



# Union Info

## January 2006



### **ALCOCK: Correctional Officers Are "Dumb as Posts"**

Members from Stony Mountain and Rockwood attended a live televised debate on January 18 in Winnipeg, where Treasury Board President Reg Alcock was participating along with NDP candidate Judy Wasylicia-Leis and Conservative Steven Fletcher.

The debate began with a one hour live TV segment that allowed for pre-selected questions to be offered to the candidates, however for the remaining hour, it turned into an open forum for questions from the floor.

With our members out on the street with signs and handing out Public Awareness flyers, and members inside the auditorium with HARD TIME shirts on, the stage was set for what was to become another spectacle of Alcock's temper and ignorance.

Into the second hour of the debate, the question was asked of Mr. Alcock by one member, of why the Liberals have not bothered to take the time to answer the questionnaires sent to all party leaders, and was reminded of the 2.33% pension revision that the 2005 budget allows for Public Safety Workers. Mr. Alcock was successful in completely missing the point and dancing around the issue, but not before offering his standard responses of blaming our "Quebec Union", accusing Correctional Officers of harassing his children, and that we need to grow up and learn how to deal with the Federal Government.

What was much appreciated however, was the support offered by the NDP candidate on our issues and imploring Alcock to give Correctional Officers the respect we deserve for the job we do, and berated him following his response for taking four years to negotiate this contract.

Mr. Alcock was later approached on his way out of the auditorium despite trying many times to ignore us. He was finally confronted and asked once again for an answer to our previous question. The Treasury Board President responded to the Regional Vice President, by stating that he had nothing to say to us, as he has no respect for us.

As the conversation continued into the parking lot of the theatre and further away from any of his supporters, he exploded into a tirade of insults to the four members present, stating that " You can all go to hell", and that he has provided us his answers for the past four years, but that Correctional Officers are "Dumb as Posts".

Realizing the gross insult offered by his charge, Mr. Alcock's aide was quick to step between the group and state that it was time to go. Before finding a vehicle to escape into however, Alcock was adamant that we would not get any pension revisions despite the 2.33% allowance indicated in the Liberal Budget.

The responses offered by this high ranking Parliamentarian have never been more insulting and contemptuous as they were on this night. His hatred for Correctional Officers and our "Quebec Union", were noticed by many in the room, as some members of the audience approached us later and offered the comment of "He must really hate you guys".

Mr. Alcock was assured this evening that his insults will not go unanswered. It seems as if this individual has no regrets for the attitude he takes when describing the members of UCCO-SACC-CSN. The Federal Liberals have made it abundantly clear to Correctional Officers of their contempt and hatred for our members, and their disregard for the dangerous duties we perform.

During the next week of this election campaign, Correctional Officers should keep these comments in mind when addressing their respective MP's, as insults offered by Alcock and are undoubtedly reflective of the Liberal Party's opinion of our members, are key issues that his colleagues and counterparts need to be made aware of.

Correctional Officers have become accustomed to receiving this type of treatment from convicted criminals in the workplace, but it paints an entirely different picture when offered by an elected official who is also the employer of those individuals who lay their life on the line daily in the service of the Canadian Public.