

Canadian Office & Professional Employees Union

Bulletin to all COPE/SEPB Locals

August 11, 2004

International Update

Canadian Locals have recently been sent letters from OPEIU International President Michael Goodwin and Secretary Treasurer Nancy Wohlforth dated July 6 and July 22, 2004, asking for Canadian monies to be sent to the International.

We are requesting that Canadian Locals not send any monies to the International. As you know, the International initiated legal proceedings against COPE in courts in British Columbia and Florida. We, in turn, have filed counter claims against the International in the B.C. Supreme Court.

It is unfortunate that Michael Goodwin and the International persist with their lawsuits while continuing to disregard the International Constitution, which clearly gives Canadian members the democratic right to form our own autonomous national union, which we have done.

In COPE's letter of response we have advised the International that we feel it is inappropriate that any monies be paid by COPE to the International until there is a complete accounting or a Court ruling on the parties' claims. We have reminded the International that COPE is claiming a proportionate share of the International assets and that the B.C. Supreme Court has yet to rule on that claim.

Canadian Locals are asked to continue to use the revised remittance form sent out by our Secretary Treasurer, Serge Cadieux when making your per capita tax payment to COPE by the 15th day of each month. These forms along with Local payments should be sent to our Montreal office at #250, 1200 Papineau Avenue, Montreal, Quebec, H2K 4S6.

I have also received a letter dated July 16 addressed to myself as Canadian Director (a copy of which is attached). We are sending all Canadian Locals a copy of our response letter sent to Michael Goodwin.

COPE Constitution

All Locals have been sent the interim COPE Constitution that will be reviewed at our fall convention. While Canadian members were meeting in Florida several comments or suggestions were provided to the COPE Executive Board for discussion and consideration for changes to the Constitution. The flip chart notes are being circulated to all Locals so union members may give some thought to changes they would like to see. Please forward your comments to your Regional Vice President or to our Montreal or Vancouver offices.

COPE Logo

We thank members who provided their thoughts or suggestions on a new COPE union logo. We have decided to go with a logo similar to the design used by SEPB in Quebec but would appreciate your input on the best colours to use. The logo in several different colour schemes is being sent by e-mail to Local unions and we are posting them on the www.cope378.ca website so members can view the sample logos in color.

We would appreciate your suggestions by August 24 so we can finalize our COPE national logo by early September and enable Locals to finalize letterhead, business cards, etc. Your comments can be sent to your Regional Vice President or to our Montreal or Vancouver offices.

1st COPE Convention

Our 1st Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union Convention is set for November 19-21 in Toronto so mark your calendars. Plans are underway and when we have finalized more of the details, including location, formal notification will be sent to all Locals.

In solidarity,

Jerri New
President
Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union