



Inside this Issue:

From the President	1
New LFA board	2
Interview with Lynn Carter	3
Retirees honoured	4
Forum on Site C dam	4
FPSE annual general meeting	5
Benefits Workers locked out	6

From the President

As many will be aware, I have taken over the role of President from Lynn Carter, who brilliantly served the LFA for many years. I would like to personally thank Lynn for her enormous contributions and for her guidance and mentorship over the past several years.



I am fortunate to work with amazing colleagues. This is true of the faculty throughout the college as well as in my work on the LFA executive. It is through a collective and collegial effort that we take on the many challenging situations that come to the LFA. Special thanks go to Darrell Kean (Chief Steward), Alison Curtis (Vice-President) and Janet Douglas (Steward), who have provided great help and advice to me as I have begun in this new role. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members of the LFA board and Amy Kwan for their contributions.

Over the past few months, the LFA executive and stewards have been working on many issues important to faculty. Whether working on contract maintenance issues or college committees, representing faculty is the focus of our work. Hearing from faculty is critical to being an effective President. I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you know that I am available to listen to your perspective and to encourage you to bring your issues forward.

The LFA functions based on the contributions from faculty. There are opportunities to serve as LFA representatives on hiring and evaluation committees, college committees and FPSE committees. If you are interested in learning more about how to get involved in the work of the LFA, please let me know and we can find a time to discuss.

I look forward to serving over the coming months and to having the opportunity to meet more faculty in my role.

Scott McLean

The LFA Board

- Scott McLean, President
- Alison Curtis, Vice President & Steward
- Jessie Smith, Treasurer
- Darrell Kean, Chief Steward
- Noel Currie, Secretary
- Janet Douglas, Steward
- Catherine Huth, Member at Large
- Brian Koehler, Member at Large
- Paul Prospero, Member at Large

Newsletter Committee

- Alison Curtis
- Bradley Hughes
- Stephen Phillips

Contact Us

For more information about the LFA contact Amy Kwan, Executive Assistant, 604-323-5343.

Our office is in Room A212.
Website: www.lfaweb.ca

New LFA board

Annual elections to the LFA Board held in March and April saw a partial changing of the guard. Scott McLean, who had previously served as Vice President, was acclaimed as President following the retirement of Lynn Carter. Meanwhile, Alison Curtis was acclaimed as the new Vice President. Returning to the Board this year are incumbents Noel Currie, Janet Douglas, Darrell Kean, Brian Koehler, and Jessie Smith. They are joined by two newcomers: Paul Prosperi and Catherine Huth.



Graphic from picgifs.com

Meet our newest board members

Hi everyone. My name is Catherine Huth. In 2009, I started teaching in the Criminal Justice Department at Langara. I am currently the Chair of the Department and my research and teaching interests centre on violence against women and women in conflict with the law. I am from Vancouver and obtained my BA in Criminology from SFU and my MA in Criminology from the University of Ottawa.

I am a member of Langara's Sexual Violence Prevention Committee and worked on developing the Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy. Outside of the college, I am a member and former vice-chair of Equal Voice BC, an organization which seeks to increase the representation of women in politics.

I am excited to be a member of the Langara Faculty Association Board. I have been an LFA rep for many years and am looking forward to being able to contribute to the LFA and the faculty at Langara in this new role.



I am honoured to have been elected to the LFA Board, and along with my colleagues I am committed to ensure that we provide a collective voice for faculty. I am particularly interested in advocating for faculty in the areas of academic freedom, equity and human rights. I am also keenly aware of the challenges presented by the globalisation of our classrooms. I have been with the Department of History, Latin & Political Science since 2000, and it has been my pleasure to serve as department chair for the past four years.

In solidarity,
Paul Prosperi



An interview with Lynn Carter

by Alison Curtis

How did you first get involved with the LFA?

Then President Larry Warren asked if I'd run for the Board. As a social worker, I had a natural interest in advocacy, so I agreed to run.

