



# G S U

## N e w s

### In this issue:

Highlights of the SFL Convention ..... 2  
 Kyoto protocol ..... 3  
 Employee Advisor Training program begins ..... 4  
 Local 1450 reaches tentative bargaining settlement .. 4

2002 / Issue 5

## Members to vote on geographic/regional locals

November is annual meeting time for members of GSU. The agendas for the 2002 annual meeting agendas include member votes on an amended union constitution and continuation of the additional union dues currently being paid into the GSU Defense Fund.

### GSU Constitution

At its October 5th semi-annual meeting, GSU's elected Joint Executive Council reviewed and adopted recommendations to overhaul the union's democratic structure through a dramatically amended constitution. In a nutshell, if at least two-thirds of voting members approve the proposed amended constitution, GSU will move away from its current structure of locals based on bargaining units to geographic/regional locals.

For example, members of the union from all bargaining units in Saskatoon and district. While the new locals of GSU would bring together members of the union working for more than one

*(L-r) Newly elected GSU Local 1001 officers*

*Morgan Tiefenbach, Dave Kwochka, and*

*Doug McPherson take the oath of office at the Weyburn meeting.*

Sorry!  
Photo not available.

employer, each bargaining unit of the union will retain its autonomy to bargain with its employer, administer its collective agreement, conduct agreement renewal bargaining and so on.

The goal is to streamline the GSU's representational and administrative structures and to provide a forum for members to get together to work on the overall business of the union. Copies *(continued on page 3.)*

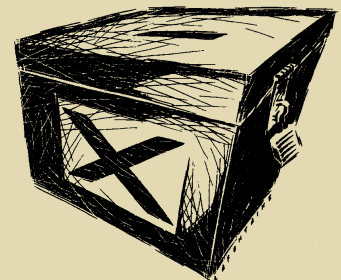


go to  
**www.gsu.ca**

## Local 1200 ratifies tentative agreement

Local 1200 (WPP) had a strong member turnout at the Nov. 18 ratification meeting to vote on a tentative settlement.

The proposed settlement was approved by 79 per cent of the members voting.



The following terms will be incorporated in the Local 1200 collective agreement effective immediately:

- wage increases of 2.5, 2 and 2 per cent over a

- three-year agreement, worker adjustment language will provide 90 days' notice of all temporary or permanent layoffs,

*(continued on page 4.)*

## Upcoming Events

- ✓ *Notice to bargain has been served on Dawn Foods, AgPro Grain (Saskatoon and Ste. Boniface).*
- ✓ *Notice to bargain will be served on Sask. Wheat Pool in December.*
- ✓ *Arbitration over Sask. Wheat Pool's amended sick leave policy will be held on Jan. 22 and 23, 2003.*



## GSU News

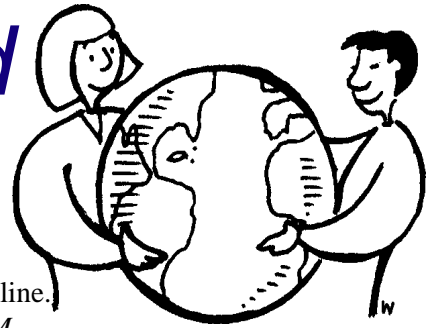
- Our Email Address  
gsu.regina@sk.sympatico.ca
- Our Web Page  
www.gsu.ca
- Our Fax Number  
306•565•3430
- Our Street Address  
2334 McIntyre Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2S2
- Our Request  
Please notify us if you change your address!

Union  
made!



Sent to press Nov. 26, 2002

# Labour's world



### False advertising

Nike will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to review a California court ruling that allows an activist to sue the company for false advertising.

Marc Kasky sued Nike after reading an article about Nike workers in southeast Asia. He decided, as a consumer, to sue Nike for falsely claiming it was a fair employer and responsible corporate citizen.

*Labor Notes/CALM*

### CATs out of the bag

Ontario's Tory government plans to open up 20 new private MRI and five private CAT Scan clinics in the province.



The first of the private clinics is expected to open in December, with the public underwriting the purchase of the scanners by guaranteeing 12 to 16 hours per day of use for Medicare patients. However, the private operators will be able to operate their clinics beyond those hours to provide higher-paying scans for people who can jump the queue because they can afford to pay out-of-pocket.

