

NEWS FROM CUPE ONTARIO

FALL / WINTER 2019





Your CUPE Ontario Officers



Fred Hahn
President



Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

POLITICAL PULSE

News from CUPE Ontario

With more than 270,000 members, CUPE Ontario is a strong voice for rights and fairness for our members and our communities.

We work at the provincial level for legislative, policy and political change on issues affecting public services, equality, healthy communities and a better Ontario for everyone.

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Communities, Not Cuts!

The Ford Conservatives have launched an attack on public services and the dedicated workers who provide them.

We all see what's happening in our communities and in our workplaces. Billions of dollars are being cut from universities' budgets and vital social services. Municipalities are grappling with downloading. Thousands of jobs in education are disappearing. And painful cuts to health care and long-term care are making the jobs of health care workers even harder.

Deep cuts across all sectors are hurting the people of Ontario — and putting every community at risk.

Every community, every type of work we do, every service that Ontarians rely on is threatened by Ford's cuts.

It's time to fight back.

This fall, CUPE Ontario is launching *Communities, Not Cuts* — our aggressive multi-year campaign to stop the Ford Conservatives' cuts to our public services.

Through our campaign, more than 270,000 CUPE members are uniting, with public sector workers, community activists, families, and neighbours, to protect our vital public services and good jobs.

To win this fight, we need your help. You can use the petition in this edition of Political Pulse to knock on doors and talk to your neighbours. Visit your local MPP. Organize in your community. And make your voice heard by supporting direct actions and sharing our message online.

With your help, CUPE Ontario will fight back against Ford's cuts — and protect all of our communities!

In solidarity,

Fred Hahn, President

Candace Rennick, Secretary-Treasurer

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- Twitter.com/CUPEOntario
- YouTube.com/CUPEOntario



Kicking Off, Fighting Back!

On September 9, CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn was joined at Queen's Park by frontline workers and leaders from all sectors to launch the *Communities, Not Cuts* campaign.

Attacking the rights of frontline workers doesn't solve Ontario's revenue problems. Profitable corporations need to pay their fair share.

CUPE's province-wide campaign to fight back against the Ford agenda is inspired by the message of resistance and mobilization we've heard from members in every region. Throughout the summer, local leadership worked to organize meetings in Barrie, Belleville, Cornwall, Kenora, Kitchener/Guelph, London, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Timmins, Toronto, and Windsor.

"Our members work hard every day, in health care, education, universities, social services and in municipalities all across this province," Fred said. "Those jobs have gotten harder after years of cuts that have only accelerated under the Ford Conservatives — and now that same government is attacking their rights and financial future. This has got to stop!"

My job is to take care of the most vulnerable. I do this work with all my heart. I do it to ease worry for their family and friends. If we continue to cut services, our patients will suffer. That is not how we respect our seniors in this province.

Florence Mwangi,
long-term care worker, Toronto



COMMUNITIES, NOT CUTS MEDIA LAUNCH AT QUEEN'S PARK, MON. SEPT. 9



COMMUNITIES AFFECTED

Victory in education

After intensive negotiations, this fall CUPE education workers reached a tentative agreement with the provincial government and the employer association. The deal averted a province-wide strike, secures high-quality services for students in Ontario's schools, and ensures that CUPE members have secure jobs, decent benefits, and paid leave when they're sick or injured.



Your loud support of public education and of our work enabled us to reach a deal without a strike.

LAURA WALTON, *President of OSBCU*

The tentative agreement, which has been endorsed by CUPE school board leaders, includes investment in jobs and services through the reinstatement of the Local Priorities Fund, amounting to \$58.7 million per year; and a new investment of up to \$20 million per year. Together, this restores and protects about 1,300 jobs unnecessarily lost because of this government's cuts and ensures critical services in our schools.

This could not have been achieved without the efforts of education workers, and their allies, who engaged in strike preparations, rallies, info pickets, community outreach, and job actions.

CUPE's 55,000 education workers are the backbone of the education system. Thank you to Laura Walton, OSBCU bargaining team and mobilizers, and CUPE Education locals and members across the province for working together to protect the services kids, schools, and communities rely on.

Threats to health care

More than 400 health care workers and paramedics came together in Windsor on September 18 for the local kick-off of *Communities, Not Cuts*.

The Ford Conservatives' irresponsible restructuring and increased privatization — combined with thoughtless cuts to funding for local hospitals and public health units — will see services impacted across the public health care system.

Patient access to hospital care and services will be greatly diminished — with increased hallway medicine, less support for seniors in long-term care, and more pressure on already stretched health care workers in hospitals, long-term care homes, paramedic services and public health.

Brantford rallies against cuts to family and children's services

Fred Hahn joined community members and front-line workers at Brant Family & Children's Services on July 12 to rally against cuts to services for children and families, mandated by the Ford Conservatives, that prompted the entire Board of Brant FACS to resign in protest.

After the loss of more than \$2 million in funding, Brant FACS was forced to lay off 26 workers in March. *"Layoffs come at a cost to families who rely on these services,"* said Jennifer Kirby, President of CUPE Local 181.

"There are 18 agencies that find themselves in a similar situation across the province. The Conservatives need to act quickly to resolve this situation and protect the 18 agencies who are at risk of suffering the same fate as Brant FACS," said Carrie Lynn Poole-Cotnam, Chair of CUPE Ontario's Social Services Workers' Coordinating Committee.



