



Pre-Convention Capsule

51st Annual CUPE Ontario Convention – Caesars Windsor Hotel – May 28-31, 2014

Fighting for fairness, building a better Ontario

At the end of May, a thousand-strong crowd of CUPE Ontario members and staff from across the province will gather in Windsor for our 51st annual Convention.

Coming from every sector and every corner of the province, they will debate and vote on an action plan to direct CUPE Ontario in the year ahead.

“We all know there are huge challenges ahead for working people, our communities and the services we provide,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn. “Our Convention is a time to build the power and strength we need to defend workers’ rights, build our communities and strengthen the public services we all rely on.”

At this Convention, members will hold elections for every position on the CUPE Ontario executive.

Convention is a big and busy event, filled with engaging speakers, important caucus meetings and special events. But it is more than that. It is a chance to meet and build solidarity with sisters from across the province. Keep an eye on the Convention agenda for the great social events happening every evening.

If this is your first time at Convention, be sure not to miss the New Member Orientation at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, right before Women at the Mic.

“This is an important year. Politicians are using union members as scapegoats, and we need to be ready to stand up to them,” said Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick. “Let’s keep on fighting for fairness and building a better Ontario.”



A thousand voices raised against poverty

On Friday at noon we will take Convention to the streets to call on governments to take immediate measures to eradicate poverty in Ontario. Building on our work with the Raise the Rates, Minimum Wage and Pay Equity coalitions, we will take a stand for restoring social assistance rates, bringing the minimum wage above the poverty line and building a better, fairer Ontario for everyone. The voices of 1000 delegates and community allies will send a message that will be heard far beyond Windsor.



Highlights of this year's CUPE Ontario Convention

Awards

At Convention, we honour outstanding members who contribute to the struggle. On Wednesday morning, we will recognize locals who went on strike for workers' rights.

On Wednesday afternoon, we will present the Health & Safety Award. The Sisters in Solidarity Award will be presented on Thursday afternoon, and the Injured Worker Award on Friday afternoon.

Amazing speakers and sessions

Every year, Convention features several engaging speakers. This year's guest speakers include Terry Melvin, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, on Friday morning. Brother Melvin is also Secretary-Treasurer of the New York AFL-CIO, and in 1983 was elected the youngest local president in the Civil Servants Employees Association.

On Thursday morning, be sure to get up in time for the Economic Literacy Breakfast Part II at 7:15 a.m., hosted by Brother Moist. Then catch Kathleen Monk founding executive director of the Broadbent Institute during the morning plenary. At 6:00 p.m., join us for the Rethink Childcare kitchen table discussion. This will be an open and frank discussion with child care workers, parents and grandparents.

On Friday at 5:30 p.m., don't miss "Keep Hospitals Cooking!" with Alex Jackson from Britain's Campaign for Better Hospital Food.



Elections & Caucuses

Every two years, CUPE Ontario members gather to elect their leaders at Convention. Elections for president and secretary-treasurer take place Thursday

morning and for four vice-presidents that afternoon. Members-at-large are elected Friday morning. Three diversity vice-presidents are elected at caucuses: On Thursday, Racialized Workers at noon and Pink Triangle at 5:30 p.m., and Aboriginal Workers at 8:00 a.m. on Friday.

There is a busy schedule of caucus meetings throughout Convention, so make sure to check

the agenda regularly for times and locations.

Social events

Convention isn't just about getting our union's work done. It's also about getting to know our sisters and brothers. In building relationships, we build the solidarity we will need to meet the challenges we will face in the year ahead.

Starting with the Delegate Meet & Greet at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, at the Fellowship Room at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and at our big social on Friday at 8:00 p.m., there are lots of great opportunities.

Convention online

Once again, many portions of the CUPE Ontario Convention will be streamed online. For information, visit convention.cupe.on.ca/live. You can also follow all the Convention action on Twitter using #CUPECon14.

Mark the time and location! Day 1 Events:

- ⇒ 7:30 a.m. to noon – Registration
- ⇒ 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. – Women's Caucus
- ⇒ 9:00 a.m. to noon – Call to Order
Session includes CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn, recognition of striking locals, CUPE National President Paul Moist
- ⇒ Noon to 1:30 p.m. – CUPE Retirees Network Caucus
- ⇒ 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. – Call to Order

- Session includes CUPE Ontario Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick, Health & Safety Award, CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer Charles Fleury
- ⇒ 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. – All-Candidates Forum
- ⇒ 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. – Caucus meetings (various locations)
- ⇒ 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. – OMERS Pension Meeting
- ⇒ 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. – Fellowship Room
- ⇒ 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. – Delegate Meet & Greet