

OUIWCC Newsletter

Vol. 2, No. 2

December 2011

Ontario Election - 2011

October 6 was a day of victory for Andrea Horwath's Ontario NDP and university workers can be proud of the role CUPE activists played in that success.

Following the general Ontario election of 2007, the Liberals had 71 seats, the Conservatives had 26 seats, and the NDP had 10 seats.

In 2011, the NDP gained 7 seats, resulting in the Liberals getting 53 seats, the Conservatives 37 seats, and the NDP had 17 seats. The NDP now has a minority government and Andrea's NDP are in the seat of power in Queen's Park.

CUPE Ontario developed a comprehensive election strategy that identified target ridings across the province where CUPE had the capacity to make a difference.

Mobilizing CUPE locals and members by direct member-to-member contact about the participation in the political process is legitimate. Almost 20 members and staff worked on the election.

University workers stepped up in Windsor, London, Hamilton, Niagara, Toronto, and many other communities, making a difference in election results and building capacity.

But the work is not over. Genuine political action begins the day after the election. We need to continue working with the NDP and lobbying government on issues affecting workers in the university sector.

As well, work has begun to elect a new National Leader of the Federal NDP at their convention on March 24, 2012 in Toronto. The OUIWCC will address the issue of which candidate we will support in this election. A special edition of the OUIWCC Newsletter will be made available to inform you of the Executive Board's decision.

Post-Secondary Education Caucus at National Convention

This year's caucus featured a panel discussion with each panelist providing members with an overview of what is happening in their region. Panelists were Janice Folk-Dawson, University of Guelph; Wayne Foley, University of Saskatchewan; Leo Cheverie, University of PEI; Denise Beland, Université de Québec (Trois Rivières); Lucie DesRosiers, Université de Québec (Chicoutami); and Roxane Labbee, L'INRS - Institut Armand-Frappier.

Sister Folk-Dawson explained the structure of the OUIWCC and our coordinated bargaining campaign. She also provided an overview of the Ontario government's wage restraint. Brother Foley discussed the university's attempts to contract out printing services. While they were not able to stop all contracting out, they were able to keep the printing plant and a small digital shop from being outsourced.

Members were treated to an overview of the campus coalition building on the campus at UPEI and their fight to rid the campus of bottled water and we heard from the Quebec delegation about their battle for Pay Equity.

The strike at Sherbrooke was explained—11,000 members on strike for 12 weeks and without a contract for three years.

General discussion revealed that all areas of the country face similar issues: privatization, workload, high tuition fees, and lack of respect.



Janice Folk-Dawson, Chair
James Meades, Vice Chair
Dayn Gray, Recording Secretary
Lisa Marion, Health and Safety Representative (Temporary)
Steve Pepper, Injured Worker & Trades Representative
Yongfang Jia, Employment Equity Chair

Campus Representatives

Dayn Gray, Brock University
Pam Griffin-Hody, Carleton University
Laura Solomon, Guelph University
Serge Laforest, Lakehead University
Nancy McBain, McMaster University
Payam Sadeghi, Ottawa University
Lisa Marion, Queens University
Shawn McFadden, Ryerson University
Stephen Horner, Trent University
Rudy Won, University of Toronto
Kelly-Anne Clements, University of Toronto (Alternate)
Doug Campbell, Waterloo University
Wes Brown, University of Western Ontario
Vacant, Wilfred Laurier
James Kehoe, Windsor University
Luis Figueiredo, York University

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Veriline Howe, CUPE Ontario Diversity VP (Racialized Workers)

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CUPE National Resolutions and the University Sector

One of the main businesses of CUPE Convention is the passing of resolutions begun at the grassroots, moved on to executive levels and fed into the Strategic Plan – the path that the members wish CUPE National to follow for the next two years.

Of particular interest to university workers in Ontario are Resolutions 50 and 199. Resolution 50 was put forward by CUPE BC.

Resolution 50 called for a bi-annual national post-secondary education workers' conference.

Resolution 50 also means that CUPE National will establish a national post-secondary task force. Such a task force should bring the common concerns of university workers to national attention and help us in our coalition work with other unions.

Resolution 199 speaks to the active organization of non-unionized workers at post-secondary institutions. Both Resolutions 50 and 199 were adopted.

Resolution 174 mandates CUPE National to actively encourage CUPE locals to contribute one dollar per member per year to go to the CUPE Global Justice Fund.

Resolution 225 is concerned with defending members who belong to professional colleges.

Resolution 55 establishes a national library committee. CUPE represents over 10,000 public library workers and thousands of library workers in public schools, colleges, and universities across the country.

Resolutions 261 and 114 are broad in scope. Resolution 261 addresses the needs of Young Workers and establishes 2013 as the Year of the New and Young Worker. Resolution 114 supports and promotes the Day of Pink (April 13)—a day which publically opposes homophobic and transphobic bullying in the workplace.

Emergency Resolution 801 was brought forth by the National Executive Board. This resolution is directed to the Harper Majority government, its attacks on labour and democracy as seen fully through its campaigns against CUPW and Air Canada (CUPE) and Bill C-116. It puts in clear language the dire necessity of defeating the Conservatives in 2015.

We encourage you to read the full text of all resolutions brought to the floor in Vancouver (whether adopted or defeated),

<http://cupe.ca/cupe-national-convention/>.

Pam Griffin-Hody, Chair
Ouwcc Communications Committee

Announcing: The Great Ouwcc Trivia Contest (Gontc)

A new feature of our Ouwcc Newsletter

Gontc #1 – December 2011

Your opportunity to win great CUPE prizes AND your name published in the next Ouwcc Newsletter!

Send your answers in by December 21, 2011.

Please Note: Results might not be available until week of January 9! Here are the questions you must answer correctly:

1. Where is the Ouwcc Conference in 2012?
2. Where does this statement come from?
"...in and for each Province, the Legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to Education..."
3. Who is YOUR campus rep on the Ouwcc?

Please send answers to: grifhody@gmail.com and use the subject line: **Ouwcc Trivia Contest**.

Also, please include:

(a) Your answers with the corresponding number;
(b) Your name; (c) Your local; (d) The type of local or type of work (academic, contract instructor, library worker, custodian, trades...); (e) The address to send your wonderful prize to should you win!

The prizes will be awarded by first-come with all, or the most, correct answers.

Good luck to everyone!

2012 CONFERENCE **Commitment - Coordination - Capacity**

PLEASE RESERVE THESE DATES:
February 22 to February 26, 2012

Hilton Hotels & Resorts
300 King Street, London, ON

Hotel reservations and travel arrangements are to be made directly with W.E. Travel at 1-888-676-7747

Room costs are \$119.00 to \$139.00
Cut-off date is February 2, 2012