Peterborough fights back against child care cuts

Members of CUPE 126 in Peterborough are fighting to save nearly 300 child care spaces and 30 jobs, which are threatened by Ford's cuts. Many of the dedicated child care workers at the City of Peterborough have provided care for Peterborough's children for over 20 years.



I'm devastated by the possible closure of these two centres.

JEN, Peterborough parent

The city is citing recent provincial funding cuts to municipalities as the reason for considering closing two child care centres and after school programs. On September 9, more than a hundred child care workers, parents, and union members gathered at City Hall. During the meeting, councillors decided to defer a decision on the closure of these child care centres until the budget discussion. This is only a partial victory, but one that members should be proud of. CUPE members will continue pressuring Council to resist cuts from the Ford Conservatives and protect our services.



Eliminating these good jobs should be seen as nothing less than an attack on women, families and our community.

TRISH BUCHOLZ, frontline child care worker and President of CUPE 126

Protecting Northern Services

CUPE Local 4705 in Sudbury is fighting against cuts to the Ontario Library Service – North — and fighting health care cuts that are hurting communities across Northern Ontario.

Communities, Not Cuts is very important because we are seeing cuts all over Ontario.

MIKE BELLEROSE, PRESIDENT OF LOCAL 4705.

"We are also seeing 'Core Service Reviews', which are really only bandaid words for cuts," said Mike Bellerose. "We need the community to stand up and fight for what's right. They need to call upon the Ford Conservatives so that we can stop seeing cuts to our services."

Cutting health care services in Northern communities forces people to drive further for care. In winter, snow storms make travel even harder and can put people's lives in jeopardy.





Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan

At the 2019 CUPE Ontario Convention, members took the historic step of adopting the Anti-Racism Organizational Action Plan. This plan addresses racism within our union and recommends actions to move forward for a more inclusive union. As part of our accountability to members, updates on the progress of AROAP will be given in the Political Pulse.

At Fall School, two classes of Leadership Executive Training were offered with 25 spots allotted to racialized and Indigenous members. Plain language tools will be available at the Racial Justice & Human Rights Conference.

Conversations have begun with CUPE National about areas over which they have purview, including education and funding an educational opportunity for racialized and Indigenous women.

At the next AROAP committee meeting, members will also review a draft of Terms of Reference, which will include a proposal about expanding the committee.

Communities, Not Cuts

It is important to consider racial justice in the ongoing work of our union. To that end, we have mapped ways to include AROAP and the anti-white supremacy campaign within the *Communities, Not Cuts* campaign. An analysis of cuts that considers how they disproportionately impact marginalized folks is currently underway. We are being overt in our considerations about representation when it comes to the voices we highlight to speak about cuts. We want to ensure that all people — our members and the community — feel represented throughout the campaign. We can only win if we are united.

Thanks for an inspiring campaign!

Thank you to Jagmeet Singh and the federal NDP for running an inspiring campaign that focused on building a future of hope and fairness for all Canadians. CUPE Ontario applauds all CUPE members who stood as candidates and volunteered on local campaigns. Thanks to your dedication and long hours in campaign offices and on the doorsteps, you've made our union incredibly proud and helped to strengthen our movement in communities across Ontario.






PETITION

Thank you for supporting our efforts to get CUPE members and community members to sign our *Communities, Not Cuts* petition! It's a great tool to connect with community members, knock on doors, and organize in your community.

PETITION DIRECTIONS:

1. To be permissible in the legislature, all signatories must include, at minimum, their name, address, and signature.
2. CUPE Ontario must receive all petitions in their original hard copy. Scans or copies are not permissible.
3. All hard copy petitions can be mailed to:
 CUPE Ontario (ATTN: Kerry Davenport)
80 Commerce Valley Dr. E
Markham, ON L3T 0B2

Please use the petition on the back page


UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information about these events, see cupe.on.ca/calendar/

NOV
12
Tue

HEALTH & SAFETY AND INJURED WORKERS CONFERENCE 2019


Tuesday, November 12 –
Saturday, November 16

 Sheraton Parkway North, Richmond Hill

DEC
9
Mon

RACIAL JUSTICE & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2019


Monday, December 9 –
Thursday, December 12

 Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

NOV
24
Sun

OFL CONVENTION 2019


Sunday, November 24 –
Friday, November 29

 Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto

FEB
18
Tues

SECRETARY-TREASURERS' CONFERENCE 2020

Tuesday, February 18 –
Friday, February 21

 Sheraton Parkway North, Richmond Hill





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Markham, ON L3T 0B2
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Petition

To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

WHEREAS the Ford Conservatives' cuts represent an all-out attack on municipalities, health care, schools, universities, and social services;

AND WHEREAS the Ford Conservatives' cuts are harming families, children, and the most vulnerable across Ontario, making the services we all rely on less accessible and accountable;

AND WHEREAS Bill 124 will strip workers of their Charter-protected right to free collective bargaining;

AND WHEREAS Bill 124 will force front-line public sector workers to accept contracts below inflation, compounding cuts that make the delivery of services more difficult.

We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

That the Government of Ontario stop dismantling our social infrastructure, properly fund our public services, withdraw Bill 124, and support communities, not cuts.



Submitted by: _____

Local: _____

Date: _____

Sign me up to receive
updates about the
**Communities, Not
Cuts** campaign!

Name (printed)	Street Address	City	Postal Code	Signature

Email

Please mail to CUPE Ontario (ATTN: Kerry Davenport) 80 Commerce Valley Dr. E Markham, ON L3T 0B2

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