

CUPE Ontario Solidarity Resolution
Growing the economy, protecting public services
and defending free collective bargaining

CUPE will:

1. Organize a united response to protect public services, defend free collective bargaining rights, and provide an alternative approach for Ontario's current economic situation.
2. Resist any and all moves by the McGuinty government to impose conditions or legislation that erodes workers' collective bargaining rights including any mandated wage freezes.
3. Prepare an alternative economic approach to counter Finance Minister Dwight Duncan's July 2010 *Public Sector Compensation in Ontario* presentation.
4. Have a mandate from CUPE members and locals on a sectoral basis to discuss sector-specific issues in the government consultation process that will preserve and enhance public services, defend free collective bargaining and support economic growth.
5. Work with other public sector unions, the Ontario Federation of Labour and allied community groups to forge a broad, united and progressive response. Such actions shall include joint polling initiatives, solidarity pacts with OFL affiliates and all non-affiliated public sector unions and associations, and active support for strike activities by any union.
6. Consistent with the provisions of both the 2009 CUPE National Convention *Strategic Directions Plan to Fight Concessions and Defend Free Collective Bargaining* and the 2010 CUPE Ontario *Action Plan*, CUPE will:
 - encourage the adoption of solidarity pacts within sectors and across communities in Ontario; and
 - lead a community-by-community campaign to achieve the objectives contained in this solidarity resolution.
7. Work together at national and Ontario division levels to lead our union's response utilizing all required CUPE resources and staff. Our unity is our strength.
8. Ensure that in the initiatives to protect public services and defend free collective bargaining rights, CUPE members through their locals will be the ultimate decision-makers. This fundamental principle will guide CUPE actions. All CUPE locals in Ontario are encouraged to adopt this resolution within the next 30 days.

9. Protect public services and defend our collective bargaining rights through actions including, but not limited to:
 - a united response to the government consultation process;
 - support for public campaigns;
 - support for agreed to job action and legal challenges that may be required; and
 - political action campaigns.
 - ensure Employment Equity stays on the public agenda
 - education modules for the membership
10. Engage the public who value the important services delivered by CUPE members to help us achieve the goals of this solidarity resolution.
11. Secure financial resources from CUPE National to engage in a comprehensive public relations campaign to promote public services and challenge other government priorities.
12. Understand that the meaning of public service includes NGOs receiving funding from the government and we oppose a reduction in transfer payments to NGOs that will result in the further reduction in staffing, wages and benefits for workers who are already marginally paid and who work in front lines to address problems that are exacerbated by the economic challenges faced by communities across Ontario.

Because:

1. In March 2010 the McGuinty government's budget froze wages for two years for 350,000 non-union public employees, along with a pledge to seek similar two-year wage freezes for all unionized public employees providing services funded by the province.
2. On July 20, 2010 Finance Minister Dwight Duncan met with all Ontario public sector unions to propose voluntary wage freezes for a two year period.
3. The global recession that began in 2008 required public stimulus measures which resulted in planned deficits and increased public debt as governments attempted, with some success, to halt a global economic depression.
4. The management of government deficits and debt—while important—cannot occur through cuts to public services or restraint on public employee wages, both of which will have a negative effect on the fragile economic recovery currently being realized.
5. Throughout CUPE's entire 47-year history, our union has fought to establish and maintain free collective bargaining rights to achieve the economic and social security that our members and all Canadians desire.