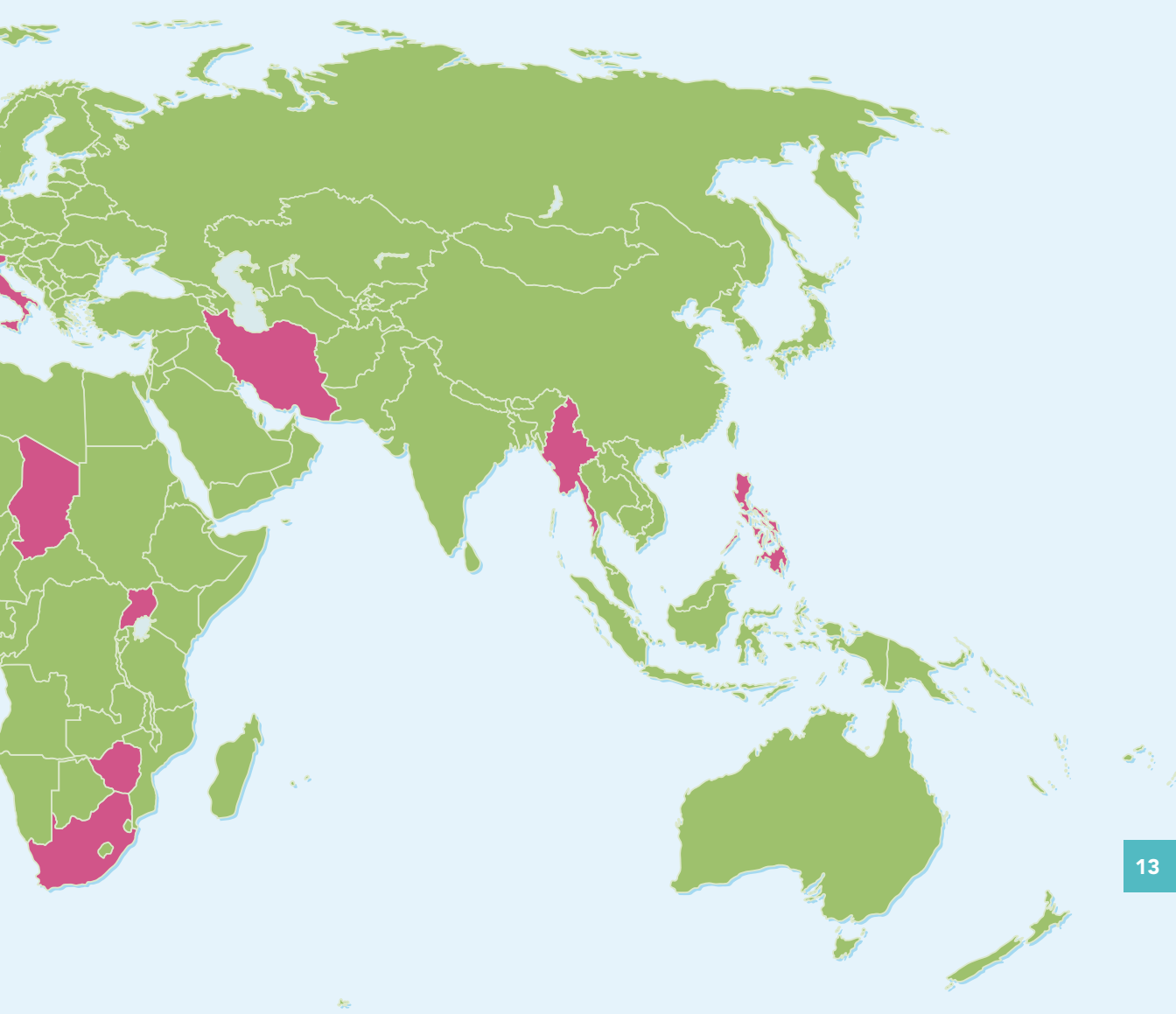
- Latin American Solidarity Network, video project, Honduras
- Honduras election observer with Rights Action
- CODEMUH (The Collective of Honduran Women) global justice project, Honduras
- MEC (Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Employed and Unemployed Women) global justice project, Nicaragua
- FENASTRAS (The National Trade Union Federation of Salvadoran Workers), commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack and killing of workers, El Salvador
- Peru–Canada Free Trade Agreement, letter of protest
- Chile earthquake relief fund
- Bolivia, video project on constitutional referendum
- Bolivia water consultation, Cochabamba

