

## **CEP Western Women's Conference Report**

I was fortunate to be one of the nominees from Local 191 to attend the CEP Western Region Women's Conference held in Regina on June 2-4, 2008. Not only was it educational, but an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other women activists from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and BC.

The Workshop on Building Leadership, which I attended, touched on how things work in

CEP (hierarchy of national level), how to make a strong presentation, defusing conflict, how to build alliances, meeting procedures and more. Some discussions revolved around barriers women face, organizing strategies and how to advance women leaders within the union.

During the workshops and social events I met many women activists from across the Western Region and made new contacts within Manitoba.

One of the highlights of the Conference was the election of the new Western Region

Women's Committee. The purpose of this committee is to increase the visibility of women in the union and, in particular, the Western Region. From each of the four provinces one woman was elected as the delegate for the committee and an alternate in case the delegate was unable to complete the two year term. Sister Cindy Turner from the former Local 900G is our delegate and I am the alternate. More information regarding this newly formed committee will be posted in the near future.

In solidarity,  
Joan Ewonchuk