

**ONTARIO REGIONAL OFFICE**

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**To: All Social Service Local Presidents, Recording Secretaries, Unit Chairs, and National Representatives servicing same**

**From: Sarah Declerck, Acting Social Services Coordinator - Ontario  
Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam, Chair SSWCC**

**Re: 2013 Social Service Workers' Conference – Second Call**

**Date: January 23, 2013**

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The 2013 Social Service Workers' Conference begins on the evening of Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> and continues until Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in Toronto.

Cuts to funding have reduced social services and the quality of services, expanded waitlists and forced layoffs. The introduction of legislation attacking the right to free collective bargaining and threats of anti-union right to work legislation presents significant challenges for our union. Our goal with this conference is to equip activists in the sector with the political arguments, skills and strategies to mobilize our members to effectively resist attacks on unions and the services we provide.

### Registration

Enclosed, you will find the second call for the 2013 Social Service Workers' Conference which includes hotel and travel booking information and the conference registration form. You will also find the On-site Child Care Registration and Family or Dependent Care Subsidy application; the Access Form for individuals requiring assistance; and the Local Support Application for Locals who qualify for and require assistance in attending this year's conference.

### Deadlines

- Requests for on-site child care must be received by **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**
- In order to guarantee the CUPE room rate, hotel reservations must be booked by **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**
- Requests for support related to accessibility and /or accommodation needs such as ASL Interpretation, Real Time Captioning and French translation must be indicated on the enclosed Access Form. These requests must be received by **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013.**

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**PAUL MOIST** – National President / Président national    **CHARLES FLEURY** – National Secretary-Treasurer / Secrétaire-trésorier national

**TOM GRAHAM** – **FRED HAHN** – **DANIEL LÉGÈRE** – **LUCIE LEVASSEUR** – **BARRY O'NEILL** – General Vice-Presidents / Vice-présidents généraux



- Locals may qualify for assistance to attend the conference based on the Local's size (less than 100 members), location (northern or more than 500 kilometers from the conference), newly organized Locals who are in first Collective Agreement negotiations and Locals who have been on strike or locked out within the last year leading up to the conference. Such requests must be received by **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013** on the attached Local Support Application.

### **Developmental Services Coordinated Bargaining Meeting**

The next Province-wide coordinated bargaining meeting for developmental services locals will take place in the fall of 2013 to prepare for the next round of coordinated bargaining. The majority of collective agreements will expire at the end of March in 2014. Discussions about coordinated bargaining will take place during the developmental services jurisdictional meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> during the Social Services conference including an in depth report on challenges and successes of the current round of coordinated bargaining. Developmental services locals will not be meeting in advance of the Social Services conference this year and are strongly encouraged to attend both the Social Services Workers' Conference and the coordinated bargaining meeting in the fall of this year.

### **Workshops**

In light of unprecedented attacks on workers, the services we provide and our unions, the Social Services Workers Coordinating Committee (SSWCC) has planned an activist oriented conference. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, all conference participants will attend an activist panel to hear from union and community organizers about how they successfully organized members, defended services and jobs and built effective campaigns. We will also begin action planning by regional/geographical area across sub-sector. Conference participants will participate in activist skills-building workshops to learn how about effective political lobbying and campaigns, membership education and how to engage members in the union and mobilization efforts to defend jobs and services, and more.

### **Looking for video clips and pictures!**

Do you have pictures or videos from bargaining, campaigns, membership meetings, community events, job actions, etc.? If you have them, we would like to get a copy! Please forward pictures and/or video clips to Uliana Siniavskaia at [usiniavskaia@cupe.ca](mailto:usiniavskaia@cupe.ca)

### **SSWCC Bylaws**

The bylaws of the SSWCC may be amended at any annual SSWCC conference by a two-thirds majority vote.

The relevant bylaw reads as follows:

*Proposed amendments to the constitution may be made by a motion from a Local union duly signed by the President and Secretary or by a recommendation of the Committee. Amendments shall be received by the Chair of the Committee not later than forty (40) days prior to the annual conference. The*

*proposed amendments shall be circulated to all member Locals at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the annual conference.*

Bylaw amendments shall be moved, debated and voted on in two parts: first at the opening plenary and then at the closing plenary.

If your Local wishes to have the SSWCC bylaws forwarded to them or wishes to submit any proposed bylaw amendments, please contact Uliana Siniavskaia at [usiniavskaia@cupe.ca](mailto:usiniavskaia@cupe.ca)

The proposed bylaw amendments which have been developed by the Social Service Worker Coordinating Committee (SSWCC) for consideration by conference participants at the 2013 Social Service Workers' Conference are attached at the end of this letter.

### **Social Services Levies**

The bylaws of the Social Service Workers' Coordinating Committee (SSWCC) allow for the collection of a levy of two dollars per member per year. This levy has allowed the committee to enter into ambitious work plans within the Social Service Sector to address the challenges our members face.

The Terms of Reference for the Developmental Services Sector Coordinating Committee (DSSCC – formerly the ACLBC) allow for the collection of a levy of two dollars per member per year. The Developmental Service sector has made great gains through coordinated bargaining.

If your Local has not already done so, please consider making a social services and developmental services levy contribution as applicable. While both levies are voluntary, the coordinated efforts in the social services sector rely on having the necessary resources in place. Please consider making a voluntary levy donation so that these coordinated efforts can continue.

### **Voting**

Locals may send an unlimited number of delegates to the conference; however, for purposes of voting on issues pertaining to the business of SSWCC, the bylaws restrict the distribution of voting cards as follows:

1 to 100 members	2 delegates
101 to 250 members	3 delegates
251 to 400 members	4 delegates
each additional 150 members	1 additional delegate
District Councils	1 delegate

Locals who represent both social service and non-social service workers shall be allowed voting delegates based only on the number of workers in the social services sector in their Local. For composite and municipal Locals, please be sure to indicate the number of Social Service workers in your Local on the registration form.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference. If you require any clarification and/or further information, please contact Uliana Siniavskaia at [usiniavskaia@cupe.ca](mailto:usiniavskaia@cupe.ca) or (905) 739-3999 ext. 235

In solidarity,



 Sarah Declerck  
Acting Social Service Coordinator – Ontario



Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam  
Chair SSWCC

#### Attachments

cc: Paul Moist, Charles Fleury, CUPE Ontario Division, Linda Thurston-Neeley, Karen McNama, Kathy Johnson, Joe Courtney, Stella Yeadon, SSWCC

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