



HEU Ethnic Diversity Newsletter

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Ethnic Diversity Standing Committee wishes our HEU family and friends a special holiday season and a blessed 2012.

Many things have taken place in this past year; we are grateful for the dedication and hard work of our members and the power of solidarity here and around the world.

May each of you be blessed with pride in your own celebrations of the holiday season and may we all feel the strength of unity.

We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

In Solidarity,

Amarjit Dosanj, Chairperson

**ETHNIC
DIVERSITY
STANDING
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS
2011 - 2013**

Ami Dosanj

LIVING WAGE CAMPAIGN

DIWALI

Avelina Vasquez

Families who work for low wages face impossible choices — buy food or heat the house, feed the children or pay the rent. Paying families a living wage is so important because families can then pay for their basic living expenses, and this is the best way that we can help to eliminate child poverty in BC.

Diwali is the festival of lights usually celebrated between October and November.

Marva Vidal

BC has the highest number of children living in poverty in Canada.

Hand-made diyas are made and lit all around the house. Diyas are small clay lamps filled with oil which signify the triumph of good over evil.

Tommy Liu

Cora Mojica

As a Living Wage activist, we keep campaigning to the community, faith groups, business and non-profit organizations and other unions. We have also lobbied our provincial government.

Diwali is a festival where we celebrate with lots of sweets, and family and friends gather. Gifts are exchanged with friends and the community.

Mary Jetko

Terressa

Jamerson

Alternates:

Teresita

Dechavez

We need to bring these issues to our communities and our local governments. Poor wages effects our lives, our families, health, and social activities. We need living wages. We need to live with respect and dignity.

For Sikhs, Diwali celebrates the release from prison of Guru Hargobind Ji, and 52 other princes with him in October 1619.

Ruby Kandola

For more information on the Living Wage Campaign, please visit www.heu.org/campaigns-issues/living-wage-campaign.

For Hindus the celebration commemorates the return of King Rama and his wife Sita after 14 years of banishment. To welcome his return, diyas were lit. We now celebrate with diyas and fireworks.

Sandra Depaz

In Solidarity, Avelina Vasquez

Diwali is an official holiday in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Surinam, and Fiji.

Mabel Walcott

(Avelina Vasquez and Cora Mojica both sit on the HEU Living Wage Campaign Team)

At our work places we share our festival with our HEU brothers and sisters.

Jasbir Walia

Respectfully submitted,
Jas Walia

What We're Up To

Members of the Ethnic Diversity Standing Committee have been actively involved in their locals and at other HEU functions.

Bargaining

Sister Mary Jetko and Brother Tommy Liu were selected to be on the Bargaining Resolutions Committee. And at the Facilities Bargaining Conference, Sister Ami Dosanj and Brother Tommy Liu were both elected as alternates to the Provincial Bargaining Team.

Sister Mabel Walcott attended the Patient Care Bargaining Conference this past fall. "The unity, strength and strong passion were felt physically and emotionally by each member present" said Walcott.

CUPE Convention

Sister Cora Mojica and Sister Teresita Dechavez both attended the CUPE National Convention which was held in Vancouver in November this year.

Sister Dechavez felt that the tone of the Convention was good. "Only when we have democratic control of the economy will we have an economy that works for the people".

Sister Cora spoke on resolution 193 about the Living Wage Campaign. This resolution was submitted by HEU.

"As a first time delegate, it was an honour and privilege to be selected to

attend this convention. It's so exciting to meet members from different provinces, locals and job sectors" said Mojica.

Meetings

The Standing Committee has met twice since the Equity Conference which was in March of this year. Some of the items discussed were Translation notices for local union meetings, Terms of Reference, CUPE Convention, HEU Convention for next year, March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racism, News Letter, 2012 Budget, Equity at Regional Meetings, Clear Language issues, Living Wage Campaign, Inclusive Leadership Training, and updating our cookbook.

Translation Notices

Our newest project is the translation notices for union meetings at locals. We have translated the words "Notice of Meeting" into five different languages: Tagalog, Punjabi, Chinese (both contemporary and traditional), and Spanish. The notice also states that the meetings will be held in English. These will be distributed to local representatives and when posted will hopefully encourage new members to participate in HEU local meetings.

*My
friends,
love is
better
than
anger.
Hope is
better
than
fear.
Optimism
is better
than
despair.
So let us
be loving,
hopeful
and
optimistic.
And we'll
change
the world.
Jack
Layton*



*We wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous 2012*