**AREA VICE PRESIDENT REPORT, NORTHEN REGION**

Greetings friends, sisters and brothers! Welcome to the Annual CUPE NS Convention. Convention presents us all the opportunity to contribute to our union and to learn about the challenges faced throughout the various sectors that CUPE represents. Confronted with an anti-labour, super-majority Conservative provincial government that is fixated on privatization and making our work for-profit, convention also provides us with a sense of solidarity; we are truly in this fight together. What follows is a summary of my activities since being elected to the role of Northern Region VP at our last convention:

-Attended CUPE NS board meetings, calls, and shared any available updates with the provided contact list for the Northern Region as well as presenting updates to the board from locals who responded to inquires on their activities.

-Attended a community engagement event in the town of Pictou organized by Pictou County Pride and sponsored by union locals in the region

-Participated in solidarity outreach with Canadian Union of Postal Workers during their recent strike; walked picket lines, donated food and other items, and spread their message to other CUPE members

-Laid wreaths with President MacFadgen during the Remembrance Day event held in Pictou

-Laid wreaths at the Worker’s Memorial during the Day of Mourning Service held in Trenton Park

-Volunteered for political action work during the Provincial election assisting with outreach, canvassing and other duties.

-Represented CUPE NS at the Home Support Sector’s Annual General Meeting. This was a great opportunity for me to learn about Home Support, their many challenges, issues, and the amazing work being done by the stewards and activists in the sector. The delegates were very welcoming to a newcomer and readily engaged with me, answering my questions and providing clear explanations. My thanks to those who attended and shared their concerns with me. I would also like to thank the Sector’s Coordinator Cathy MacLeod for speaking with me and providing much needed information.

My thanks to all the local executives, stewards and activists that work so hard to keep CUPE moving forward. A specific thank you to Steve Stewart from L1867 and Amy White of L4184 for the information you provided. If anyone in my region would like to speak with me or if you are interested in my attendance at a meeting of your Local, please reach out.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this role. I hope you all have a safe and informative convention experience!

In Solidarity,

Ralph Vickers

Area Vice President, Northern Region