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CUPE Ontario statement on events in the Ukraine

Ukraine is facing a severe and complex economic and political crisis. The world has witnessed large scale protests organized by different, and at times opposing, groups. The government of Ukraine pushed through a package of laws restricting the rights of protest, assembly, association and expression. Furthermore, the demonstrations in the Ukraine have been met with severe violence over the last number of months. Demonstrators have been killed, with hundreds more seriously injured and/or arrested.

CUPE Ontario defends people's basic right to freedom of speech and assembly. We condemn any form of violence towards those who express their democratic rights. We are also alarmed that powerful forces -- including the US, Russian, German and Ukrainian governments along with the EU and controlling business interests known as oligarchs -- have been using ordinary people's legitimate dissatisfaction with the economic and political situation in Ukraine to push their own, often neo-liberal, agendas.

We strongly oppose any agenda or actions that lead to austerity measures, the privatization of public services and attacks on working people's democratic rights and economic achievements. We stand in solidarity with the working people of Ukraine for social and economic justice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Rennick".