

October 4, 2007 – SJ District Labour Council meeting at Courtenay Bay Inn

As President of CUPE 3339 I am representing 75 Administrative and Library Support, Trade, General Labour and technical Workers at the University of New Brunswick Saint John Campus.

We think the recommendation made by the Commission on Post Secondary Education regarding the Polytechnic in Saint John is a bad one. It would mean the community of Saint John would lose its University campus. UNBSJ has been part of Saint John for 40 years and is a pillar in our community. The people of Saint John deserve to have the choice of either a College or a University education and it should not be dictated to us by industry. Whenever initiatives such as what is being recommended occur, cost saving is a major factor and unfortunately these cost savings are often on the backs of the workers.

The unknown of what will occur has affected many of our members. Not only are members concerned about their jobs, but the implications the recommendations will have on their children's future if UNBSJ and NBCC are dissolved. My daughter plans to attend UNBSJ in the fall of 2008 to obtain her BA and major in Psychology. She will not be able to do this at a Polytechnic and we are unable to afford to send her away to another University. As a parent, it is difficult to crush your children's dreams, but if there is no University in Saint John I will be forced to crush those dreams. I'm sure there are many families in the same situation.

CUPE 3339 endorses the University Administration's position on the concept of co-location and improved academic and institutional partnership between UNB and the community colleges. They each play an important role in our city and we hope the integrity of both institutions will be maintained.

No matter what happens we must retain our right to free collective bargaining.

We are asking you to show your support for UNBSJ and NBCC through a motion or resolution made from the floor.

Thank you!

Tammy Hicks
President, CUPE 3339
UNBSJ Support Staff