

2nd annual Labour Day photo contest

Across the province, as we head into the federal election, CUPE Ontario members will participate in all sorts of Labour Day events. We want to showcase the great solidarity members show in every community. You can help by entering our 2nd annual Labour Day photo contest.

Send your Labour Day photos to csaunders@cupe.ca. Also share them on Facebook and tag them on Twitter with @CUPEOntario. Don't forget to include your name and CUPE local number in your email and post. Please set your camera or phone to take the highest-quality photos possible.

The best photos will win a spot in Political Pulse and the winning photo will be showcased on CUPE Ontario's home page with a credit to you and your local.



2014 winner "Rosie the Riveter" and her aunt, Tammy Bentley of CUPE Local 1974 in Kingston.

Upcoming Events

Pride Events (see calendar on website)

www.cupe.on.ca

Injured Workers and Health & Safety Conference

Sep. 9 to 3, 2015 - Delta Ottawa

Paramedic Workers Conference

Sep. 21 to 22, 2015 - Delta Ottawa

HCWCC Conference

Sep. 22 to 25, 2015 - Delta Ottawa

Long-term care memorial

Oct. 1, 2015 - Queen's Park

CUPE National Convention

Nov. 2 to 6, 2015 - Vancouver Convention Centre

OFL Convention

Nov. 22 to 27, 2015 - Toronto Sheraton Centre

Fall School

Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 2015 - Toronto Sheraton Centre

2016 Human Rights Conference

Jan. 25 to 28, 2016 - Toronto Sheraton Centre



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Join us online!

Please Distribute Widely

August 2015

Help make Tom Mulcair Prime Minister of Canada

After almost ten years with Stephen Harper in power, many Canadians know it's time for change.

Maybe that's no surprise, but what is—and we know this from successive public opinion polls—is that Tom Mulcair is now the first choice of Canadians for Prime Minister.

Yes, first choice. But before you fall off your chair. Remember, election day is not until Monday, October 19, and that's ten weeks away.

We're one election away from a national childcare program, from retirement security for all Canadians with an enhanced CPP, from a government that understands the economy is there to make people's lives better with good jobs, strong unions and a national minimum wage of \$15 an hour.

Maybe that's something worth giving one day of your time to? One day now to change all the days ahead.

CUPE Ontario Convention delegates must have agreed, because in May they voted for a resolution stating "CUPE Ontario will work with CUPE locals in Ontario to mobilize toward the upcoming 2015 Federal Election to support and work on NDP election campaigns," and hundreds signed a post card promising to volunteer one day of their time on a local NDP Campaign to help elect a Tom Mulcair government in October.

But nobody wins an election by crossing their fingers and hoping. We'll only win if CUPE members in each community are ready, not just to put up an NDP lawn sign and vote NDP on October 19, but to work with CUPE's National and Ontario teams to reach out to locals and local members and ask for their help, too. Together, we can make change a reality and help make Tom Mulcair Prime Minister of Canada.

When our election coordinators, Dan Mackenzie (dmackenzie@cupe.on.ca) and Chris Watson (cwatson@cupe.ca), get in touch with you, we ask you to please work with them. Please take advantage of this historic opportunity to make Canada work better for all of us. Your family will be glad you did.

Thank you.

Paul Moist
CUPE National President

Fred Hahn
CUPE Ontario President

Candace Rennick
CUPE Ontario Secretary-Treasurer

For more information, visit cupe.on.ca

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Solidarity in London

The 750 members of CUPE Local 101, municipal ‘inside’ workers in the City of London, voted to ratify a new collective agreement on July 22, after being forced on strike to defend a fair collective agreement.

The Local 101 members have ended their strike strong, together having fought an employer determined to break their spirit with divisive tactics including the hiring of scabs during the 62-day strike.

“A strike is never easy and this strike was no different, but our members showed strength and solidarity during this struggle and we’ve emerged stronger together because of the support shown not only by our members and Londoners, but from CUPE members across the country,” said Shelley Navaroli, president of CUPE Local 101. “Our new contract is a result of the effort of our members standing strong and defending our rights to a fair collective agreement.”

The new contract is vastly improved from the proposed contract tabled by the employer prior to the strike. “While our members may be ‘inside’ workers, this summer we marched outside to defend what we stand for and what all workers expect – to be treated with respect and with fairness,” continued Navaroli.



CUPE Ontario executive board members frequently visited the picket lines and held several solidarity rallies and barbecues.

“We want to thank all members and locals from across Canada that supported us during the strike,” concluded Navaroli. “From personal phone calls to solidarity messages, financial support, walking the picket lines with our members—being part of the CUPE family is knowing you and your members will be supported no matter what your situation is. That is true solidarity.”

ORPP: Liberals betray pension promise

On August 11, Ontario’s Liberal government announced changes to its proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) that betray their election promise to build a pension plan for all Ontarians and threaten expansion of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

Instead of creating a universal pension plan like the CPP, the Liberals are postponing their plan for workers in small- and medium-sized workplaces and are exempting employers who contribute at least 8 percent to a defined-contribution plan, a far inferior form of work-

place pension. They earlier excluded workers in defined-benefit plans, including CUPE members in plans like OMERS and HOOPP.

