

## BCOUFA Newsletter December 2008

We are in need of a **meeting secretary**...a fine way to learn the activities of this Faculty Association  
Contact June Williams x 6989

We (the BCOUFA executive) hope that you will have **Happy Holidays: TRU closes** December 25 and Reopens January 2. If you choose, you may have no interactions with students during those days.

Contents of this issue: TRU-OL invitation(s) reminder, Election results, FPSE Status of Women meeting report, BC Federation of Labour meeting report

For those **in the Lower Mainland**, a reminder of the **invitation from TRU-OL:**

"In keeping with the holiday season, if you happen to be in the Lower Mainland on Wednesday, December 17, we'd love to see you and share with you a sip or two, some finger food and, of course, great conversation. We are hoping you can drop by sometime between 4:00 and 7:00 PM.

The event is at Sanafir Restaurant 1026 Granville Street Vancouver BC  
<http://www.sanafir.ca/>

Drop in time - 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

This is strictly a social event and attendance is voluntary. To give us an idea of how much food to order, please RSVP to Marie McGivern by email as soon as you can if you plan on being there.

If you show up without an RSVP, that is perfectly all right - we are glad to have you with us! Hope to see you on the 17th!

For those of you **in the Kamloops** area, don't forget we're having a party December 11 at the Campus Activity Centre from 3:00 - 6:00 PM.

Jim Barmby  
Director of Program Delivery"

**Congratulations to members elected** to serve on TRU committees,  
( 3-year terms)

Senate

Derek Knox  
Rocky Mirza  
Mark Salopek  
June Williams

Open Learning Planning council:

Doug Loblaw  
Don Stanley

### **Status of Women Committee meeting of FPSE, November 28 and 29, 2008**

Reported by Be Harris

Although perhaps most activities of the Status of Women Committee of FPSE are not applicable due to our distance structure (we do not meet students nor have bulletin boards), it is interesting to attend the two meetings each year, to be informed about thoughts and actions.

The meeting I attended had an enrichment aspect: Friday night was a visit to the Vancouver Art Gallery which until January 2009 displays Feminist art from the 60s and 70s. That Friday evening also had live performances; I enjoyed a puppet show of a feminist puppet!

In the Saturday portion of the meeting, one point was made about urging participation in **the FPSE equity audit**. From the FPSE website click on Equity Audit button, and using the name "equity" and pin "fpse" as the page directs, take the dozen-question survey PLEASE. It took me less than 5 minutes— FPSE desires sufficient numbers of members to respond for a statistically significant survey THANK YOU.

The second meeting this academic year is February 13 and 14; it is part of the FPSE Joint Conference and Spring Committee Meetings. Will someone please volunteer to attend? (I will be attending-- the FPSE Occupation Health and Safety committee): SWC and OH&S and most other committees meet individually on the Friday evening. On Saturday is a day of workshops for all participants etc. FUN and useful!

Contact June Williams x 6989 to volunteer to be on the Status of Women Committee, please. Expenses are paid by FPSE, including child care if appropriate, and an honorarium has been voted by the BCOUFA executive, at a recent executive meeting. A brief report is expected; it will be circulated in the newsletter to members.

### **BC Federation of Labour annual meeting, Vancouver Convention Centre November 24 through 28, 2008**

Submitted by Be Harris

It was my privilege to join with other delegates from members of FPSE in this meeting, to hear from young and older activists about issues affecting sometime specifically their unions, and more general issues, and also to hear impressive speakers such as Stephen Lewis, profoundly moving us about the dire situations of peoples in Africa.

In an Occupational Health and Safety Forum, called "Adding Insult to Injury" it was **very worrisome** to learn that what we had for years, that if a worker is injured on the job, then **WCB benefits** would be taking care of that person for life is NO LONGER the case. In 2002 major changes were implemented that among other features mean that WCB payments cease at age 65 (UNLESS there is substantial available proof that the worked

planned to work beyond 65); that the final settlement of the payment schedule may be established only 7 or 8 weeks after the injury; that the payments hinge on the amount the injured person earned in the previous year—regardless of for example a situation such as an extra long vacation (e.g. 3 months off work for travel) which had been taken in that previous year.

The WCB agreement between employers and employees means that employees gave up their right to sue the employer. Some union members are so dis-satisfied with the present rules, that they are hoping to find some way to circumvent that agreement, but the lawyer on the panel discussion indicated that that is not possible.

One issue important to remember is that **workers not only have the right to refuse unsafe work but also must do so**: if a worker knows that a situation is unsafe, carries on, and is injured, the WCB will say that it was that worker's responsibility to refuse unsafe work and will reduce compensation.

Although it is far less likely that we will be injured on the job than people in construction or logging, there are situations which could result in dangerous situations. PLEASE be aware, not just for yourselves but also alert members of your family and friends.

---