- World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, Bolivia
- SNTAP (National Union of Public Sector Workers, global justice project), Cuba
- Haiti earthquake relief with PSI and CTSP
- Colombia Free Trade Agreement campaign and pre-election monitoring mission
- NOMADESC (Association for Social Research and Action), global justice project, Colombia

### North America

- Gender equality and international development, Victoria International Development Education Association (VIDEA), Victoria
- International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG)
- Not Just Tourists: delivering medicine and medical aid to Cuba and other developing countries
- César E. Chávez Black Eagle Awards Dinner, Toronto





- Global Education Initiative, University of Toronto, York, Ryerson
- Maquila Solidarity Network
- Common Frontiers
- Canadian Council for International Cooperation
- Support for Mexican Electrical Workers Union (SME)

### Africa

- South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) congress, November 2009
- South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) global justice project
- Public Services International (PSI), appeal for Zimbabwe public sector workers' unions
- Planting a Seed for Zimbabwe
- Amnesty International, campaign for safety of displaced people in Eastern Chad, July 2009
- Africans in Partnership Against AIDS, fundraising

- dinner for Pride Uganda Alliance International (PUAI)
- National Organization of Trade Unions (NOTU), Uganda, global justice project sponsored by CUPE 859
- Burkina Faso

### Europe

- Abruzzo earthquake fund
- Support for International Centre for Trade Union Rights (ICTUR)

### Asia

- Burma project, Peace Way Foundation
- Human rights in Iran
- Message of solidarity, Alliance of Progressive Labour (APL) Philippines, congress January 2010
- CUPE 4600, solidarity exchange, ACT and COURAGE, Philippines, global justice project
- Election monitoring, May 2010, Philippines



Canadian MP Libby Davies is joined by HEU and CLC delegate Victor Elkins and CUPE delegate Peter De Groot at the Outgames.

## GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

### **2<sup>nd</sup> World Outgames “Love of Freedom, Freedom to Love” Conference**

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK – JULY 25-29, 2009 The Outgames, in addition to the sporting events, offered a cultural program and a human rights conference. The conference goal was to reaffirm and defend the human right of every Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) person in the world to participate fully, equally and openly in every part of life without fear of discrimination or criminalization.

The CUPE delegation included Line Blackburn, CUPE 1983, Quebec, Peter De Groot, CUPE 391, British Columbia and national staff Joanne Martin and Michael Butler. Delegates from 85 countries attended, even from countries where homosexuality is still a criminal offence.

Activists from around the globe made inspirational presentations, some reporting on their victories and others telling their stories of courage in the face of oppression. The conference ended with the launch of the “Copenhagen Catalogue of Good Practices,” providing concrete examples of actions taken to advance the rights of LGBT communities.



Veronica Ngwerume of Zimbabwe at the Blue Summit, Ottawa.

### **International Trade Union Conference (ITUC) on Women and Work**

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, OCTOBER 19-21, 2009  
Sister Maureen Morrison, director of CUPE's Equality Branch, attended the first ever ITUC women's conference. Over 450 delegates from 100 countries gathered under the banner "Decent Work, Decent Life for Women: Trade Unions Taking the Lead for Economic and Social Justice and Equality." Women tackled gender equality issues like organizing domestic workers and women working in the informal economy, pay and pensions, maternity leave, harassment and violence and how to develop ways for unions to monitor progress on gender equality in the workplace. Young women spoke about how they are more likely to find only precarious work. There was a focus on the impact of climate change on women and the importance of

the ongoing campaign for public services as tools for gender equality.

### **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)**

NEW YORK, USA, MARCH 1-12, 2010  
Equality Branch Director Maureen Morrison was part of the Canadian Labour Congress' (CLC) delegation, which joined 50 other women trade unionists affiliated to the Public Services International (PSI), International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Educational International (EI).

The theme of this year's session was "Beijing+15," a review of where women are 15 years after the historic meeting that resulted in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Member states were asked to report on the progress





Bela Bela, South Africa

made in their countries and the Canadian government painted a rosy picture for women in this country. The CLC, and the Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), compiled an alternate report “Reality Check” that outlined the ways the struggle for women’s equality has stalled or regressed under the Harper government.

The CLC delegation met with the Minister of State for the Status of Women, Helena Guergis, to raise their concerns. These included the lack of a universal child care program, the attack on pay equity, the withdrawal of funding for women’s advocacy groups, and the proposed deletion of the gun registry.

CUPE must remain engaged in international events like this as they provide an excellent opportunity to hold the government to account in a very public way.

### **National Health Care Issues Committee – Cross-Canada Tours**

Last year, the National Health Care Issues Committee sponsored two nationwide tours drawing on the knowledge of international experts. The popular events provided valuable information for CUPE health care workers and the broader health care community.

