

President's Remarks

Hello Everyone, as many of you know our Annual General Meeting in October was a celebration of MAHCP'S 40th anniversary. We again had record-breaking attendance with just shy of 250 members in attendance. Many of the members in attendance are regulars and it was wonderful to see each of you, I look forward to seeing you each year. What was also very exciting to me was to see the large number of members who were attending for the first time. Several of you contacted me after the AGM to say how much you enjoyed it and that you would be returning next year. That is so exciting to hear. As always, we take the many suggestions from the membership AGM evaluation forms and implement the ideas in subsequent years. The satellite site in South Eastman was a welcome addition to the teleconference locations.

Memorabilia and historical facts served as a backdrop for the meeting. It was fun to see

everyone enjoying the copy of our first contract included in the registration kits. Contrasting that 16-page contract with our current collective agreements really speaks to where we have come from. It was interesting listening to the buzz as people found interesting statistics in that original agreement.

And of course the vast number of wonderful door prizes. Thank you to all of the local businesses who help to make our Annual General Meetings such special events.

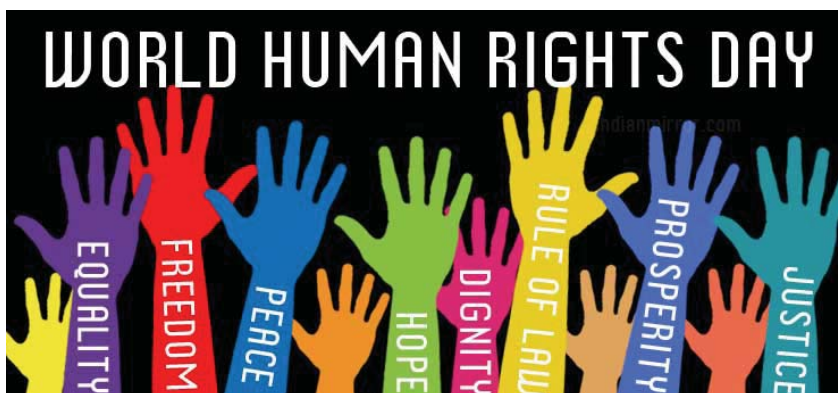
I look forward to seeing you all again next year. Speaking of next year, I wish you all the best over the holiday season and may 2011 be all that you hope for and more.

And as always I welcome hearing from you.

In solidarity
Wendy



Wendy Despina, MLT
President



December 10, 2010

December 10 was International Human Rights Day. It celebrates the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In our busy lives it may be something that we have not given much thought to, and yet the need for its very creation tells us that the rights contained within the 30 articles are something that we should not take for granted.

In December of 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "The recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." This opening statement of the preamble sets the tone of the document and has become a universal standard for defending and promoting human rights.

Article 23 speaks to standards of employment including "Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests." Labour rights are human rights!

During our 40 year history much of the work done by our union has had human rights and our labour rights as its core priorities. This has included promotion of equity in the workplace, promotion of economic rights and benefits, and safe and discrimination free workplaces.

As Canadians we can be proud of the fact that one of the principle drafters of the document was Canadian John Peters Humphrey and yet one of the first acts of our current federal government was to close the Canadian Human Rights Commission offices in three provincial capital cities across the country. More of these trends are detailed in the article on page 14. These changes and reductions serve to underscore the importance that labour rights and human rights still need to be defended, protected and improved if we are to achieve the vision of "... freedom, justice and peace in the world."

For more information about the Declaration of Human Rights, please visit www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml and wiipedia.org/wiki/Human_Rights_Day

Mahatma Gandhi
once said,

*"You must be the
change you want
to see in the world."*