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July 2011

CUPE Ontario Raise the Rates Campaign Solidarity BBQs

July 23rd to August 31, 2011

Free Food. Music. Children's Games. Community Vibes.

Sisters and Brothers:

At the May 2011 Convention, CUPE Ontario delegates unanimously passed a second resolution reconfirming our union's commitment to the "Raise the Rates" campaign.

The next several months are critical for this campaign. By July 31, all those on welfare and disability benefits who get the Special Diet Allowance will have to re-apply under a much tougher system. It is expected that countless poor and vulnerable people will lose this vital benefit or have it reduced significantly.

In response, CUPE Ontario is partnering with labour and community allies to organize a series of Solidarity BBQs, to strengthen the call for a full restoration of the Special Diet and to demand a 55% increase to welfare and disability rates to put them back to where they were before Mike Harris cut them and Dalton McGuinty let them fall even further.

The Solidarity BBQs will take place from July 31st to August 31st 2011, in diverse communities across Ontario.

These gatherings which are family friendly events will be an opportunity to share food, socialize and deepen labour/community links. We must bring much-needed public awareness to growing and visible levels of poverty, hunger and disparity affecting our communities. They will also be an opportunity to begin mobilizing around these important social justice issues as we approach the October provincial election.

Get involved! Get organized! Get energized! Be part of the fight to Raise the Rates!

Fred Hahn
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Planned Solidarity BBQ for Toronto:

Saturday - July 23rd – Allan Gardens (Carlton and Jarvis) 12:00 noon – 4:00pm

Ways that you, your CUPE local and District Council can be involved:

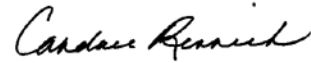
- Providing a financial or in-kind donation.
- Volunteer for set-up, food preparation or clean-up duties.
- Publicize and mobilize your members to participate.
- Help organize children's' games, recreational or artistic activities.

For more information contact Carrie-Lynn Poole at carrielynpool@rogers.com or call 613-864-1061.

In Solidarity,



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

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