



80 Commerce Valley Drive E, Suite 1
Markham, ON L3T 0B2
Phone: 905-739-9739 • Fax: 905-739-9740
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 25th 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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