



80 Commerce Valley Dr. E., Suite1
Markham, ON L3T 0B2
Phone: 905-739-9739 Fax : 905-739-9740
Web: cupe.on.ca E-mail: info@cupe.on.ca

Human Rights Day

December 10th 2013 marks the 65th anniversary of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights. This year's theme is "Working for Your Rights."

It seems a fitting theme at a time when the rights of workers everywhere are under attack and austerity agendas are disproportionately hurting women, racialized workers, Aboriginal workers, young workers and workers with disabilities.

For 50 years, CUPE Ontario has stood up for fairness for all workers. Through collective bargaining and political action, we have played a key role in decisions that ended wage discrimination, entrenched same-sex spousal benefits, improved employment equity, and created pay equity and anti-discrimination laws. It is a tradition we are proud of, and one our members vote to continue and strengthen at each Convention.

CUPE Ontario was instrumental in the creation and adoption of our union's Vancouver Declaration, endorsed by delegates to the first national human rights conference in 2006. The declaration lists principles and ideas meant to form the basis of actions and initiatives to further equality at all levels of CUPE. We encourage members and locals to read this declaration (http://cupe.ca/human-rights/Vancouver_Declaratio) and make it a priority to advance their work toward its goals. Human rights are at the core of our values and at the very heart of the fairness we seek for all people.

Together, we must stand strong against the attacks on collective bargaining rights and on our ability to engage politically. It is only through a combination of bargaining and political engagement that we have been able to enshrine rights and move our workplaces and our society as far as we have.

While there is still much to be done to further the vision of both declarations, CUPE Ontario members can be proud of the work our union has done to build solidarity and support for human rights struggles in our union, in our communities and around the world.

When we stand up for fairness, we stand up for human rights. You can learn more about CUPE Ontario's Stand Up for Fairness initiative at standupforfairness.ca.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Hahn".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Candace Rennick".