The speakers reported on the impact of privatization on health care and health care workers in their respective countries. Steve Davies, from the U.K., brought his expertise in researching the increase in health care acquired infections following the privatization and contracting out of cleaning services. He offered positive news of the shift toward bringing cleaning services back into the public sector in Wales and Scotland. Toby Edelman, from the



South Africa

U.S., provided cautionary information and experience with the corporatized long-term care in the U.S. and the impact on health care and health care workers.

### **Trade: Buy America and free trade with the European Union**

Canada is engaged in negotiating a number of trade agreements around the world whose impact on the public sector will be significant. The “Buy America” trade deal was signed and implemented by the Harper government on February 16, 2010 while Parliament was prorogued. Canada has given up a considerable amount of access to public procurement and in return gained access to less than two per cent of the overall U.S. stimulus package. Further, there has been no assessment on the impact this agreement will have on Canadian jobs and communities.

Even more disturbing is the prospect of a free trade agreement with the European Union (EU). At the time of writing this report, Canada has been asked by Europe to open up access to public services at all three levels of government. Some of the services on the table are our postal service, provincial crown corporations and municipal water and wastewater. CUPE’s research shows that the EU trade deal would be of minimal advantage to Canada and give European multinational companies a huge advantage. We are working with our allies through the Trade Justice Network to halt this deal and prevent the wholesale sell-off of Canada’s public assets.

### **Philippines, Worker-to-Worker Solidarity Exchange**

Following the successful tour of Canada by union leaders from the Alliance of





CUPE delegates visit a school where ACT is represented, Philippines.

Concerned Teachers (ACT) and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE), CUPE 4600 and their community partner, the Ontario Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (OCHRP), organized a tour to the Philippines in January 2010.

Rebecca Warden, Joe MacDonald, Priscillia Lefebvre and Natalie Phillips from CUPE 4600, Ilian Burbano of CUPE 3393, and Serge Landry of CUPE 2079, made up the delegation along with Kelti Cameron, national staff. Our delegation met with workers and farmers; students and teachers; trade union, human rights and community activists all fighting against privatization, political repression and violence. Visits were made to picket lines, schools, sugar plantations, government offices and the export processing

zones (EPZ). Since 2001, there have been more than 1,000 activists killed, and harassment and violence is the norm for workers who speak up for labour rights.

### **South African Municipal Workers' Union Congress**

BELA BELA, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 3-6, 2009 The 9<sup>th</sup> congress of the South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU) was held in Limpopo province to the north east of Johannesburg. CUPE National President Paul Moist, general vice-president Tom Graham, executive assistant to the president Gisèle Dupuis and international officer Rhonda Spence attended the meeting.

Even though SAMWU made significant gains in recent negotiations, there remains many challenges facing the union.





Indah Budiarti of the PSI at CUPE national office.

In particular, tackling corruption at the municipal government level is high on the list, along with supporting citizens in communities who still do not have access to clean water, sanitation and electricity.

CUPE delegates were part of a very large contingent of public service union representatives from around the world. Brother Moist was part of an international panel on “The Global Economic Crisis: Developing a Workers’ Response.”

SAMWU continues to play a vital role in building the trade union movement in Southern Africa, providing vital support and solidarity to our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mozambique. CUPE members should be proud of our long-term connection with SAMWU and note that the work we do through the global justice fund is well received.

## **Public Services International (PSI) staffer at CUPE**

Earlier this spring, CUPE hosted Indah Budiarti, organizer and educator with the PSI in Asia. Indah is completing the masters program at the Global Labour University in Germany. CUPE’s work to support public services and fight privatization was one reason that she asked to spend time here. In her six-week internship, she was involved in grievance hearings, bargaining, education and campaign work. Indah attended the Saskatchewan division convention and was able to spend a few days in British Columbia with Bill Pegler, B.C. school board coordinator.

In other PSI news, CUPE contributed \$10,000 to the Public Services International appeal for earthquake relief in Chile.



Ottawa

## COAST TO COAST

### British Columbia

As well as the ongoing sponsorship of three global justice projects, CUPE BC has taken on a number of activities this year. Brother Dukens Raphael, general secretary of PSI affiliate CTSP (Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers), addressed the B.C. division convention in April, giving CUPE members a first-hand update of the situation following the earthquake in Haiti. CUPE BC and many local unions had earlier contributed to Oxfam for earthquake relief. Following brother Raphael's speech, CUPE BC contributed \$10,000 to his union and this was matched by CUPE National. Through the Stephen Lewis Fund, CUPE BC made its annual donation to the "Go Go Grannies" and this year, supported "Dove," a publication of the Burmese Women's Union.

