

## Minutes

Union Meeting of local 70044 (ACDI), October 30<sup>th</sup> 2008

Confirmation of the quorum and welcoming remarks. Revision and adoption of the agenda.

### 1. Introduction

Overview of activities realised in first half of the mandate: many activities that had not been planned at the outset were carried out to adapt to the negotiation and political contexts. Various activities took place, such as mobilisation activities, political action and a campaign to regularise the status of Rand Members. All of these activities led to a rebalancing of budgetary line items while keeping within the overall envelope. For more details, refer to item 6 below.

Confirmation of vacant positions to be filled.

2. A word on the philosophy of local 70044. The President underlines that there are basically two ways of considering the labour movement, i.e. an insurance policy (refer to item 3 below) or a proactive movement involved in its community which makes it an agent of political change (see item 4 below). The President indicates that the local leans towards the second option, but without neglecting the first one.

3. Insurance: The local dealt with various grievances, attempted to resolve several conflict informally in co-operation with the CEWEB, followed up on official complaints, monitored progress on collective files such as the regrouping of records office, the review of administrative positions and overtime procedures despite the lack of staff within local 70044.

4. Movement: The local got involved in labour issues and the local community to avoid the strike and advance negotiations. Mobilisation activities (BBQ, corn roast, Rand campaign, political action around the federal elections) were opportunities for members to realise that together, we represent a remarkable strength and that our collective actions never went unnoticed.

5. Negotiations update: Daniel Kinsella, VP for PSAC provided members present with the following update: negotiations are at a standstill; there isn't much progress, but the PSAC continues to exert pressure on the employer to reach reasonable offers.  
les négociations piétinent; il n'y a pas beaucoup de progrès, mais l'AFPC continue de presser l'employeur pour que les négociations débouchent sur des offres acceptables.

6. Budget update and adoption of changes: The president confirms union dues are collected once a month, with the lion share going to the PSAC HQ office. The local gets 10\$ per member per month from the dues. Out of the \$10, \$7 goes to the strike fund and the remaining \$3 is used to cover the local's operational expenses. He then provided

ballpark figures about the local, ie about 1,000 members which account for an operational budget of about \$3,000 a month. Various line items were reorganised (see attachment) in order to adapt to the particular operational context. The biggest reallocation has been or will be used to fund mobilisation activities, political action, and the campaign to sign-up Rand members. However, the overall budget is balanced and the current balance should be enough to cover expenses till the end of the fiscal year, unless the context warrants extraordinary expenses. The President points out that there will be two additional expenses before the end of the fiscal year, i.e. a \$2000 allocation to fund the local's new WEB site and another allocation of the same amount as a contribution to the celebration of employees with more that 30 years of service at CIDA. The President calls a vote to obtain approval for on-going budget reallocations and for the additional expenses announced. It results in a majority vote both for the reallocations and the additional expenses.

7. Strike Fund. The strike fund should soon reach its \$250,000 ceiling, which is enough to provide 1,000 members with a \$25 strike indemnity for 10 days. There will soon have to be a general assembly to vote on the various options available, either to raise the ceiling, raise the strike indemnity, or any other option agreeable to members.

8. Upcoming Activities: Follow-up of the transformation exercise, continuation of the Rand Campaign, monitoring of the records offices and of the reclassification of admin assistant positions, follow-up and communications on negotiations, organisation of the Website.

9. Elections: Katherine Williams and Madeleine Lemay are respectively elected first and second VP of local 70044 by acclamation.

10. Tour de table : Members raise various issues and questions

11. The assembly is closed.