



## CUPE MEMBERS MARCH ON QUEEN'S PARK



### Rally begins a community by community resistance to Ford attack on services

A thousand strong, Convention delegates marched to Queen's Park on Thursday to underscore the point that they are prepared to mount a strong resistance, community by community, to the Doug Ford government's deep cuts to funding for services, privatization, mergers and amalgamations.

"Strengthening alliances with those most impacted by the cuts is a priority, because the public services we deliver are the same services Ontarians in every corner of the province rely on," said CUPE Ontario president Fred Hahn.

"Diverting attention to tailgate parties and corner store beer is a hallmark of this PC government," said CUPE Ontario 2nd vice-president Yolanda McClean and president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Canada. "It is the work of all public sector workers to stand up to an agenda of hate and division to create more equitable and caring communities."



### Federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh brings message of courageous optimism to delegates

With a federal election just a few months away, the leader of Canada's New Democrats told CUPE Ontario delegates that he and the party he leads stand firmly behind high-quality public services and the people who provide them.

Drawing on a powerful personal history of family struggles, Jagmeet Singh reinforced the importance of public services on ordinary Canadians' lives and reaffirmed the NDP's commitment to good jobs, public services and action on the global climate emergency.

### Anti-Racism Organization Action Plan

For the first time in the history of any part of CUPE, an Anti-Racism Organizational Racism Action Plan (AROAP) received feedback from members at CUPE Ontario's Convention. Most of the comments from delegates speaking at the microphones spoke of AROAP as a tool for unity and strengthening the union. "We need to do this together in here, in order for us to be effective in our fight out there", said one delegate. And in the words of another delegate, "We are bold and brave together, and let's get this document passed - together. CUPE Ontario's AROAP will be up for a final debate and vote in Friday's afternoon session."

### Day 3 Highlights

Equality Luncheon

Injured Workers Award

Eric Blanc—journalist, organizer, sociologist, and author—speaks

Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan: Debate and Approval



## RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE PRESENTS FIRST STAGE OF ANTI-WHITE SUPREMACY CAMPAIGN

Following up on a resolution that was passed at last year’s Convention, the Racial Justice Committee presented the first stage of its work on a campaign to fight white supremacy in our communities and in our union. The campaign seeks to fight white supremacy by helping people to identify it, call it by name, and organize within our union and our communities. Campaign materials and tool kits will be rolled out across the province in a series of upcoming town halls.



### Sisters in Solidarity Award

Recently re-elected Equity Officer for CUPE 3902, Sujata Thapa also helped organize her local’s International Workers’ Caucus and spearheaded the campaign ‘Healthcare Without Borders’. “This is the best day of my life,” she told Convention delegates. After thanking her local for believing in her and for nominating her, she said, “This award is for all of us.” Thapa closed her acceptance speech with an explanation for her optimistic views on life: “We all go through good days and bad days, but I have a strong conviction that one day we will have equality and peace in the world.”

### Racialized Worker Award

In recognition of her activism breaking down barriers for racialized people in the workplace and the community, Sonia Yung, the president of CUPE local 4914, is this year’s recipient of the Racialized Worker Award. Yung challenged delegates to take action to include, promote and support racialized union leaders. Recognizing her family for their support and inspiration, Yung also thanked her local.

“Thank you, Local 4914, for your racial justice and equity work and for teaching me to stand up,” she said. “It is not possible to fight oppression without allies.”



The Women’s Caucus welcomed CUPE member and CLC Secretary-Treasurer Marie Clarke Walker to its Convention breakfast. Walker briefed delegates on the CLC’s Done Waiting campaign ([donewaiting.ca](http://donewaiting.ca)), which calls for a fix to the child care crisis and an end to wage discrimination, sexual harassment and violence; and on a new Convention coming in June from the International Labour Organization, which deals with violence and harassment in the workplace.

