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Web: cupe.on.ca E-mail: info@cupe.on.ca

DATE: September 26, 2016

TO: CUPE Ontario Local Presidents and Secretaries

RE: Weeklong Pension Training for CUPE Activists in OMERS

Sisters and Brothers,

In the fall of 2014, CUPE Ontario held its first-ever weeklong training for CUPE members in the OMERS pension plan. The training focused on governance, legislative and investment issues facing OMERS, which covers CUPE members working for Ontario's municipalities, school boards and Children's Aid Societies and is one of Canada's largest pension plans.

As a basic principle, CUPE Ontario holds that workers should make the decisions about their pension plan and, as members of the plan, have an expertise no outsider ever will. Our first pension training for CUPE members in OMERS not only expanded our capacity as a union to take an active role in the governance of our largest pension plan but also increased our activism on a number of pension issues, including the fight to expand the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP).

Participants in our first training were clear that the training provided critical knowledge and important skills they've been able to use in many areas of their trade union activism. Others have learned about the training and suggested members of their local who would be ideal candidates for future trainings.

So, back by popular demand is the Weeklong OMERS Pension Training from Sunday, January 22nd to Saturday, January 28th, 2017 at the CUPE Ontario Regional Office in Markham, Ontario.

The cost of this advanced training course will be \$500 per participant. Course fees, hotel accommodations, transportation and lost time for attendees will be the responsibility of participants and their locals. CUPE Ontario will secure a hotel rate at a nearby hotel for participants. In order to ensure the widest possible access to this training program, limited funds have been set aside to assist small locals as per CUPE Ontario's small locals' assistance policy.

Please note, this is an intensive pension training, focused on investment decisions and procedures particular to the OMERS pension plan. Previous pension training, activism or related experience is helpful for any CUPE member interested in taking this particular course. For those just getting interested in pensions, introductory pension training remains available through Union Development.

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Fred Hahn
President

BUILDING A BETTER ONTARIO

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Due to the limited space, interested participants will be asked to fill out the attached application to indicate their interest in taking this course. **Applications must be submitted to CUPE Ontario by November 4th, 2016 to smalinsky@cupe.on.ca.**

Please distribute this course application to members of your local who may be interested and are ready to increase their activism around OMERS.

For more information please contact Stephanie Malinsky at 905-739-9739 ext 603 or smalinsky@cupe.on.ca.

In solidarity,



Fred Hahn, President
CUPE Ontario

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OMERS Members Pension Training Application

Sunday, January 22nd – Saturday, January 28th, 2017
CUPE Ontario Regional Office, Markham, Ontario

This weeklong training is aimed at building the capacity and number of CUPE members who can increase our pension activism and take leadership roles in the governance of OMERS. With limited space, interested participants are asked to fill out the following application to indicate their interest. In order to ensure CUPE Ontario is increasing the capacity of our entire membership in OMERS to participate in the plan, equality as well as sectoral and geographic diversity will be considered in selecting participants for this course.

Please return completed form by **November 4th, 2016** to Stephanie Malinsky – smalinsky@cupe.on.ca

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Cell Phone Number: _____

Personal Email Address: _____

Local Number: _____ Job Title: _____

I am a member of OMERS Yes No

I am in the following sector

School Board

Municipal

Children's Aid

Elected position currently held in Local: _____

Elected positions previously held in Local:

Why do you want to take this training?

Please list all CUPE internal trainings taken, starting with any courses related to pensions:

Please list any external training you've had on pensions, governance or economic issues

Please detail your pension activism (i.e. rallies, lobbying, and member pension advocacy)

Please list any work, union or volunteer experience you've had dealing with financial, economic, pension administration, investment or governance matters (i.e. Board experience)

List and/or describe any other experiences that you think may be relevant

Do you have the support of your Local to engage in this training and future pension activism?

Please return completed form by **November 4th, 2016** to Stephanie Malinsky – smalinsky@cupe.on.ca

CUPE Ontario welcomes the contributions that individuals from equality seeking communities bring to our organization and invites aboriginal people; people of colour; women; gays, lesbians, bisexuals, queer oriented people; transgender and transsexual persons; single parents; members of ethnic minorities; newcomers and/or refugees; people with disabilities; and people of all ages to apply.

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