

## Summer 2005

A decision of the Membership would finally need to be made as the term of the Direct Charter with the CLC was quickly coming to an end. In addition, in less than one year, MUSA CLC Local 2003-1 would again be at the bargaining table.

The members understood that with the expiry of the collective agreement in June of 2006 that MUSA needed not only strength at the bargaining table but the ability to access a larger union's resources and expertise so that MUSA could continue making gains. Further, the quickened pace of corporatization at universities would make for a challenging bargaining environment that awaited MUSA CLC Local 2003-1 in 2006 at the bargaining table.

The AIC had concluded their research and presented their findings in general Membership meetings over the months of July and August 2005.

### AIC Final Report to Members

In early September 2005, the CLC sponsored an information package from six affiliates that had expressed an interest in aligning themselves with MUSA. The Unions who provided information were CAW, CUPE, OPSEU, OSSTF, PSAC and USWA.

### Letter to MUSA Membership: September 14, 2005

The MUSA Executive Committee and Representative Council during this time had paid much attention to this issue. After much discussion and deliberations, the leadership of MUSA unanimously endorsed the **Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) as the union of choice for MUSA** at a meeting that was held on September 22, 2005.

To make this important recommendation, each elected leader had much to consider: the ability to maintain autonomy and run the local as the Membership determined; the level of transparency and democracy the organization valued; access to resources and services. These considerations, as well as an emphasis on the importance of education were all critical factors that the leadership carefully considered when making this recommendation. The recommendation was based on these considerations and the CAW either met or exceeded the criteria that the leadership used in determining its recommendation.

The leadership's recommendation was based on their experience of the day-to-day activities of MUSA. However, the leadership of MUSA made it clear that this was a recommendation only and that each Member of MUSA would still retain their democratic right to vote for the union they felt would best represent them.

To help further aid the Membership in their final decision, a Membership meeting was held on October 17, 2005 at the Hamilton Convention Centre. CLC affiliates were invited to make presentations on why they believed that they would be the best choice for MUSA. There was also a series of breakout rooms so that each MUSA Member could speak personally with each of the presenting affiliates. The CLC affiliates who attended that evening were CAW, CUPE, OSSTF, PSAC and USWA. OSSTF choose not to participate in the breakout rooms. Special guests from the various unions included: Buzz Hargrove, CAW National-President, Peggy Nash, Assistant to CAW National President, Paul Moist, CUPE President, Leo Gerard, USWA International President and Ken Neumann, USWA Canadian Director.