

CUPE Ontario Convention 2019

**BE BOLD.
BE BRAVE.**

BUILD THE RESISTANCE.

CUPE Ontario's 56th Annual Convention Begins

—Over 1000 delegates gather to build a powerful resistance—

This year's convention is about building the resistance to government cuts, to attacks on our rights as workers, and to the rising tide of hate in our province.

It's about activating CUPE members in their communities and combining our strength to defend the public services we all depend on.

We are facing a defining moment as workers and as Ontarians. When we stand in solidarity with each other, when we organize and fight, when we build the resistance, we will prevail.



Agenda Highlights

- Day 1** CUPE Ontario Officers speak
CUPE National Officers speak
Health & Safety Award
International Solidarity Forum
- Day 2** Federal NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh speaks
Rally to Build the Resistance—Queen's Park
Sisters in Solidarity Award
Racialized Workers Award
- Day 3** Equality Luncheon
Injured Workers Award
Eric Blanc—journalist, organizer, sociologist & author—speaks
Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan: Debate & Approval
- Day 4** Final Debate of Action Plan
Youth Camp Report Back

PROTECTING FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Delegates set to debate and approve a strategy to build our resistance

After a year of devastating cuts and restructuring that has caused chaos and confusion in our communities, the PC government has now suggested they are willing to remove our right to free collective bargaining.

Workers' rights are human rights and our right to bargain collectively is protected under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It's this right that allows CUPE Ontario to bargain for more than pay and benefits – things like securing services in communities, health and safety policies, fighting discrimination, and ways to balance work and family.

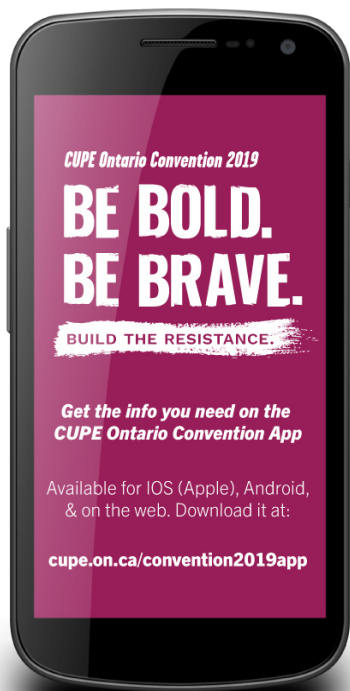
But this basic right is on the verge of being denied and this year's Action Plan reflects that. Unprecedented actions by the Ford Conservatives require an unprecedented response and over the last year our members have responded like never before.

What's AROAP?

Delegates at Convention 2018 spoke to the need for CUPE Ontario to develop an Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan (AROAP) to address discrimination against racialized workers in our union.

Eliminating racial discrimination is essential if we are going to fight head-on the rise of racism that has been fostered by right wing politicians and media.

The AROAP sub-committee—made up of elected leadership and staff—benefited from the assistance of human rights and anti-racism activists from other unions in developing the plan that will be debated at this Convention. This is the first step in an ongoing and evolving anti-racism action plan. You should have received an advance copy of the AROAP document and if you haven't already given us your feedback, Convention will be your chance.



Opinion poll after opinion poll is showing that public support for this government is dropping rapidly and it's in no small part due to the frequent and sustained actions by union members, community activists, and everyday Ontarians.

Now that we have seen the effect our actions have produced it is time to increase the pressure.

The draft 2019 Action Plan is a guide for how leadership, members, and locals can move forward on protecting our public services and fighting against cuts, defending our right to free collective bargaining, and fighting against white supremacy and the rising tide of hate.



For Your Information

The Convention office is located in Hall E—where you'll find translation devices, 'first-time speaker' t-shirts, and friendly staff always willing to help.

An ombudsperson is always available. Harassment of any kind is not tolerated at any CUPE Ontario function. If you have been harassed and need assistance, call 1-866-755-2155. Someone will be there to help. All calls will be treated confidentially.

A traditional smudging ceremony takes place every morning in the Waterfall Garden at 8:15am. Start each day with harmony and balance. In the event of rain meet in the Kenora room.

If you need a break, stop by the quiet room (located in the Carleton Room)—no cell phone use, no talking, and no audible personal alarms.

Fellowship rooms are available each night from 7pm to 9pm in the Davenport room—social events can bring up triggers for those working on a recovery program. Enjoy coffee, AA/NA/GA literature, and supportive companionship.