

Clerical subcommittee wraps up another two successful years of advocacy

It's hard to believe another two years have gone by since our last convention. The biggest challenge

for the clerical subcommittee was deciding our mandate during our two-year term.

We drew from HEU's 2010-2012 Strategic Directions document, which was adopted by 2010 convention delegates. Part of the document was HEU's commitment to tackle bullying in the workplace. In

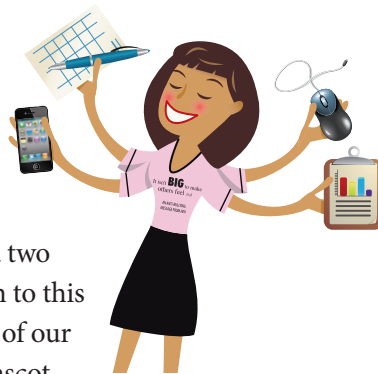
a recent survey, 93 per cent of HEU clerical workers reported either being bullied or witnessing bullying at work. Our subcommittee produced two posters to draw attention to this alarming issue. In many of our materials our clerical mascot

"Fredrica" can also be seen sporting the Pink Triangle t-shirt which says: "It isn't big to make others feel small".

Hopefully, you've all seen issues of *PaperWork*, HEU's clerical newsletter written entirely by the clerical subcommittee members.

During our term, we celebrated two more successful **Clerical Team Appreciation Days**, which have gone a long way in drawing attention to the valuable work you perform each day on your health care team. Please make plans to celebrate this year on October 11.

Our Clerical Outreach list has grown to more than 1,400 email addresses, and you can be added by sending your name to <clericalworkers@heu.org>.



Other projects

We produced our popular clerical mousepads, featuring "Fredrica" wearing her anti-bullying T-shirt and the word UNITY in five different languages, to promote solidarity among HEU's diverse membership.

Were you one of the lucky members who attended the third clerical occupational conference in the fall of 2011? About 90 clerical members spent two days comparing notes and identifying bargaining demands to take to the facilities bargaining table.

We ran a contest to give an updated look to our clerical mascot "Fredrica" after members communicated that she needed a more modern feel. It was also our chance to have some fun. We received 265 entries. The winner of the E-Vox e-reader was drawn on May 1 at the Vancouver Coastal regional conference: **Ruth Monge**, health records, Victoria General Hospital. The new "Fredrica" will be featured on a new clerical mug, which will be available next month.

The subcommittee also gave support to the 130 medical transcriptionists in the Lower Mainland, whose jobs are being threatened by contracting out. Please go online at www.heu.org and lend your support by emailing your concerns to health minister Michael de Jong and to opposition health critic Mike Farnworth.

Also, since we're in bargaining, it's important to remember that in the last round of facilities bargaining, we scored a victory for clerical workers
over >



around re-testing. Please refer to the *Memorandum of Agreement* on page 190 of the 2010-2012 facilities contract.

A word from your clerical subcommittee members

TINA CLEMENTE:

"I work as a nursing unit clerk at GF Strong. As a newer member on the P.E. clerical subcommittee, I have enjoyed my time with this group of dedicated HEU clerical sisters and brothers. We, as clerical, have a voice in the workplace. By being a member of this subcommittee, I have learned so much which has empowered me to bring the tools and knowledge to show my clerical family at GF Strong how to make their voices heard in the workplace. It was a suggestion from GF Strong clerical members to give "Fredrica" an updated look, which eventually led to the "Fredrica" makeover contest. I encourage any clerical members to join this dynamic group."



STUART MCCREADY:

"Serving on the clerical subcommittee has been a great opportunity to learn about different aspects of the jobs we do, and to raise awareness of common workplace concerns. We had some fun revamping Fredrica's look and enjoyed all the feedback we received from members. As co-chair, I learned some valuable organizational and communications skills. I'll miss working with this great team, and look forward to seeing what the next subcommittee does. I'm sure it will be great because, after all, we are clerical workers!"



TRUPTI MANKAD:

"Working as a part of the clerical subcommittee was a great experience. It was a great honour to be part of a group of such dedicated people and team members."



TALITHA DEKKER:

"Serving on the clerical subcommittee has made me aware of the various issues clerical workers face, regardless of where we work in B.C. My experience over the past two years on the subcommittee has strengthened my belief that we all belong to HEU. The fight we fight for all clerical workers is important to all sisters and brothers in HEU."



Clerical subcommittee 2010-2012 (from left to right): Bev Trynchy (P.E.), Tina Clemente (VCHA), Esme Gard (VIHA), Carol Kenzie (P.E., co-chair), Trupti Mankad (FHA), HEU staff advisor Brenda Whitehall, Stuart McCready (VCHA, co-chair), Talitha Dekker (IHA)

The 2010-2012 clerical subcommittee held their final meeting in the spring, and we all agreed how privileged we felt to be given the opportunity to advocate for HEU's 10,000 clerical workers. If you are interested in applying for this subcommittee, watch for applications in the month after HEU's biennial convention. They'll be on the union's website and mailed to locals.