

## Solidarity and Pride Report to the SFL Convention 2009

The Solidarity and Pride Committee had a great turnout and representation from the committee itself at Regina's PRIDE parade in June. We distributed the new CLC PRIDE brochure along the parade route as well as providing a display throughout PRIDE week depicting the important role labour has played in the equality for LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) people.

Ongoing weekly education sessions with RCMP recruits continue at depot with representatives from the LGBT community including the Solidarity and Pride Committee. I also had the opportunity to attend a two-day workshop entitled "Gender and Sexual Identity in Youth". The workshop was facilitated by CTRI (Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Inc.), October 15 and 16 in Regina.

Over the past number of months the committee was involved in an advisory capacity with the planning of Camp Fyrefly. The camp was held in Saskatoon August 20-23. The camp was started in 2004 in Edmonton and was held this year for the first time in Saskatchewan. Camp Fyrefly is a leadership retreat for sexual minority and gender variant (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, intersexed, queer, questioning) and allied youth. It is designed to help youth develop the leadership skills and resilience necessary for them to become change agents in their schools, families and communities. The Faculty of Education, University of Regina and College of Education, University of Saskatchewan partnered to ensure the success of this years camp.

The Canadian Labour Congress "Allies" booklet, *Everything you ever wanted to know about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Issues* continues to be widely distributed and we have been approached to provide it in high schools for students that are attempting to establish a Gay Straight Alliance. It is intended as a tool to educate ourselves and others about LGBT realities in our fight for an equal society.

Regina was the host to a dinner and presentation by Cleve Jones on October 2. Cleve Jones is the founder of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. His career as an activist began in San Francisco during the 1970s, when he was befriended by pioneer gay rights leader Harvey Milk. Cleve worked as a student intern in Milk's office. Cleve Jones conceived the idea of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at a candlelight memorial for Harvey Milk in 1985. Since then, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has grown to become the world's largest community arts project, memorializing the lives of over 85,000 people killed by AIDS.

Remember that changing laws and policies is the easy part, changing attitudes is the ongoing struggle.

Thank you to the SFL for the ongoing support of our work.

In solidarity,  
Jan Cibart  
SUN Local 224  
Chair, Solidarity and Pride Committee  
On behalf of the Solidarity and Pride Committee,