



305 Milner Ave, Suite 801
Scarborough, ON M1B 3V4
Phone: 416-299-9739 • Fax: 416-299-3480
Web: cupe.on.ca E-mail: info@cupe.on.ca

August 2, 2011

via email (convention@cupe.ca)

Dear CUPE CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT:

Please find, attached, eight resolutions submitted on behalf of CUPE Ontario for consideration at the upcoming National Convention.

These resolutions include those passed by the convention of CUPE Ontario this May for submission to CUPE National's next convention.

As per the instructions in the *Convention 2011 Advance Notice*, we are only submitting these resolutions once, in this case electronically and would appreciate confirmation of their receipt.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding these resolutions.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn".

Fred Hahn
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candace Rennick".

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Cope343



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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

- Commit resources to the immediate review of all CUPE course and educational materials so as to ensure that they promote working class perspectives and anti-oppression ideas and practices.
- Utilize the findings of the above review to integrate knowledge of anti-oppression, intersecting layers of oppression, equality, human rights and working class perspectives throughout all relevant CUPE courses and educational.
- Undertake this review no later than April 1, 2012 and present a report and implementation plan to the 2013 National Convention.

BECAUSE:

- Union principles are based on equality and the promotion of a working class outlook
- Education strengthens our understanding and practice of equality and working class politics
- These principles need to be thoroughly integrated into “bread and butter” courses such as bargaining, labour law, and occupational health and safety
- The current global economic crisis has reinforced how important it is that workers be conscious of our collective interests
- Equity and anti-oppression education strengthens class solidarity

SUBMITTED BY CUPE ONTARIO DIVISION

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

- Campaign against the proposed trade agreement between Canada and the European Union;
- Support the Trade Justice Network (TJN) and provincial coalitions working against CETA;
- Work with the CLC and the NDP to encourage parliamentary opposition to CETA;
- Work with public Services International (PSI), European Trade Unions, civil society allies in Europe and progressive members of the European Parliament to oppose CETA in Europe;
- Work with CUPE divisions to encourage provincial governments to oppose CETA and to be transparent about their CETA negotiation positions;
- Lobby the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, provincial municipal associations and local municipalities to seek a permanent exemption from CETA for local governments;
- Inform CUPE members and the public about the dangers of CETA for public services and democracy in Canada

BECAUSE:

- CETA is a direct threat to Canadian public services, the rights of local governments, water services, Medicare, and jobs;
- The conservative government and the EU aim to conclude a CETA treaty by early 2012;
- CUPE is working with the TJN, CLC and civil society allies to campaign against CETA

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

Actively lobby the federal government, and encourage the CLC to do so as well, to restore funding for language training and settlement services for newcomers to Canada.

BECAUSE:

- The Federal Government of Stephen Harper has reduced funding to settlement agencies used for language training and other settlement supports for new immigrants to Canada
- Without these supports, newcomers to Canada cannot be as successful in settling here in their new home country
- CUPE organizes many members who work in agencies that provide these critical supports for newcomers

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

Provide full funding to the Ontario School Boards Coordinating Committee (OSBCC) for their next round of Provincial Discussion Table Negotiations in 2012

BECAUSE:

- The OSBCC represents over 50,000 members in school boards all across Ontario
- It is a duly elected committee of the membership, recognized both by the CUPE Ontario and CUPE National Constitutions.
- Our National Constitution lays out CUPE National's role as the bargaining agent for its members
- This method of centralized bargaining is consistent with CUPE's policy, and is also a more efficient and cost effective way to conduct bargaining on behalf of so many different local unions in one sector
- Members pay for supports for collective bargaining through per capita tax payments, which could be reallocated to assist structures like the OSBCC to do its work on behalf of the members

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

- Provide leadership, working with community partners and through the CLC, to mount a public and lobby campaign to push for the next phase of Medicare in Canada - a publicly-funded and operated comprehensive pharmacare plan.

BECAUSE:

- Drug costs are rising by three times the rate of inflation, threatening both public health care and negotiated benefit plans.
- Only about half the workforce has access to work-place based drug benefit plans
- Pharmaceutical companies are making huge profits and are using extended patent protections and drug re-naming and reformulations schemes to extract further profits from our public health care system, our workplace benefit plans and Canadians.

Mounting a campaign for all Canadians, in a union or not, will remind our neighbours and community partners of the positive role unions play in the fight for public services for all Canadians.

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

Provide support and / or training to local union leadership and national staff to defend members of local unions not only in dealings with their employer, but also in situations where the worker's jobs are governed by a "professional college".

BECAUSE:

- Professional Colleges are being founded, covering an increasing number of the jobs CUPE members perform including social services workers, early childhood educators, personal support workers, speech pathologists, ambulance paramedics, all skilled trades' workers, etc.
- Workers are forced to join these professional colleges in order to maintain their credentials and employment and can face discipline by their respective professional colleges. This can happen even after an internal investigation with the employer finds no need to discipline but college proceedings result in actions up to and including discharge by the employer
- Our members who are involved in any proceedings with a college are currently left alone to defend themselves over matters that relate directly to their work with their employer.
- Other unions with members in this situation defend their members at their respective colleges.

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

- Mount a campaign for fair taxation at the federal, provincial and local government levels, including research, education for members, lobbying and public communications materials, focusing on the problems of eroding tax fairness, regressive tax loopholes and the potential for progressive tax reforms to provide increased funding for public services.
- Work to provide support to allies on this issue, including progressive advocacy organizations like Canadians for Tax Fairness

BECAUSE:

- Canada's tax system has become increasingly regressive with corporate tax cuts, reductions in income taxes for the rich, an expansion of tax loopholes and increasing reliance on regressive consumption taxes, property taxes and user fees
- Sufficient taxation revenues are necessary to pay for the quality public services that benefit all Canadians
- After building up deficits following the financial crisis, some Canadian Governments are now cutting public services while further cutting corporate taxes
- Business-friendly lobby groups like the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Fraser Institute and the CD Howe Institute, continue to advocate for regressive taxes; progressive alternatives advocating for fairer tax systems for lower income and working Canadians need to be supported

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CUPE NATIONAL WILL:

- Provide leadership, working with community partners and through the CLC, to re-mount an extensive public and lobby campaign to enhance public pensions for all workers, including the doubling the Canada Pension Plan / Quebec Pension Plan Benefits, an increase in OAS supplements and enhancing portability; and
- Vigourously defend all Defined Benefit Pension Plans, building a coalition of support between workers in different workplace pension plans as well as those without access to Defined Benefit Workplace Pension Plans, and using every opportunity for public education on pensions to resist the mounting attack on Defined Benefit Workplace Pension Plans; and
- Re-energize its commitment to bringing workplace pension plans to all of its members to ensure we meet our target of having all CUPE members be a part of workplace pension plans by 2015.

BECAUSE:

- CUPE Member have endorsed a vigorous campaign to fight for enhanced public pensions and defending workplace pension plans at our last two national conventions and the work is not yet complete, and
- Fighting for income security in retirement for all Canadians - if they are in a union or not – is not only the right thing to do economically and socially, but it has the added benefit of countering the anti-union animus that is pervasive in our communities and flies in the face of the right wing lie that unions are selfish and only out for themselves and their members.

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