### Hospital Employees' Union (HEU), British Columbia

The HEU continues to support the work of maquila workers in Honduras and the network of maquila worker organizations



Activists in Winnipeg celebrate Nelson Mandela.

throughout Central America. Brother Mariano José Guerra of Colombia attended their recent global justice committee meeting.

### **Alberta**

CUPE members continue to be involved in supporting temporary foreign workers in Alberta. They created a global justice committee, distributed information and raised close to \$2,000 for the global justice fund at the Alberta division convention in March 2010.

### **Saskatchewan**

In August 2009, the National Organization of Trade Unions of Uganda (NOTU) held its first strategic planning meeting with the assistance of CUPE 859 and the global justice fund. The aim

of the meeting was to start to build a national union structure in Uganda and to provide support and encouragement to affiliates.

### **Manitoba**

On February 12, 2010, the CUPE Manitoba global justice and human rights committees organized a commemorative event to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. On February 11, 1990, Mandela was released after spending 27 years in prison. His freedom marked a huge turning point in the anti-apartheid struggle that led to the first truly democratic elections in South Africa a couple of years later.

Attending the event were many CUPE members who had worked on the anti-apartheid struggle in Winnipeg and



members of different unions who have international solidarity programs. The event was co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Peace Alliance. The MC for the evening was Zully Tujillo, from CUPE 2153.

## Ontario

The Coming Together for Haiti Fundraiser was organized by the Toronto Haiti Action Committee, CUPE Ontario's racial justice and international solidarity committees and the Toronto Forum on Cuba and sponsored by the Latin American Solidarity Network and CUPE 2191. All funds raised were donated to Partners in Health (PIH).

PIH is a pioneering health organization based for more than 20 years in the Central Plateau of Haiti. Prior to the earthquake, it had been delivering health care to a population area of one million people, including education and training of Haitians as doctors and health professionals. Since the earthquake, PIH has been mobilizing emergency relief to affected areas throughout the country. PIH presents a model of non-governmental organization (NGO) engagement because Haitians lead the operations on the ground (based on fair wages). PIH operates alongside the Ministry of Health and is committed to strengthening Haiti's public health care sector.

The CUPE Ontario global justice committee has also been involved in educating members about the negative impacts of mining and organized a forum about the Colombia free trade agreement in April 2010. They participated in organizing events for the G8 meetings in Toronto in June.

## Quebec

The global justice committee is now up and running and the first meeting was in February 2010. Ginette Paul represented CUPE Quebec as part of the Quebec Federation of Labour (QFL) delegation to meet with Haitian unions and Oxfam-Québec about support for rebuilding their country. The longshoremen sector of CUPE Quebec has been active in collecting warm clothing and other necessities for sailors arriving in Montreal who work in sub-standard conditions for international shipping lines.

## New Brunswick

At the division convention in April, the first CUPE New Brunswick global justice committee was elected. Brother Serge Landry of CUPE 2079 reported to the delegates about the Philippines tour that he was part of and encouraged delegates and their locals to join the global justice fund.

Members of CUPE 1252 travelled to Burkina Faso in West Africa as part of a delegation sponsored by the New Brunswick Council of Hospital Unions. The CUPE members spent two weeks working in a medical clinic and orphanage in Burkina Faso in November 2009. The eight people, three of whom were LPNs, raised funds for their transport and medical supplies, working with the non-governmental organization Careforce International. Mornings were spent in the clinic providing a full range of medical services for a nominal fee. The CUPE sisters were able to use their expertise in a very different medical situation, diagnosing, treating and prescribing medicine.



Burkina Faso

Afternoons were spent at the orphanage Village of Hope looking after the needs of over 400 children.

### **Prince Edward Island**

CUPE global justice joined together with NGOs and women's organizations to celebrate International Women's Day in Wolfville, Nova Scotia and Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. Ruth Mathiang, singer, songwriter and activist, performed and shared stories of the lives of women in Africa. Ruth is originally from Sudan, but came to P.E.I. in 2001 to attend university. Today, Ruth is one of the rising stars of African music in Canada.

At the P.E.I. division convention in 2009, delegates gathered for a global justice breakfast to discuss international issues

with CUPE National President Paul Moist.

### **Nova Scotia**

CUPE Nova Scotia and local unions were very generous in supporting New Brunswick global justice committee member, Serge Landry, as part of the Philippines tour. CUPE activists in Nova Scotia were particularly active in protesting the Colombia free trade agreement and were involved in the ongoing lobbying work to change the views of Liberal trade critic, Scott Brison.