What do you find most challenging about LFA/union work? What kept you going?

The complexities of issues raised can be very challenging, and what kept me going was a deep commitment to faculty. I deeply admire Langara faculty, who are an exceptional, remarkable group. We're co-located on one campus, so it's been easy to get to know each other.

What do you wish other people knew about the LFA?

That we're here for faculty, that we'll advocate for and protect their rights. All union activists have a core set of principles: we're committed to worker rights, and to seeing those rights respected. We aim to improve them with every Collective Agreement. Over 35 years, our working conditions have gotten better and better. It's not just about pay, it's our rights.

What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about the LFA?

What's good for one is good for all. We've always bargained to improve conditions and benefits for all our members.

We have a lot of new LFA members. What would you tell someone who is thinking about getting involved?

Get involved! We're strongest when people are involved, when people learn the Collective Agreement and influence their peers and tell them their rights. That's an enormous resource. Collegial management means we can be creative and innovative about how we structure our work and meet student needs, without being told our workload.

What do you think might change about Langara in the next few years?

I think Langara will continue to prosper and be a highly desirable UT for both domestic and international students. Why? Because the College is so clear about what we do well. We'll continue to do well if we stay true to our core.

How would friends and colleagues describe you?

I have no idea. You'll have to ask them!



LFA past President Lynn Carter,
Photo: The Voice

LFA Retiree Social

The annual retirees' social was held on 11 May, immediately following the LFA's Annual General Meeting. Retirees honoured at this year's event were Lynn Carter, Judy Kornfeld, Paul Headrick, Megan Otton, Denise Panchysyn, Rosalind Scarnell, David Scougal, and Andrea Smith.



From left to right: Alison Curtis, Fran Grunberg, Joe Rosen, Lynn Carter, Noel Currie, Darrell Kean, Cheryl McKeeman, Amy Kwan, Scott McLean, Janet Douglas.

Forum on Site C Dam

HRISC report by Bradley Hughes

In May, the LFA Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee (HRISC) invited Ariel Martz-Oberlander to Langara to talk about the reasons to get involved in the campaign to stop the Site C dam. Ms. Martz-Oberlander specializes in using creative direct actions to draw attention to issues of Indigenous sovereignty, feminism and climate justice, and is an activist with the Fight C campaign. To open the meeting, Gail Sparrow from the Musqueam Nation and Mary Jane Joe, the Langara Elder in Residence, welcomed us onto Musqueam land.

Ms. Martz-Oberlander started by explaining that the Site C dam is under construction on the Peace River in northern BC. She said that this means that the lands of the Prophet River First Nation and West Moberly First Nation will be flooded. The treaty they signed in 1899 is in force, "as long as the grass grows and the sun shines." She pointed out that this means that construction of the Site C dam against the wishes of these nations violates the treaty.

Ms. Martz-Oberlander outlined the huge cost of this project. It is projected at \$9 billion and is expected to go much over that. Currently, it is expected to raise Hydro rates by 28%.

Ms. Martz-Oberlander has visited the region and seen that the farmland that will disappear under water is some of the best in the province. She explained that this land can feed one million people a year, without the need to transport food long distances.

Ms. Martz-Oberlander said that there are important breeding grounds for various species around the Peace River and many endangered species like the spotted owl will lose their homes.

Unlike the proponents of the project, Ms. Martz-Oberlander believes that this project will not produce clean power. She explained that the flooding will release mercury into the water which will remain dangerous for 80 years and eliminate Aboriginal fishing rights. She further explained that the flooding of forests will release methane and CO₂, which are greenhouse gases.

Lastly, Ms. Martz-Oberlander urged us to get involved in the fight to stop the dam. For more information, see Fight C's website: FightC.ca. To join the HRISC, please email Bradley at bhughes@langara.ca.



FPSE's Annual General Meeting and Conference

by Stephen Phillips

The AGM and conference of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE) was held in Victoria May 15 – 18. It was attended by delegates from all of FPSE's 19 affiliated locals, including the LFA (Local 14) which sent a full complement of 11 delegates.

