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**Who's best for Mayor?
An Open Letter to CUPE Members in Toronto**

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Voting Day grows closer and closer, let's be clear on one thing: With close to 100,000 CUPE members living and working in the city, we are well positioned, if we vote and vote together, to affect the choice of who becomes Mayor of Toronto on October 25th.

Like many however, you may be finding it hard to decide who your best choice is for Mayor.

You really shouldn't. Once you know the platforms of the candidates, that choice is easy. No one has laid out the differences and similarities between candidates better than Thomas Walkom in the Toronto Star on September 25 when he wrote: "Except for councilor Joe Pantalone, all are on the same wavelength, calling for deep spending cuts and privatization."

As CUPE members we know well that's not what our city needs. We know that communities around our great city need more support, not less. We know that years of restraint have resulted in services that have no "fat" left in them on the front line. We know that privatization costs more for the public and delivers less, only serving to enhance the profit margins of corporations without improving services for people.

Part of my job as Provincial President is to work with our municipal locals and other unions in the city of Toronto, to evaluate the candidates for mayor and to provide our members with a solid and clear recommendation about who you should vote for to be our city's next mayor.

We know a good Mayor is not about deep cuts and privatization. We know being "angry" is not the most important skill for being mayor. We need someone with more experience than any other candidate in working hard for over 25 years to make Toronto one of the best cities in North America. Then there is only one choice – we cannot do better than to vote for Joe Pantalone.

Joe knows how to bring all the different councilors together to make City Hall work. He is experienced, respectful, and forward thinking. Joe Pantalone is absolutely our best choice. OK. But can he win? The answer is yes – if enough of us vote for what we want instead of voting to block what we don't. "Strategic" voting is anything but. There is nothing "strategic" in making a mockery of our democratic process by voting for someone you really don't like, only to prevent someone else from winning.

And why would any of us be voting for a candidate that is actually campaigning with this kind of message – vote for me not because of what I stand for, or my vision, or my plan, but because I'm the best way to block the other guy?

The only way to be true to ourselves and protect our collective interests as citizens of this great city, and as proud public sector employees, is to vote for what we do want – a progressive candidate with vision, experience, and commitment to our city. That means a vote for Joe Pantalone.

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Fred Hahn
President

ONE STRONG VOICE

Candace Rennick
Secretary-Treasurer

Joe can win. And you don't have to just take my word for it. Joe's polling numbers doubled from mid-August to mid-September.

On voting day, I will mark my ballot for Joe Pantalone because he can and will be the best mayor of any of today's candidates.

I urge you, as CUPE members and as Torontonians, to consider doing the same.

Together we could make a difference.

Thank you very much.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Hahn". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fred Hahn
President - CUPE Ontario
and Toronto resident and voter

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