

2009 Convention Report (submitted by Local 002 Member)



The 33rd annual convention of A.U.P.E. was held in Edmonton from October 22-24, 2009.

A record 759 delegates attended due to the growth in A.U.P.E. membership to 76,000. With the addition of observers, guests, life members, staff and media the convention hall at the Delta South had attendance of nearly 1000 people.

Convention space was somewhat cramped this year as a fire had occurred at the hotel several weeks before and on-going repairs were being conducted. Arrangements were made for delegates and attendees to stay in nearby hotels and shuttle buses were organized. It was quite the undertaking as these arrangements were made at the last minute but everything went smoothly thanks to many people but particularly, Jim Dick.

2009 was an election year. All positions were being contested and delegates were bombarded with campaign material. The bear-pit speeches were helpful for delegates to hear all the candidates to make their decisions. We now have a new president of A.U.P.E. His name is Guy Smith. He is a long term union activist with 20 years experience in the union. He held the position of vice-president for 8 years. He was also a chapter chair. He is a former Child and Youth Counselor at the Yellow Head Youth Centre in Edmonton. He is an excellent speaker and it was felt would be up the challenge of heading the union in these tough economic times.

At this convention a resolution was passed to change the A.U.P.E. constitution. A decision was made to increase the vice-presidents from four positions to six positions. This change is a reflection of the increased membership of the union as a whole and also the importance of these roles within the union. The six successful vice-presidents include; Sandra Azocar, Jason Heistad, Sandy Kyle, Erez Raz, Phillpia Bates-Renouf and Glenn Scott.

Bill Dechant was re-elected to his 3rd term as executive secretary-treasurer. Convention is an action packed 3 days and is very interesting experience. You learn a great deal about the union and how decisions are made.

If you are interested in attending convention you need to attend your chapter annual general meeting in the spring and either be nominated from the floor or put your name forward. Give this some thought as the union is **YOU**.