

Convention Capsule

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

Agenda Highlights

- Day 1 CUPE National and CUPE Ontario officers; Health & Safety Award
- Day 2 OFL President; Racialized Workers and Sisters in Solidarity Awards; International Solidarity Forum
- Day 3 Leap Manifesto co-author Avi Lewis; Nurse Sue McIntyre; Injured Worker Award; Rally
- Day 4 Final debate on Action Plan



Rising up against privatization in every community

More than 1200 CUPE Ontario members have gathered in Toronto for our 53rd annual convention - our highest democratic decision-making body. Representatives from locals in every corner of the province are set to work together to elect our leadership, debate resolutions and pass an action plan for the year ahead.

Our theme, "Privatization: Paving the Way to Poverty," is about protecting Ontarians from the government's dangerous privatization schemes that are at the root of deep cuts to public services.

PAVING THE WAY TO POVERTY
OUVRE LA VOIE À LA PAUVRETÉ



Anti-privatization rally

Together, we are more than a thousand voices against privatization. Don't miss the rally at noon on Friday, when we will head into the heart of the financial district to send clear message to Premier Wynne and her government's friends on Bay Street:

"Your fiscally irresponsible privatization plans will hurt the people of our province and they must be stopped."

Together, we can build a better Ontario

Check out the exciting lineup of speakers and events at CUPE Ontario's 53rd annual convention

This year's convention is jam-packed with elections, exciting speakers and lively debate. There's so much going on that CUPE Ontario is introducing a new Convention App to help you. Get it from the app store if you haven't already!

We are excited to have Avi Lewis coming to speak about the Leap Manifesto and building a sustainable future that works for everyone. Other speakers include: Sandy Hudson, CUPE member and leader in Toronto's Black Lives Matter movement; and Sue McIntyre, a nurse and CUPE member who was fired for speaking out about violence in her workplace.

Thursday evening's International Solidarity Forum features Jacqueline Ristola, a CUPE 3903 member and 15 Year anti-war organizer; Chris Ramsaroop from Asian-Canadian Labour Alliance; and Ameth Lo from Group of Research and Initiatives for the Liberation of Africa.

Friday morning starts with Charles Fleury at the CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer's Breakfast for a discussion of per capita, Trustees reports and financial issues.

If this is your first Convention, we hope to hear you at a mic!

Sector Caucuses met Tuesday:

Municipal workers are focussed on post-traumatic stress disorder, hydro privatization, library services and threats to quality paramedic services. At the OMECC caucus held yesterday, new Chair Ann Jenkins outlined the committee's priorities.

The school board workers discussed the new provincial benefits trust that is under discussion, and new information arising about cuts some school boards are facing.

Social service workers identified their priority resolutions: precarious work; a national child care program; fight back against mandatory registration with a professional college for child protection workers; the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS); and violence in the workplace.

Health care workers plan to continue their push-back on provincial under-funding for health services. They prioritized their fight against understaffing in hospitals and long-term care homes, and the fight to normalize work of personal support workers in home care.

University sector workers have a wide range of resolutions going forward to convention. The committee hopes to shine a light on rampant contracting out and privatization in the sector.

CUPE Ontario delegates set to elect the most diverse board in the labour movement with the election of six equality representatives.

Last year, members voted to create a new, more inclusive CUPE Ontario executive board.

Following a historic vote at the last Convention, this year marks the first time CUPE Ontario members will vote for a newly restructured board.

Be sure to attend the all-candidates forum scheduled on adjournment on Wednesday to hear from candidates for many executive board positions.

The president, secretary-treasurer, four vice-presidents, six members-at-large and one trustee are elected by all delegates on the convention floor on Thursday and Friday.

Several positions are elected in caucus during convention, including representatives for Northern Ontario, women, aboriginal workers, pink triangle, workers with disabilities, racialized workers and young workers. Check the agenda for times. The first election caucuses are on Wednesday evening.

The executive board also includes representatives from each sector, who are elected at their sectoral conferences rather than at Convention.



Historic Election of new executive board