

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Members of the National Council

For the period August 2008 to December 2008



Submitted: February 17th , 2009

Brothers and sisters,

It is with great pride and satisfaction I submit my president's report on behalf of and to the members of the National Health Union and the National Council.

August 2008 heralded the formation and official indoctrination of the new NHU structure. The Triennial Convention from the procedural, administrative, and social aspects was a complete success. Of the 60 delegates 31 were first time representatives to convention, and while this was challenging it was at the same time very gratifying to see the interest and commitment of so many newly elected local representatives. This speaks strongly to the future of our component. For the first time in recent history every resolution to convention and relevant business arising was dealt with on the floor of convention before close of business.

The major high lights of this year's convention included the development of a million dollar strike fund to help defray member's expenses during a national strike, and the creation of a training program for new locals and their executives.

Your new National Council has been elected and duly sworn in for the next 3 years.

They are:

Tony Tilley	President	Pat Todd	National Vice
Helen Zebedee	Atlantic	Don Whitworth	Manitoba
Alain Belanger	Quebec	Crystal Harvey	Saskatchewan
Art McKenzie	NCR	Elaine Alt	Alberta
Yvonne Morriss	Ontario	Linda Thokle	BC/Yukon

I am pleased to report all convention participants returned to their homes safely, and we have received many notes and letters of appreciation and congratulations on the convention from those participating.

September saw the beginning of business as usual, both within the National Office and the government departments. I have had several meetings with Health Canada and Public Health Agency officials around protocols for local, regional, and national LMCC's. At present I am in negotiations with the departments around the issue of leave for RVP's on union business.

I have had the opportunity to speak to several regional department heads in my travels across the country, and most have expressed the same sentiments as their National Directors. They all would like to maintain strong and cordial relations with their union counterparts, a philosophy that NHU has always embraced.

However actions must always speak louder than words if we are to have that elusive and much sought after “good working relationship”.

We have completed development of the local executive training program, mandated by convention, and it will be rolled out to the locals early in the New Year. The National Council will preview the program in December.

In September I attended 2 sessions of the DI Appeals Committee as the PSAC appointed director to the NJC committee.

I had the opportunity to attend an Edmonton General Meeting in September, and met with Alberta Regional Management to discuss ongoing issues involving staff in that region.

Reviewed component investment policy and current investments with our advisor. We are fiscally sound and investments are stable.

Met as National Board of Directors through out the first week of October.

Strike preparation is continuing on all fronts, in an effort to get the membership ready.

The national office is continuing its efforts to get direct deposit finalized for all locals and the members of council. Those who have not sent the necessary information should do so at their earliest convenience.

Negotiations with HRDC for our former ISP members, on the SDA 2 issue, are still continuing. We have been assured that the department is trying to finalize payments to those individuals, as a conclusion is forth coming.

I attended 2 sessions of DI Appeals Board in October.

The Co-development committee for HR met to discuss priorities for labour management projects for the upcoming fiscal year. While several initiatives were discussed broadly, the issue of funding will have to be negotiated.

Convention report finalized.

Attended Ottawa Local general meeting.

Travelled to Edmonton and Winnipeg in November to attend local AGM's.

PSAC strike preparations. NBOD.

Attended DI Appeals Board session in November.

December is traditionally a quiet month for the national office; however we experienced a rather high volume of complaints from our members this year on a variety of issues related to the workplace. I have spoken directly with some of these individuals and we are working on solutions to most of their concerns.

The component was also advised in late December of a possible pending downturn in the financial markets, but we were assured by our financial consultant that this would have no effect on our current investments in the short or medium term.

The NBOD met on 2 occasions this month in special session, to deal with possible strike scenarios, and the PSAC fiscal situation.

The PSAC building traditionally closes for the Christmas Break, however our office would continue to monitor our phones and email in order to deal with emergency situation.

This concludes my report for the abbreviated period August to December.

Thank you.