

REPORT OF THE AFL 2008 KIDS' CAMP SUB-COMMITTEE

The 14th Annual AFL Kids' Camp was held at Camp Goldeye near Nordegg from August 11-15, 2008.

Three buses, a truckload of supplies, 79 campers, 12 Adult Leaders, 5 Junior Counsellors, a Camp Director and AFL Secretary Treasurer Nancy Furlong converged on the rustic location for the start of a fun filled week.

This year's camp was the culmination of months of preparation under the leadership of the AFL's Education Committee. A committee of volunteers from a number of affiliated union locals guided the planning. The curriculum sub-committee comprised of Judy Barry (CUPE), Meaghan McNeil (HSAA), and Maureen Werlin (AFL/COPE) did a tremendous job in re-developing the 'Union Time' curriculum, to fit the Camp **'Rights'** theme. The 8 to 12 year olds learned about the United Nations' Declaration of the Rights of the Child, with a focus on child labour around the world; while the 13 to 15 year old campers, many of whom already have part-time jobs, learned about their rights in the workplace and the Employment Standards Code. For both groups the link to, and benefit of, union membership was emphasized.

Unlike 2007, we were blessed with fabulous weather. Sunscreen replaced rain gear, water replaced hot chocolate, and unbridled fun was the order of the day. A new activity, led by Judy Barry,

took the older campers off-site for an afternoon of hiking and a cookout, where each camper created their own pizza over a camp fire. Rave reviews! This also gave the younger campers the opportunity to have their own session of "UNION Bingo."

Another addition to the activity list was a Kids' Camp version of the **"Amazing Race"**. The curriculum sub-committee's creativity shone as the kids, in mixed age teams, participated in various stations to integrate their 'Union Time' learning into fun games. Each camper was given a "passport" to travel through the stations. By all accounts, the kids loved it!

From arrival to departure, boredom certainly was not on the agenda. Hiking, rock climbing, rappelling, swimming, canoeing, crafts and the Thursday night dance was more likely to lead to exhaustion, rather than boredom. That was definitely the case for the leaders.

Kids' Camp also featured its own version of "M.A.S.H." Sue Gallivan and Terry Barr, both registered nurses and members of UNA, provided capable 'round the clock care' for the inevitable scrapes, bruises and tummy aches, as well as dealing with the ongoing medical requirements of several campers (and the occasional leader). Terry also provided walkie-talkies, which were a huge help in communications between

leaders and with 'Mothership' (Camp Director Elisabeth Ballermann).

Both adult leaders and junior counselors probably worked harder than any of their sponsoring unions would ever allow them to work under their respective collective agreements: from a wake-up at 7:00 a.m. to lights out at 11:00 p.m., with very few breaks. It's a good thing that this was volunteer work, or we would have had to file no ends of overtime claims, grievances and/or Employment Standards claims.

A huge **THANK YOU** to:

Adult Leaders: Lesley Baker (HSAA); Terry Barr (UNA); Judy Barry (CUPE); Keri Cable (HSAA); Dennis Chu (HSAA); Sue Gallivan (UNA); Kelly Garland (HSAA); Sherri Hibbs (CEP 707); Paula Harvie (CEP 707); Neil Rudiger (IAMAW 99), Diana Seabright (CEP 707), and Maureen Werlin (COPE 458 & AFL).

Junior Counsellors: Brittany Brousseau, Stephanie Clewes, Jennifer Hatlen, Kassandra Hatlen and Sabrina Wilson.

Sponsoring Unions/Labour

Centrals that provided scholarships, financial and/or 'in kind' (i.e. cool swag!) donations: AFL, CAUS, CAW, CLC, COPE, CUPE 1357, CUPE 3550, CUPE Alberta Division, HSAA, IAMAW 99, IATSE 210, IBBD 331, IBEW 1007, UFCW 401, USW 7226, USW Southern Area Council and UNA.

Many thanks also to the 'behind the scenes' work of the AFL officers and staff who did a tremendous job in organizing materials and supplies, recruiting volunteers, negotiating the various contracts, and ensuring that everything was in place to allow the kids to have a great time.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Kids' Camp Sub-committee,

**Elisabeth Ballermann
AFL 2008 Kids' Camp Director**

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