

# THE ONTARIO LIBRARY WORKERS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

March 2025

CUPE ONTARIO  
**LIBRARY  
WORKERS**

## YOUR LIBRARY BELONGS TO YOU

Across the province, CUPE Ontario library workers were out in their communities for Ontario Public Libraries Week in October.

The OLW committee's campaign theme, "Your Library Belongs to You," focused on public awareness about the importance of getting and renewing library cards.

Locals were provided with T-shirts, tote bags and colouring books to use in giveaways and promotional events. The [campaign website](#) includes a tool that allows people to select the city or town they live in and be directed to the page on their library's website most relevant to getting or renewing a library card.

In Hamilton, CUPE 932 ran a social media contest. In Kingston, CUPE 2202 used the materials to raise awareness with allies at the labour council's awards banquet.



In North Bay, CUPE 122 engaged both library staff and City of North Bay workers to distribute the materials. The tote bags were a very popular item. North of Toronto, CUPE 905 had events in several library systems. In New Tecumseth, anyone who got or renewed a library card was entered into a draw for our T-shirts (including the patron below). Members from that library also distributed more than 400 of the campaign's colouring books at the town's Santa Claus Parade. There was tabling in other libraries, including Aurora (pictured above).

And in Whitby, CUPE 53 saved the materials to use for tabling at their New Year's skating event (photo to left).





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## BARGAINING UPDATES

The last few months have seen some remarkable achievements in the provincial library sector.

We have seen solid first collective agreements won in the Kitchener (CUPE 331) and Prince Edward County (CUPE 5562) public libraries that provide a host of new protections and benefits to library workers.

As well, we have broken the trend of employers refusing to include language about staffless libraries in our collective agreements. In October, CUPE 905 got language inserted into agreements in both Aurora and Richmond Hill.

CUPE has also produced a new bargaining guide focused on violence in the workplace, which discusses legislated rights and samples of language to help you with issues like working alone. Talk to your CUPE National Staff Representative for more information.

## ONTARIO LIBRARY WORKERS CAUCUS APRIL 7

The CUPE Ontario Library Workers Caucus will take place on April 7 at the Sheraton Parkway North hotel in Richmond Hill. As always, it is the first day of the Ontario Municipal Workers Conference.

This year's caucus includes Misty Thaler, a peer support worker at the Hamilton Public Library, and Mary Ellen Ruddell, director of Mental Health Court Support and Peer Support Services at CMHA Hamilton, who will be discussing the HPL's Peer Support Worker Program.

The OMW Conference also has an exciting lineup, including an Education Day featuring 10 different workshops. Register soon, as each workshop has a limited number of spots.

Register for the conference at [cupe.on.ca/event-registration-omw-conference-2025](https://cupe.on.ca/event-registration-omw-conference-2025).

Every year, CUPE locals sponsor the lunch and breaks at our Ontario Library Workers Caucus. Several locals have already generously offered their support, but if your local is interested or can provide swag for prizes, please contact [librarychair@cupeomw.com](mailto:librarychair@cupeomw.com).

There is also financial assistance available for small locals wishing to participate in the OLV caucus and OMW conference. To be eligible, a local must fit one of the following four criteria: Less than 100 members; North of the French River or more than 500km from conference location; Newly organized local negotiating first collective agreement; Local on strike or locked out within the year leading up to the conference. If your local qualifies, contact [wlauc@cupe.on.ca](mailto:wlauc@cupe.on.ca) for more information and an application form.

## CONTACT YOUR COMMITTEE

The Ontario Library Workers Committee is your committee. We want to hear from you.

Please send photos and updates about your local and involvement in campaigns for inclusion in future newsletters.

We are also interested in hearing your suggestions and welcome your questions at any time. Contact [librarychair@cupeomw.com](mailto:librarychair@cupeomw.com).



CUPE Ontario



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