

# Convention News

## ***Muzin thanks members for 'rare honour,' receives HEU's first Social Justice Award***

In his last address to delegates as HEU's president, Fred Muzin reminded members of their power and their responsibility to make positive social change in their communities and around the world.

"HEU's an activist union and that's why I decided to get involved 22 years ago," he told the crowd, adding the fight is far from over.



"We have to be on the leading edge of justice and victory for all," said Muzin.

He then turned to the internal workings of HEU, applauding the new energy in the union and urging all members to participate in education and other opportunities.

His recommendations? Involve members at the local level. Continue table

officers conferences. Build leadership. And encourage young workers.

But Muzin couldn't leave without calling for a change of government this spring. "[Campbell] continues to erode the social fabric of our province," he said, "and he has to pay the price for those actions."

Vancouver East MP Libby Davies surprised Muzin with her presentation of HEU's first social justice award.

Earlier, CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill also paid tribute to Muzin and his commitment to working people. "Your dedication to what you do is reflected in what you say," he said, "And what you say is that it's been an honour to serve your members. That says a lot about who you are."

## **Women's breakfast sets the tone**

More than 250 HEU sisters gathered at 7 a.m. for food, friendship, music and politics at the convention's women's breakfast. Guest speaker professor Margot Young thanked the union for its ongoing commitment to women's issues, and it's involvement in bringing the B.C. Liberals' violations of women's equality to the attention of the UN.

The breakfast's celebration of sisterhood and solidarity carried over onto the convention floor where delegates later passed a constitutional amendment establishing a women's standing committee.

## **Amendments and Resolutions**

*Amendments 12, 20, 28, 18 and 19* (composite #1), defeated  
*Amendments 37* (covering 38 and *resolution 24*) and 42, passed  
*Resolutions* composite 5, composite 2, passed  
*Resolution 107*, defeated



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## **Darcy reviews successes, outlines future goals**

HEU's secretary-business manager took delegates through a list of accomplishments from the past two years and outlined future goals in her address to convention Tuesday.

Darcy began with an outline of HEU's three point plan to protect British Columbians during uncertain economic times; stop P3s and privatization, pay living wages, and invest in proven public solutions to strengthen public health care.



"And Mr. Premier, you're going to be hearing it from us day in and day out," said Darcy.

From preparations for 2010 bargaining to organizing in the upcoming provincial election, she reminded delegates that there's never been a more important time to stand up and speak out.

"We're going to make sure that the public understands what's happening on the front lines of our health care system and who is responsible for getting us there," said Darcy.

She also congratulated the many members who are already speaking out through union and coalition campaigns – fighting for living wages, raising awareness about community social services, challenging P3s and standing up for senior's care.

But the work has only just begun, said Darcy.

"We've got a year-and-a-half until our collective agreements expire in 2010," said Darcy, "and our preparations must begin right here and right now."

