

Michael Hurley for 1st Vice-president

May 5, 2008

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am writing to respectfully request your support at the CUPE Ontario Division convention for my re-election to the position of First Vice-president.

CUPE members in Ontario face big challenges over the next two years:

- an economic recession
- chronic underfunding and budget deficits for many of our employers
- school closures
- privatization of public infrastructure and services
- surging benefit, gas and food costs

We need to resource the activism of our local unions to meet these challenges. Our activism has been effective. The ACL sector won \$250 million in new government funding last year through its joint campaign with OPSEU. Long term care locals won an additional 4,300 staff in the provincial budget from their campaign for standards of care. School board locals have achieved central talks to address long-standing issues that can only be resolved provincially after a series of strikes. Hospital locals have consistently stopped cuts to services by mobilizing their communities. But many members in social services, childcare and homecare work for low wages and retire without pensions into poverty. Our union's policy commits us to action for these workers, but CUPE has yet to act to change this reality. This is not acceptable.

We've made progress on the issues that led to the walkout by Ontario delegates from the CUPE National convention in 2007. In March the National Executive Board created a \$2,500,000 *Fightback Fund* to support political strikes. It has been my privilege to serve as First Vice-president. I would like to continue to work with you to make change happen and to advance the standard of living and job security of our members.

Yours in solidarity,

Michael Hurley
President, Ontario Council of Hospital Unions/CUPE