

## Do you know what October 25, 2010 is?

It's the one day in 4 years when you get to help choose who decides if your community has recreational programs and long-term care homes, if your local school stays open and offers extended child care for children, if policing, fire and paramedical services are there when you need them and if electricity is publically provided in an affordable and accountable manner. These are the issues that affect you and your family, every day.

October 25th is when mayors, councillors and school board trustees will be elected in every community.

At CUPE Ontario, we think that's a big deal. Why? Firstly, because we all live in those communities. Second, because as a union CUPE represents thousands of people who work for a municipality or school board.

All over this province, municipalities and school boards today are struggling with tight budgets and big community needs and some voices want the election to be about selling the assets that your parents and grandparents paid for and privatizing the public services that you and your children depend on. That's why the 2010 municipal and school board elections matter so much.

Here another reason we're concerned.

A majority of people in Ontario, even most union members, don't actually vote in their municipal and school board elections, even though they are entitled to. In the last Ontario municipal elections in 2006 in Mississauga, for example, less than one in four eligible voters took time to cast a ballot. In Oshawa only 25.1% cast their vote.

We all want CUPE to have a positive impact on public policy, but why should anybody listen to us if most CUPE members don't use their vote to do the same thing?

CUPE believes we're all better off when Ontarians actually cast their vote to elect the mayors, councillors and school boards trustees whose decisions affect so much of our lives.

CUPE Ontario is getting involved in the 2010 elections to accomplish three things:

1. Help elect more progressive mayors, councillors and school trustees across the province, candidates who respect public services and public employees.
2. Help influence the public debate about what's at stake in the 2010 elections. The issue isn't how to sell the streetlights and close the swimming pools, it's how to better provide good, green, reliable service, in an accountable manner at a reasonable cost and treat public employees with respect.
3. Help make sure CUPE members get out and vote. And, we'll also aim to have a greater number of CUPE Ontario members volunteer on a local campaign.

### Can we do it?

### We can if you help.

And you can start helping right now by getting our downloadable Municipal Election Tool Kit at <http://www.cupe.on.ca>

August 16, 2010

cope 491/343  
share\newsletters political pulse\2010