“CUPE Ontario supports expanding pension coverage for all Canadians. These massive exclusions tell us the Liberal government has betrayed its promise to ensure retirement income security for the next generation,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn.

CUPE has been fighting for years for expanded public pensions because the best way to enhance retirement security is through a truly universal,

defined-benefit plan, like the CPP. By excluding so many Ontarians from the ORPP, the Liberals are setting a bad precedent for the federal election and CPP expansion.

“Wynne should delay implementation until after the election. The NDP has promised retirement security for all Canadians by enhancing the universal, defined-benefit CPP,” said Hahn. “This is vastly preferable to Justin Trudeau, who would replicate Kathleen Wynne’s mistakes, or Stephen Harper, whose government refuses to expand the CPP.”

Pride across Ontario

In cities and towns across Ontario this summer, CUPE Ontario leaders and activists are participating in Pride events.

“Pride is political. It is a public manifestation of the on-going fight for fairness and equality. And it is an important way to support our members and our communities,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn at the London Pride Parade on July 26. “As a union, we’re proud of the role we have played in LGBTQ rights by developing and successfully negotiating collective agreement language on many equality fronts. We are proud that CUPE was one of the very first unions to bargain protection and advance equality for the LGBTQ community.”

At more than 20 events, CUPE Ontario members are celebrating “Pride in Public Power,” and drawing attention to the government austerity that has put equity and equality on the back burner in too many workplaces.

“Austerity is driving a privatization push in Ontario and around the globe. In the private sector, the top priority is always profit, not equality. Privatizing services like Hydro One impacts everyone, with

equity-seeking groups being the hardest-hit,” said Diversity Vice-President Patrick Hannon at the Windsor Pride Parade on August 9. “This is one reason why CUPE Ontario fights for reliable public services that are available for everyone.

CUPE Ontario members will be involved in Pride events through the fall, until the Peterborough Pride Parade on Saturday, September 19.

Find a Pride event near you at cupe.on.ca/Pride.



Fighting for racial justice

On Saturday August 1, more than 80 CUPE Ontario members from locals 79, 4400, 2191, 1156 and 2484 joined CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn, Diversity Vice-President, Racialized Workers, Veriline Howe, and 2nd Vice-President Yolanda McClean, at Toronto's Caribbean Carnival Grand Parade. Together, we stood up for racial justice and celebrated Emancipation Day.

The parade, which attracts more than one million people each year, showcases the rich history and diversity of Caribbean culture. This year, CUPE Ontario teamed up with Carnival mas band Toronto Revellers, flaunting vibrant purple and gold costumes.

"Carnival is not only a celebration of Caribbean culture, it also symbolizes the resistance of the Caribbean people against oppression, both in history and in present day," said Howe. The strong progressive roots of this event match the strong values of CUPE Ontario, making it a perfect fit for our members to participate in."

Emancipation Day in Ontario commemorates the Slavery Abolition Act, which ended slavery across the British Empire on August 1, 1834. It coincides with Simcoe Day in Toronto, named for Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe, who passed an Act Against Slavery in 1793, ultimately leading to the end of slavery in Upper Canada (now Ontario).

Carnival is also an opportunity to highlight CUPE Ontario's fight against austerity in the continuing struggle for racial equality. The consequences of privatizing public assets, like Hydro One, and deep cuts to public services, like hospitals and schools, are suffered disproportionately by racialized workers and communities.

To view more photos from the parade, visit cupe.on.ca.



Ontario fights to Keep Hydro Public

Opposition to the Liberals' plan to privatize Hydro One is growing across the province.

Throughout the spring and summer, CUPE Ontario has continued our campaign to raise public awareness about the proposed sale of Hydro One and to stop the sell-off of our public electricity grid.

"Ontarians know this sell-off is a bad idea. It means a loss of oversight and control over electricity, which is the backbone of our economy. Everywhere hydro privatization has been tried, it's also meant increased rates because private companies put profit before public good," said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn.

CUPE Ontario has conducted Environics polls in six communities in advance of Keep Hydro Public town hall meetings. Opposition to the Liberal plan to sell 60 percent of Hydro One is 88% in Peterborough, 87% in Thunder Bay, 81% in Kingston, 79% in Guelph, 84% in Sudbury and 89% in Oshawa. These results show opposition has grown since the Liberals did their own polling last October, when 73 percent of people said Hydro One should be kept public.

In July, lawyers acting for CUPE Ontario wrote to the Ontario Securities Commission about a Liberal decision to strip the Hydro One board of directors of their oversight duties in the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of shares.

Less than a week later, the energy minister effectively admitted his government's mistake and reversed its decision.

"The Liberals started with the biggest mistake of all—selling a vital public asset that all Ontarians own. Now we're seeing them make mistakes in the biggest privatization Ontario has ever seen. They remain hell-bent on selling our public electricity system in a rushed



process, without transparency and without accountability, said Hahn.

Polling also shows that Hydro privatization may be hurting the Liberal brand heading into the federal election. In Liberal strongholds such as Kingston and Guelph, support has eroded and the federal NDP is now tied in Kingston and 11 points ahead in Guelph.

