

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CEP Humanity Fund works to build links with groups around the world to improve the lives of workers in other countries. There are over 80 CEP Locals across Canada who have negotiated a "humanity fund clause" into their contract. This involves a \$0.01 per hour worked deduction for this fund. CEP urges all bargaining units to negotiate a "humanity fund" clause in their collective agreements." (*Source: CEP Journal Winter 2001*)

"Our members at the Free Press and Transcontinental contribute 1 cent per hour worked, which comes to a maximum contribution rate of \$19.50 per year.

I received a phone call from the Fund, asking for the local to put forward the name of a member who contributes (they alternate male and female, and a female is eligible this year) who would be able to participate in an all expenses paid (except lost wages) trip to Peru for 10 days to speak to workers about health and safety issues." says Cindy Garofalo, assistant Staff Rep with Local 191. **Pearl Bainbridge, a graphic designer at the Winnipeg Free Press and an active CEP 191 member**, was selected to travel to Peru May 23 - June 2 on behalf of the CEP Humanity Fund.

The Humanity Fund, begun a decade ago, is financed by CEP members across Canada, including two shops in Local 191 -- members at the Free Press and Transcontinental. It fosters aid projects throughout Central and South America and provides assistance here in Canada as well. A prime example was the \$100,000 the Fund contributed to flood relief in Manitoba in 1997.

The purpose of such visits by rank-and-file union members, such as Bainbridge, is to report on how the Fund's money is being spent and what effect it is having on the lives of those it is intended to help. The Humanity Fund's annual budget is about \$350,000, of which up to \$53,000 comes from the Canadian International Development Agency. CEP members and their employers (where this has been negotiated in collective agreements) contribute the rest.