### **Newfoundland and Labrador**

CUPE members continue to participate in joint activities with Oxfam Canada to promote public services, including access to clean water and sanitation.



National Global Justice Committee

## BUILDING THE FUND

Every day, CUPE members make a real difference in the campaign for global justice. Our focus has been and will continue to be, worker-to-worker solidarity and support for public services and labour and human rights. Making a difference takes time and means a long-term commitment to our sisters and brothers here at home and around the world. CUPE has managed to take on quite a lot with a small amount of resources. We do that by working in collaboration with others, being strategic in our choices and involving members directly.

We need to have the resources to build on this good work and to remain effective. That is why we are asking each local to consider a sustaining contribution to the global justice fund. If every local made a modest contribution of \$15 every month, we would be able to build a stronger fund for the future.

Please ask your local to think about doing this. For more information on how you can join the global justice fund, or to make a contribution, please contact CUPE's international solidarity officer, Rhonda Spence at [rspence@cupe.ca](mailto:rspence@cupe.ca).



# MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## Global Justice Fund Donors April 2009 – Present

Individual CUPE members  
CUPE staff  
CUPE Manitoba  
CUPE Alberta  
CUPE 116 University of British Columbia Employees, Vancouver, British Columbia  
CUPE 830 Charlottetown Water Commission, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
CUPE 859 City of Saskatoon Outside Workers, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
CUPE 974 Saskatoon Community Clinic, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
CUPE 1063 Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba Employees, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
CUPE 1174 Police and Fire Staff, Summerside and Kensington Outside Workers, Prince Edward Island  
CUPE 1779 East Prince Health Authority Employees, Summerside, Prince Edward Island  
CUPE 1860 Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation Employees, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador  
CUPE 1870 University of Prince Edward Island Employees, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island  
CUPE 1876 Northside Community Guest Home, North Sydney, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 2145-01 Bulkley Valley School District #54 Employees, Smithers, British Columbia  
CUPE 2305 Metro Community Housing Association, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 2440 CUSO-VSO Canada, Ottawa, Ontario  
CUPE 2545 Fort McMurray Public School Board Employees, Fort McMurray, Alberta  
CUPE 2722 Oxfam Canada, Ottawa, Ontario  
CUPE 3008 Resi-Care Cape Breton Association, Sydney, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 3008-01 Cape Breton Transition House Counselors, Sydney, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 3012 Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation, Regina, Saskatchewan  
CUPE 3067 New Dawn Guest Home Employees, Sydney, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 3173 Find Help Information Services, Toronto, Ontario  
CUPE 3479 North Island College Employees, Courtney, British Columbia  
CUPE 4326 Cumberland County Transition House, Amherst, Nova Scotia  
CUPE 4600 Carleton University Part-Time Educational Workers, Ottawa, Ontario  
CUPE 5111 Prairie North Regional Health Authority, North Battleford, Saskatchewan  
CUPE 8443 Employees of the Board of Education of the Saskatoon School District #13 of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

## Global Justice Committee Members and Alternates 2010

William Sheppard, NL and Labrador (CUPE 569)  
Jonathan Fourdraine, Nova Scotia (CUPE 1933)  
Maciej (Matthew) Zawadzki, Prince Edward Island (CUPE 1870)  
Serge Landry, New Brunswick (CUPE 2079)  
Ginette Paul, Quebec (CUPE-SCFP 2000)  
Edgar S. Godoy, Ontario (CUPE 2191)  
Ilian Burbano (Alternate), Ontario (CUPE 3393)  
Marian White (Co-Chair), Prince Edward Island (CUSO-VSO) (CUPE 2440)  
Rosa Candia (Alternate), Ottawa (CUSO-VSO) (CUPE 2440)  
Miriam Cristina Palacios, (Oxfam) (CUPE 2722)  
Bill Hynd (Alternate), Oxfam (CUPE 2722)  
Barbara Wood, (CoDev) (CUPE 1004)  
Sue Roth, Manitoba (CUPE 1063)  
Vickie Angell-Scheler, Saskatchewan (CUPE 5111)  
Mike McCann, Alberta (CUPE 30)  
Ernie Jacobson (Alternate), Alberta (CUPE 3911)  
Doug Sprenger (Co-Chair), British Columbia (CUPE 951)  
Alexandra Youngberg (Alternate), British Columbia (CUPE 391)  
Carol Bunch, Hospital Employees' Union  
Jacqueline Zilkie (Alternate), Hospital Employees' Union  
Karène Benabou, Quebec, Airline Division (CUPE 4041)  
Mark Hancock, NEB liaison  
Rhonda Spence, staff advisor

