

# Dave Saunders: An appreciation

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It is with great sadness that CUPE Ontario pays tribute to Dave Saunders who passed away early in the morning of October 25, 2007. Dave succumbed to complications arising from heart failure, surrounded by his wife Linda, his children, extended family and friends.

Dave started in the Security Department of the Toronto Zoo, Local 1600 in 1977 where he became interested in union activism. In 1986 he became a National rep supporting locals around the province. Later, as a Union Development officer and educator, Dave worked closely with CUPE Ontario and its members to organize our spring and fall schools. Assisted by his tremendous organizing skills, the number of participants grew exponentially with each year. The school motivated and educated members from across the province to become activists, thanks in large part to Dave's dedication and hard work.

For all CUPE Ontario staff, it was a pleasure to work with such a fun-loving, dedicated trade unionist. Dave was always dependable and friendly, making him the kind of guy that everybody loved.

Dave will also be remembered for his tireless work in establishing the Bev Smale Scholarship Fund in memory of his colleague and friend who passed away one year ago.

Dave made a difference, not only in the lives of his family and friends, but in the lives of literally thousands of CUPE members from every sector all across the province.