

Local leadership meetings- Mobilizing for the Election

As part of its election strategy, CUPE Ontario and CUPE District Labour Councils will host 20 local union leadership meetings to mobilize CUPE members in every community across Ontario to support local candidates and get actively involved in the provincial election campaign. The meetings run throughout September. (See schedule below).

CUPE Ontario and its partners are a powerful political force in Ontario. When our 220,000 members and their locals take up a campaign, we make a real difference. We helped kick the Tories out of office in 2003 with sustained campaigns on issues like privatization. In 2006, CUPE Ontario's mass mobilization helped elect over 49% of labour-endorsed candidates in the municipal and school board elections. As well, we saw a record number of CUPE members run for office, with 8 being elected.

As union members, political action means controlling our destiny. Taking political action is the best way to support our efforts at the bargaining table, push government to reinvest in public services and help build the kind of communities that we all want. While union meetings and all-candidates' meetings are important, CUPE Ontario members are most effective when we put our energy into working on the campaigns of NDP candidates who support our issues.

Locals are encouraged to attend the area meetings, which will feature:

- Distribution of CUPE Ontario's Provincial Election Tool Kit
- Electoral reform and the October 10 Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) Referendum

There is no limit to the number of activists your local can send to these local leadership meetings.