

# NOVA SCOTIA UNION OF PUBLIC & PRIVATE EMPLOYEES

*From the "Did You Know?" E-mail Series*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO NSUPE—30 YEARS YOUNG

We often only look at what's still wrong with our workplace and our union, but NSUPE's 30th birthday gives us a perfect opportunity to celebrate some of our history and accomplishments:

– NSUPE began in 1974 when two groups of employees, one from the old City of Dartmouth and the other from the old Dartmouth District School Board, broke away from a large national union to obtain better workplace representation and servicing.

– NSUPE has proven that bigger isn't always better. Why else would workers choose NSUPE over other unions during amalgamation votes and when they decided to organize themselves?

– NSUPE has stayed true to its values of union democracy. This is demonstrated by everything from NSUPE's decision not to adopt anti-raiding rules, which prevent workers from easily changing unions, right through to NSUPE's requirement for member votes to accept, reject or amend a collective agreement.

– NSUPE now has about 1,520 members in seven locals:

Local 2 - Halifax Regional School Board custodial and maintenance workers

Local 12 - Canadian Blood Services workers

Local 13 - Halifax Regional Municipality inside workers

Local 14 - Halifax Regional Library workers

Local 15 - Homes for Independent Living (NS) workers

Local 16 - Conway Workshop Association workers

Local 17 - Airport Hotel workers.

– NSUPE has come through three long strikes in the last five years – Local 13's 10½ -week strike in 1999, Local 2's 9-week strike in 2001 and Local 12's 13-week strike in 2003-2004. While it's extremely difficult to be on strike, the members in those locals demonstrated unmatched strength and solidarity.

– NSUPE has some of the best collective agreements around, with solid job security and enviable benefits.

All that, and NSUPE's still so young. Makes you wonder what we can achieve in the next 30 years doesn't it? Happy Birthday NSUPE!

NOTE: The "Did You Know?" series is general information only. For advice specific to your workplace or personal circumstances, please contact a union representative. Comments are welcome at [nsupe@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:nsupe@ns.sympatico.ca).