

Hundreds of CUPE members take to Bay St.
to deliver one clear message: Ontario is not for sale.

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Your CUPE Ontario Officers



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Political Pulse

News from CUPE Ontario

With more than 258,000 members, CUPE Ontario is a strong voice for rights and fairness for our members and our communities.

We work at the provincial level for legislative, policy and political change on issues affecting public services, equality, healthy communities and a better Ontario for everyone.

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Friends,

We would both like to thank you for the continued trust you've placed in us to lead CUPE Ontario. It's a true honour to be able to wake up every day and fight for you and the important work you do.

This spring's convention was inspiring. Record attendance had us bursting out of the venue - the power of being among so many people committed to building a fairer world has truly recharged us for the coming challenges.

Ontario's Liberal government continues to cut spending on public services in order to maintain low corporate tax rates and enrich private corporations. Added to this is a large-scale transfer of public wealth to private hands by the sell-off of public assets and the contracting out of public services to for-profit corporations.

Workers are getting less while company owners and executives keep getting more.

What was so inspiring about this year's convention was being surrounded by the growing movement of regular people who are determined to build a stronger province that works for everyone.

Government is supposed to work for the social good, not the uber-rich. Public service cuts, job losses, wage freezes, and increased workload for public sector workers are NOT the way to build strong communities that work for everyone.

The corporate agenda currently being implemented by the government is about creating animosity between public sector and private sector workers, between the employed and the unemployed and underemployed, between unionized and unrepresented workers. They're intentionally feeding a climate of fear and uncertainty that is intended to diminish our expectations of what's possible.

Instead, we must come together. We must help each other. We cannot allow ourselves to be pawns in their agenda.

We're committed to this fight, but we can't do it without you.

In solidarity,

Fred Hahn & Candace Rennick

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[Twitter.com/CUPEOntario](https://twitter.com/CUPEOntario)



[YouTube.com/CUPEOntario](https://www.youtube.com/CUPEOntario)

Meet some of our great CUPE Ontario



Patricia Pitt-Anderson, winner of this year's Racial Justice award

Patricia, president of CUPE 3808, has advocated tirelessly for two decades to improve the working conditions and wages of PSWs in the homecare sector. Her passion for fairness and equality has fueled her fight for racial justice within CUPE and the broader community.

In her heartfelt acceptance speech, Sister Patricia said, "Being a leader is a hard, hard job, but I work diligently and fight my fight for my members."

Bill, the recently retired chair of Local 4400's Health and Safety Committee, has been a life-long activist with a passion for protecting his fellow workers. Known to so many CUPE members working for the Toronto District School Board, his motto remains 'Health and Safety – by any means necessary.'

He leaves big shoes to fill in the continuing fight for safer and healthier workplaces.



Bill Young, winner of this year's Health & Safety award



Chandra Kavanagh, winner of this year's Sisters in Solidarity award

"Underneath every glass ceiling is an iron woman," said Chandra when accepting her award. The president of CUPE 3906, her ceiling cracking work on behalf of her local and in the community is an inspiration for all.

Chandra is passionate about women's equality and remains unstoppable in her continuing efforts to break down barriers.



Frank Ventresca & Deborah Smith, winners of this year's Injured Workers award

Frank and Deborah show what can be done when locals work together. Both long time worker advocates in their own locals, CUPE 4156 and CUPE 1263, they teamed up to establish a Niagara and Hamilton area advocacy committee to help injured workers from all area locals get

the support they need.

Their commitment to helping workers injured on the job will leave a lasting impact on many peoples lives.

STRIKE ALERT

Library workers on strike

Essex County and Mississauga library workers are out on strike, after management refused to back away from concession demands. They need our support.

Join them on the line. Bring water, food & sunscreen. Visit www.cupe.on.ca for details on how.

Potential strikes in several sectors

Several locals across the province are currently at the negotiation table with strike deadlines on the horizon.

We hope deals will be reached in all cases but need to be prepared in case they aren't.

Support from other locals is a critical part of building the strength to win strikes.

PRIDE in CUPE Ontario





In solidarity...

CUPE Ontario is devastated by the horrific mass shooting that targeted the LGBTQ community in Orlando, Florida. The loss of life and the pain left behind for family and friends will leave a permanent scar in their community, their country and our world.

We cannot allow these events to fan the flames of religious intolerance. The complicated intersections of race, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity means we must be mindful of our shared solidarity in seeking justice for all. We will likely never know what drove the shooter to such a hateful act, but we do know that there are not enough mental health treatment services available to those who need them, and we do know that guns are far too easily available in the United States.

We hope desperately that their governments will come together to fix these problems. And we hope that out of this horrible event, will

not come more hate – but instead a collective resolve to understand that “Love is Love.”

