

CUPE Ontario Retirees Network

Board Report

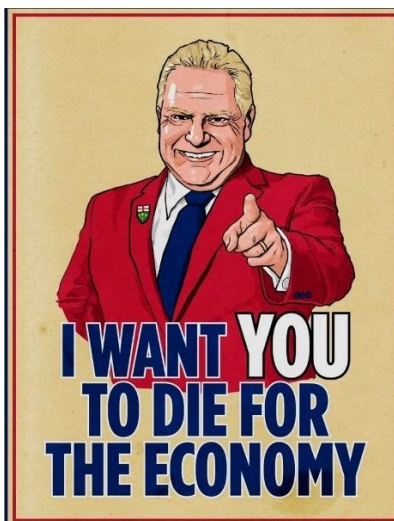
December 2020

Register your local's and sector retirees: retiree-network@cupe.on.ca

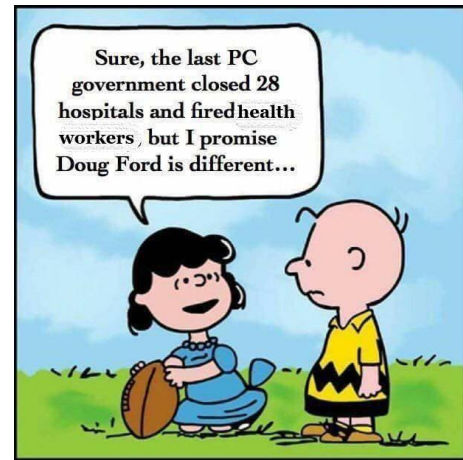
Share our page: cupe.on.ca/retirees-network

Network members are (safely) joining CUPE Ontario's *Time to Care* campaign, OCHU and Ontario Health Coalition actions and picket lines for local 5257. As COVID cases surge many of our retirees are demanding the full nationalization of all LTC facilities in Ontario and the legislating of livable wages, benefits, vacation and 10 days of sick leave.

Meanwhile, our retiree members have been keeping a pretty close eye on what's going down at Queens Park. Retirees have already weathered a string of anti-worker governments. So its no big surprise to us that we see yet another die-hard conservative leader raiding the public coffers on behalf of his Bay Street backers.



Back in the spring many retirees were actually somewhat hopeful after seeing our Government's capacity to fund a pretty substantial response to the COVID-19 emergency. This kind of investment has



not been seen since the government massive wartime mobilization in 1939 through to 1945.

Some retirees even saw some glimmer of hope that our government's pandemic response could provide a blueprint for handling another major concern for retirees. Namely, the peril of climate disruption for the planet, our grandkids and for future generations. <https://readpassage.com/canadas-covid-19-response-gives-me-hope-for-the-climate-battle/>

Many of us had grandparents who lived through Canada's "Spanish flu" pandemic of 1918-20 during which a massive government investment in public health and information campaigns were essential to the survival of so many working-class veterans and their families. Another lesson from our past.

As we watch the number of corona cases soar, our families are increasingly worried about our health. And we in turn have become very anxious about the well-being of our school-age grandkids.

Pandemic restrictions continue to curtail the full participation of CUPE retiree-members in the life of the union at our locals and at district councils. Still, some Network members are now Zoomers at our local's meetings and at CUPE district councils or even labour councils.

And as the Network we have been in regular touch with our Retirees Network about our each and every campaign. Activism Continues!