



## BIOGRAPHY

# ROBERT COX

**Union of Canadian Transportation Employees  
National President - 1981 to 1993**

It all started for Robert Cox when he became Chief shop Steward of Local 60602 at the Moncton Airport. Brother Cox said that it was in this position that all the “dirty work” was done. At the time he was the National Chairman of the Traffic Control Assistant Association helping lead a one-week-long wild cat strike in the fall of 1974. In 1975, he ran against Fred Webster for the position of the 2nd vice-president and lost. A few years later, in 1979, he was elected as the president of his local. In 1981, he was elected national president of the Union on the 1st ballot. In this first term, he led the Education program. In 1985, he became the first full-time elected UCTE president. At the time, UCTE was the 13th component of PSAC to have a full-time president. With his strong personality, Brother Cox was well known as a quick problem solver. It was during his last years with UCTE that he took on the issue of airport privatization. Brother Cox led – the union’s role in the “Taskforce on Airport management” slowing down the process. While he may have started as a militant leader of a wildcat strike as the years went on, he mellowed. “Consultation not confrontation is now the Union of Canadian Transport Employees solves their problems ” he said in 1984 during UCTE’s convention.

Robert Cox was a president whose presence, while he was at the helm of UCTE, was felt by all. At the end of his last term, in 1993, he returned to work for Transport Canada having been the longest serving president.