Through struggle, we have achieved major advancements in the rights of LGBTQ people in Canada. This we celebrate with pride, but we must never become complacent. What happened in Orlando serves as a tragic reminder that building an inclusive society that embraces our differences is a continuous struggle. We know that homophobia and transphobia, even with all the gains that have been made, are still an everyday reality for too many in Canada.

CUPE Ontario’s 258,000 members are in absolute solidarity with the millions of people all around the world who are choosing to respond to this atrocity by coming together in whatever forums they can to say: We will not allow fear and hate to win. We will live our lives with hope, tolerance and love.

This year so far...

Guelph Pride, Apr. 29 – May 8

Elliot Lake Pride, May 27 – May 29

Pride Niagara, May 28 – June 4

Kingston Pride, June 18

Pride Durham, June 1 – 5

Barrie Pride, June 4

Timmins Pride, June 6 – 11

Thunder Bay Pride, June 11 – 18

York Pride, June 11 – 19

Hamilton Pride, June 18

Brantford Pride, June 18

Kenora Pride, June 24 – 26

Pride Toronto, June 24 – July 3

Still to come...

Belleville Pride, July 16 – 23

www.bellevillepride.ca

Sudbury Pride, July 18 – 23

www.sudburypride.com

Muskoka Pride, July 15 – 24

www.gaymuskoka.com

Peel Pride, July 11 – 16

www.peelpride.ca

Brockville Pride, July 16

Pride London, July 14 – 24

www.pridelondon.ca

Simcoe County Pride, July 28 – Aug. 6

www.simcoepride.com

Windsor-Essex Pride Fest, Aug. 3 – 7

www.wepridefest.com

Capital Pride (Ottawa), Aug. 15 – 21

www.capitalpride.ca

Peterborough Pride, Sept. 17 – 24

www.peterboroughpride.ca



CUPE Ontario 2016 Convent



Building a





ion



movement that puts people first





Universal CPP expansion is a significant victory for all workers

Workers all across Canada won a significant victory in June when the federal and provincial governments came to an agreement to expand the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

“Thousands of Canadians from every province and territory have been calling on our governments to increase the CPP. This new agreement is a testament to our efforts,” said Hahn.

The commitment to universal expansion, while not everything CUPE Ontario called for, will result in a plan that puts more money in the pockets of every Canadian when they retire.

CUPE and other Canadian unions have

long advocated for an expanded CPP as the most effective, efficient and affordable way to ensure as many Canadians as possible can retire with a measure of financial security.

“With the changing nature of work and the increase in part-time and casual positions, a growing number of our own members do not have access to a workplace pension,” said Candace Rennick, Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE Ontario. “And some members have only very modest workplace plans. An increased CPP will benefit all our members, but especially these.”

It’s important to note that the new CPP deal, set to begin in 2019, is still an agreement in principle. It is critical

that we continue to push to ensure that the enhancements proceed as planned so that a dignified retirement is a real possibility for more Canadians.

It is critical that we continue to push to ensure that the enhancements proceed as planned so that a dignified retirement is a real possibility for more Canadians.

We must also redouble our efforts as a movement to ensure that more workers also have access to workplace pension plans to assist in ensuring true security in retirement.

Queen’s Park Review

A victory for first responders—Following extensive campaigning by our paramedics, the government passed Bill 163 that now recognizes PTSD as an occupational illness for emergency workers.

Bill 188 was introduced in the legislature to mandate a 4-hour minimum standard of daily care for residents in long-term care. CUPE continues to push the government to bring the bill to second reading and then make it law.

Corporate interests continue to be put ahead of the public good—The Premier pushes ahead with her plans to sell off shares of our hydro system, eliminating long-term revenue that funds public services.

The government budget continues the Liberal record of underfunding public services, refusing to raise significant new revenue sources and threatening jobs.

Grassy Narrows:

A true test of the government's commitment to reconciliation

For 50 years the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation have been trying to get the provincial government to clean up the mercury that is poisoning the water they drink and rely on for fish. Illness from mercury poisoning plagues the community.

On June 2, CUPE Ontario's Aboriginal Council marched with the people of Grassy Narrows who continue to fight for their community and the water that feeds them.

"107 MPPs are meeting in the building behind us. Do you think they would ignore it if people in their home towns were being poisoned?" asked Aboriginal Council chair Dawn Bellerose, who spoke at the rally.

On the same day Premier Wynne rose in the legislature to apologize to First Nations people for past atrocities, a report that she commissioned came out confirming that cleanup is necessary. Still she refuses to act.