Ray Foley, spokesperson for the Ontario Association of Radiologists, referred to

the private scans as "yuppie scans," because the wealthy will be able to pay to get to the front of the line.  
*SUNSpots/SUN/CALM*

Congratulations to the newly elected executive and officers of the



**President** Larry Hubich  
**Treasurer** Marvin Meickel  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Wanda Bartlett.

Congratulations to GSU president **Mike Raine** who was elected as GSU's vice-president to the SFL. Congratulations also to GSU Local 1000 member **Carolyn Illerbrun** who was elected as Raine's alternate.

Elections took place during the SFL's 47th Convention, Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2002, Regina, SK.

Here's a small sample of what happened at this year's convention:



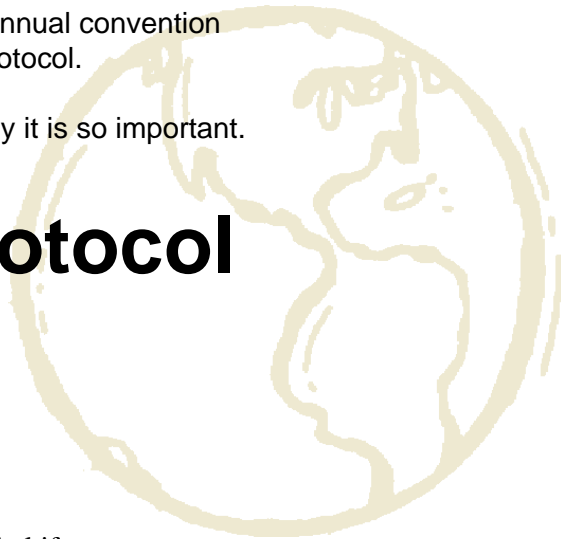
- GSU's resolution to urge the government and Canada to introduce a dedicated tax to raise longterm funding to assist farmers was narrowly defeated;
- Delegates approved resolutions which will increase youth participation and engage young workers in the labour movement;
- Delegates endorsed a Labour Issues Campaign which will support workers, unions, and their committees as they fight back against attacks on workers, labour legislation, and social institutions so that Saskatchewan remains a province we want to live and work in;
- Delegates voiced their support for the Kyoto Protocol (see page 3.)

**Oops!** In the last issue of *GSU News*, it was incorrectly stated that GSU scholarship recipient Cameron Weiman's father Mark worked part-time/casual for Heartland Feeds. In fact, it was Cameron who worked in a part-time/casual capacity at Heartland for the past three years. *GSU News* apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

Delegates to the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour's 47th Annual convention passed a resolution to support implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

Here is background information on the Kyoto Protocol, and why it is so important.

# Support the Kyoto Protocol



## What is global warming?

Global warming is caused by the build-up of carbon dioxide. Humans first began burning vast amounts of coal and oil during the industrial revolution. Since then carbon dioxide levels in the earth's atmosphere have been rising. Today, we're burning even more fossil fuel, and CO<sub>2</sub> levels have increased accordingly.

## Why does carbon dioxide cause global warming?

Ever gotten into your car on a hot day? Inside it's a lot warmer than outside, isn't it? Well, the same thing is happening to the earth. Your car windows let in radiant energy from the sun, but that energy can't get out until you open the windows. Radiant energy from the sun is being trapped in our atmosphere by the excessive CO<sub>2</sub>.

The Kyoto Protocol is designed to reduce our production of carbon dioxide and slow down global warming.

An emergency resolution was passed at the Canadian Labour Congress convention in Vancouver in June calling on Canada to endorse the Kyoto Protocol. If the protocol does not move ahead, it is questionable when, and if, world governments will ever challenge the large corporations who want to frustrate progress on global warming.

The CLC support for ratification is significant for several reasons:

☺ It is a major initiative by the union movement, insisting on

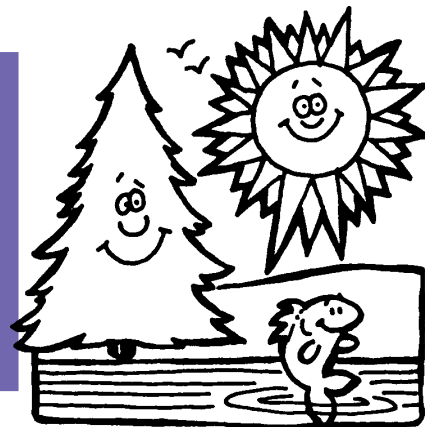
action and demanding protection and accommodation for the workforce.