As the AGM was held just a week after BC's cliffhanger provincial election, it was far from certain that a



FPSE President George Davison at the Annual General Meeting.

change of government was at hand, especially as absentee ballots had yet to be counted. Nevertheless, FPSE President George Davison expressed satisfaction with the Federation's ambitious "Open the Doors" campaign in aid of restored government funding for the province's public colleges and universities. In the course of that campaign, "we advocated for our students, our institutions, and our communities," he said. "And we helped make post-secondary education a vote-determining issue."

Davison stressed that faculty must keep up the pressure by insisting on a review of the government's funding formula for post-secondary education, restoration of Adult Basic Education and ESL programmes, and an overhaul of student financial aid policies. That message was later reinforced by former NDP leader Carole James who urged delegates to take part in this fall's public hearings of the BC Legislature's Standing Committee on Finance. As James has since been named Finance Minister in the new NDP cabinet, faculty associations would do well to heed her advice!

In other convention news, delegates voted to amend FPSE's by-laws to give the chair of the Non-Regular Faculty Committee a seat on President's Council, the Federation's governing body between general meetings. The new member will have voice but not vote. Meanwhile, all four incumbents on the FPSE Executive were acclaimed for another one-year term: President George Davison, Secretary-Treasurer Terri Van Steinburg, First Vice-President Frank Cosco, and Second Vice-President Leslie Molnar. At the post-convention meeting of Presidents' Council, Tim Walters (Local 9) and Shirley Ackland (Local 16) were elected as members-at-large on the Executive. Next year's AGM and conference will be held at Whistler and hosted by Capilano Faculty Association (Local 1).



Graphic from picgifs.com

Pacific Blue Cross workers locked out

By Bradley Hughes & Lisa Hale

The workers who provide LFA members' dental and extended health benefits have been locked out since July 7 by their employer, Pacific Blue Cross (PBC). In an attempt to take away the benefits of staff and retirees, management has locked out over 600 workers belonging to CUPE



local 1816. More details and updates can be found online at <https://1816.cupe.ca>.

PBC wants concessions to retiree benefits and the extended health care plan. They also are refusing a wage increase, offering a small lump sum payment instead. PBC made \$11 million last year, yet has claimed to be losing money using an accounting trick - separating their operating costs from their income made from investments. Insurance companies make money by investing premiums and using the returns to fund claims and to produce profit. PBC provides benefits for over one million workers in BC. If they can force concessions on their own workers, other BC employers may follow suit.

In late July, the two of us, along with Garth Mullins, President of local 301 of the Canadian Association of Professional Employees, visited the picket line to show solidarity between the unions. We met a dozen people on the line who were in good spirits and ready for a fight. There must have been sixty picketing that night. As we walked the line together, Katrina, one of the locked-out workers, told us, "We are ready to settle down for the long run, if that's what it's going to take." Several workers told us what a great experience the picket line has been. Organizing the line and keeping it strong has brought people together, "A lot of people feel more like they are part of a union now," Katrina told us. Everyone is welcome to visit the picket line to show support - they're at 4250 Canada Way in Burnaby. They're there 24/7 and they love having visitors.

The picket line remains strong. Mail, janitorial services and workers in the building's renovations won't cross, but some union members designated as essential services workers are forced to. PBC prepared weeks in advance of the lock out, when replacement workers were assigned to sit side-by-side with PBC staff to watch them work, in an attempt to learn their jobs. CUPE members were forced to train the scabs who now replace them. As Katrina told us during our visit, "It's not easy to fight for the things that are worth fighting for."

UPDATE: *Solidarity works! After two months on the picket line, our sisters and brothers at CUPE 1816 got a settlement from their employer in early September. For details see <https://cupe.ca/cupe-1816-ratifies-agreement-pacific-blue-cross>.*

*Layout by the volunteer labour of members of the LFA.
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