"How can she apologize for the past while turning a blind eye to the atrocities happening under her own watch?" asked Dawn. "It's time to bring an end to government sanctioned abuses of First Nations people. It is time for Premier Wynne to deliver more than pretty words."

Aboriginal Council meets with Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

On June 22, CUPE Ontario's Aboriginal Council met with Minister Zimmer to discuss the need for changes to our school curriculum to accurately reflect the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in our country.

The Council also used the opportunity to call on the Minister to take immediate action to clean up the mercury contamination that is poisoning the people of Grassy Narrows.





Fighting for dignity and quality care for long-term care residents

When you reach the stage in life where you or someone you love needs to move into a long-term care home, you want to be sure that you can count on the quality of care and support provided.

As it stands now - there is no minimum standard of care.

Long-term care residents are an aging and frail population—many have some form of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Most residents require hands on assistance getting dressed, showering, going to the bathroom and getting to the dining room. Many need lifts to get them in and out of bed.

Under the current circumstances, residents spend hours alone waiting for their daily needs. Workers are run off their feet trying to do the best they can with the resources they have - more often than not, those resources are completely inadequate.

There is no time to listen when a

resident wants to talk. Often residents don't have visitors for weeks at a time.

It is not acceptable for our elderly to live under these circumstances in the final stage of their lives.

Across Ontario, CUPE's Long-term Care Workers have been fighting to get the Wynne government to implement a four hour minimum standard of care per day, so no resident is ever left for hours alone

In April, the NDP introduced Bill 188, the Time to Care Act (Long-Term Care Homes Amendment, Minimum Standard of Daily Care), 2016. The Bill would set out in law, a daily minimum of four hours of care so that long-term care workers provide the level of care their residents need.

Send a quick and easy message to the government to pass Bill 188. Visit:

www.cupe.on.ca - click on Time to Care

Your newly elected executive



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer



Michael Hurley
1st Vice-President



Yolanda McClean
2nd Vice-President



John Camilleri
3rd Vice-President



Henri Giroux
4th Vice-President



Heather Duff
Sector Chair, Health
& Long-term care



Janice Folk-Dawson
Sector Chair,
Universities



Ann Jenkins
Sector Chair,
Municipalities



Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam
Sector Chair,
Social Services



Terri Preston
Sector Chair,
Education



Dawn Bellerose
Equality Chair,
Aboriginal
Council



Ryan Culpepper
Equality Chair,
LGBTQ+



Veriline Howe
Equality Chair,
Racialized Workers



Brenda 'Dash' Lavender
Equality Chair,
Women



Victoria Warner
Equality Chair,
Workers with
Disabilities



Fred Shilson
Equality Chair,
Young Workers



Darryl Taylor
Equality Chair,
Northern Ontario



Tiffany Balducci
Member-at-Large



Adam Coones
Member-at-Large



Patrick Hannon
Member-at-Large



Domenic Maugeri
Member-at-Large



Eddie Pereira
Member-at-Large



Dave Smith
Member-at-Large



It's not too late to Keep Hydro Public

Prior to Premier Wynne's decision to sell off Hydro One, Ontario's electricity system generated \$7.5 million a year in government revenue, plus an additional one million dollars in lieu of taxes. This money went directly to funding public services.

Experts are adamant that this one time cash grab will not only hurt the province financially in the long-term, but it will also drive up hydro-bills and give away any ability the province has to contain costs.

Province-wide polling shows that the vast majority of Ontarians want the Premier to stop the sell-off and keep our hydro system publically controlled.

At this point 70 percent of Hydro One is still owned by the people of Ontario. It's not too late to Keep Hydro Public.

Community rallies have been happening across the province calling on local MPPs to stand up for the people they represent and demand

the Premier stop any further sell-off of our electricity system.

MPPs need to hear from their constituents. The Keep Hydro Public coalition has put together an easy way for everyone to identify their MPP and send them a simple message.

Visit: keephydropublic.ca and click on Email your MPP, punch in your postal code and hit send.

It's that easy. Every email they get will make a difference.

Upcoming events

CACO Conference

London Hilton
Sep 19-20

HCWCC Conference

London Hilton
Sep 20-23

Northern Ontario Conference

Ramada Inn Timmins
Oct 5-7

Young Workers Conference

Chelsea Hotel
Toronto Oct 13-15

H&S/Injured Workers Conference

Crowne Plaza, Niagara Falls
Oct 25-29

Political Action Conference

Toronto Sheraton Centre
Nov 1-4

Fall School

Toronto Sheraton Centre
Nov 15-20

Trades Conference

Crowne Plaza, Niagara Falls
Nov 22-25

Women's Conference

Toronto Sheraton Centre
Dec 7-10

1st Annual Keep Hydro Public golf tournament - Sept. 13 - Richmond Hill Golf Club