- ☺ It brings the issue to our membership, which is vital if we are to truly build support for action on global warming.
- ☺ It strengthens the potential to build alliances with the environmental movement based on a labour agenda.

⊗ Failure to implement the Kyoto Protocol poses a real danger for the world's people and economies.

*CAW Health, Safety and Environment Newsletter/CALM*

The Kyoto Protocol is designed to reduce our production of carbon dioxide and slow down global warming.



## Members vote on structure

*(continued from page 1.)*

of the amended constitution were distributed to GSU members in advance of the annual meetings to enable study and reflection in advance of the vote.

## GSU Defense Fund

GSU members attending this fall's annual meetings will also vote on a Joint Executive Council resolution to continue paying the current additional union dues of 1 percent to a maximum of \$10 per member per month into the GSU Defense Fund. A simple majority of 50 percent plus one of those

voting is required for the additional union dues to continue.

## Joint Executive Council

Joint Executive Council representatives reviewed GSU's bargaining calendar and the prospects for several sets of tough negotiations in the coming months.

Accordingly, Council members decided to recommend continuation of the Defense Fund dues for another year subject to review at the 2003 annual meetings.

A report on Defense Fund assets will be given at each annual meeting.

# GSU Employee Advisor Training Program begins

In mid-October, nine GSU Local 1000 members took part in Module 1 of a five-part training program to become Employee Advisors. The program is funded by the SWP/GSU Training Trust Fund and has been developed by the Union.

Over two and a half days, the Operations members focused on understanding the layoff and bumping procedure and the options available in the event of job elimination.

The goal of the whole program is to educate union members from across the province to be able to respond to members' questions and work with them to solve problems. Because of the extensive job cuts within SWP in recent years, GSU members have a lot of questions about their pension, their rights, and the security of their jobs and incomes.

With four more training modules to go, the trainees will also be learning basic information about the SWP/GSU Pension Plan. They will become familiar with the available benefits, retirement and termination options, Pension Plan structure, and operations. They will also learn communications and problem-solving skills.

As well, participants have access to a secure internet conference site, where assignments and discussion questions are posted for them to work on in-between the face-to-face training sessions.

All costs of the program are covered by the Training Trust Fund, so that participants do not lose any wages or benefits while attending. A second round of the training program will begin in the New Year. This time, there will also be spaces available for GSU Local 1000 members who work in the Offices. Operations members are eligible to attend, as well. We are especially



*Program participants discuss Module 1 materials at the Oct. 17-19 session.*

looking for participants from the north-west part of the province and from the area south of the TransCanada highway and east of Highway 6.

Sorry!  
Photo not available.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Employee Advisor training program, contact staff representative Adriane Paavo at 306.522.6686 ext. 224 or at [gsu.paavo@sk.sympatico.ca](mailto:gsu.paavo@sk.sympatico.ca).

## Western Producer Ratifies tentative settlement

*(Continued from page 1.)*

- all laid off employees will be eligible for severance pay, which has been increased to 4 weeks per year with a cap of 60 weeks,
- bumping will be confined to the most junior employee in the classification an employee bumps into,
- housekeeping changes relating to change in company ownership and labour standards;
- automatic progression from grade 7 to grade 8 for the Subscription Clerk classification,
- travel allowance increases from 32¢ to 34¢ per kilometre,
- Farm Management Editor becomes an inscope position,

- the bonus will increase by 1 per cent in the 2003 fiscal year.

"The money wasn't exactly where we wanted to end up, but with the improvements in severance and notice it is a decent settlement," said past Local President and bargaining committee member Mandy Kelln. "At the end of the day, our fellow members determined that the overall package was acceptable."

The tentative agreement between the company and the union had been reached on Nov. 13.

Congratulations and thank you to bargaining committee members Mandy Kelln, Mike Raine, and GSU staff rep Dale Markling for all their work and successfully negotiating this new union contract.

**Local 1450 (Bear Hills)** - A tentative agreement-renewal-bargaining settlement was reached with Bear Hills Pork Producers Ltd. on Nov. 25. For more information, check the *Local Issues* page on GSU's website - [www.gsu.ca](http://www.gsu.ca).