This mirrors results in other communities showing a dramatic decrease in support for Kathleen Wynne's government.

CUPE Ontario continues to work with partners in the Keep Hydro Public coalition to build vocal public opposition to the Hydro One IPO, with an ultimate goal of stopping the misguided sale.

"It is imperative that we stop this sale, because it's just the tip of the iceberg," said Hahn. "The Wynne government has made it clear they intend to sell off more public assets. In Australia and other jurisdictions, this has been disastrous and included the sale of roads, hospitals, schools and much more."

Learn more and get involved in the campaign at KeepHydroPublic.ca

Labour Day: A strong stand against austerity

On Monday, September 7, CUPE Ontario members will take part in Labour Day events in communities across the province.

This year, our parades, picnics and community events will focus on the federal election, carrying hand fans that read “On October 19th, I will vote for change that matters for workers.”

“We encourage every member to get involved in a campaign in their community,” said CUPE Ontario Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick. “We’re just one election away from a national child care program, a \$15/hour federal minimum wage, retirement security for all through an enhanced CPP, and from a government that will create good jobs.”

This Labour Day, CUPE Ontario members will combine their celebration of all that the labour movement has achieved, with a strong stand against the austerity that is driving cuts to the public services we all rely on.

“Austerity is at the root of all the hospital and school closures we’re seeing. It’s why we still have long wait lists for child care and developmental services, and why governments are outsourcing and selling off vital public assets like Hydro One,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn.

The annual celebration has its roots in the labour movement’s fight for an eight-hour day and celebrates the many gains unions have struggled for on behalf of all workers, including health and safety regulations, parental leave, a minimum wage, pay equity laws and same-sex spousal benefits.

“On Labour Day, we must all commit to fighting austerity and getting involved in election campaigns to build a better Canada ,” he said.

For an updated list of events, [visit cupe.on.ca](http://www.cupe.on.ca).



2015 Labour Day Events

Brantford & District	Sept.7 - 9am-12pm - Soapbox Derby Open House at Labour Centre 12:30pm - 2:30pm
Durham Region	Sept.7 – 9am – 5pm Picnic at Memorial Park, 10 Simcoe Street South, Oshawa
Hamilton	Sept.7 – 10:30am Parade on York blvd West of Queen at 10:30am and BBQ at Dundurn Park (request your site/ bbq). Beer tent, family activities.
Kenora	Sept.7 – 11am – 2pm Picnic at Beatty Park in Keewatin Activities include: Guest speaker, Howard Hampton, Glen Archer (OPSEU), hot dogs, cake, kid’s games free draws, union booths.
Kingston	Sept.7 – 10am – 2pm McBurney Park, Kingston Activities include music, food and fun for the kids
Kitchener	Sept.7 – 12pm – 4pm Picnic – Waterloo Park Activities include: Free food, face painting, pony rides, balloons, live music, cash bar
Lindsay & District	Sept.6 – 12pm – Picnic Old Mill Park, 16 Kent St.E, Lindsay Activities include: games, bouncy castle, music, dinosaur egg hunt, BBQ, cake, food drive, prizes. Please send donations
Niagara Region	Sept.7 – Niagara District Council will join the Merritton Labour Day Parade. Gather at 10am at the Pen Centre off Chestnut St.W. Parade starts at 11am. Bring flags and CUPE attire.
North Bay	Sept.7 – North Bay Waterfront Activities include: Train or Carousel ride, games, wall climbing, music, food, candy.
Ottawa	Sept.7 – 12pm – 4pm Parade begins at Ottawa City Hall (Elgin St and Lisgar St.) ends at McNabb Park where picnic will be held from 1pm-4pm.
Peel Region	Sept.5 – 12pm – 4pm Picnic at Heart Lake Conservation Area (10818 Heart Lake Road)
Peterborough	Sept.7 – 12pm – 3pm - Picnic at Nichols Oval Park
Sarnia	Sept.7 - 9:30am - Parade starts at Christina St and Wellington St to Centennial Park.
Sault Ste. Marie	Sept.7 – Parade of union flags 11:30am, Games & Picnic 12pm-4pm. Roberta Bondar Pavillion, Sault Ste. Marie
Sudbury	Sept.7 -Parade 10:30am-5pm. Event at Bell Park. Activities include: Booths from different unions, kid’s play area, "labour’s got talent" show. Politicians to attend
Thunder Bay	Sept.7 Labour Day Picnic 12pm – 3pm Current River Park
Timmins	Sept.7 – 11:00am. March followed by BBQ & Picnic. Marching around Gillies Lake. Picnic at Hollinger Park
Toronto & York Region	Sept.7 – Toronto Labour Day Parade – CUPE Ontario (Section 3) meets west side of university, north from Armoury St. to Dundas west.
Windsor	Sept.7 –Marshal at 10am at Unifor Local 200/444 Union Hall at 1855 turner Rd. Festivities afterward include: kid’s play area, bouncy castle, balloons, face painting, special Olympics, refreshments, loot bags, bake shop and more.