



Pre-Convention Capsule

50th Annual CUPE Ontario Convention - Toronto Sheraton Centre. May 29 - June 1, 2013

Celebrating 50 years of “Building a Better Ontario”

For 50 years, CUPE Ontario has stood up for fairness and quality public services. This week, more than 1000 members and staff from every corner of the province and every sector of the union will join together in Toronto to celebrate 50 years of achievements for working people—and build for the next 50 years.

“Five decades ago, there were different pay scales for women and men. Maternity leave didn’t exist, pensions were rare and job security was a pipe dream,” said CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn. “We have a lot to be proud of. All Ontarians have benefited from the gains unions have made at the bargaining table.”

The four days of Convention are packed with speakers, debates and entertainment for every delegate to engage in and enjoy.



Members will debate and vote on an action plan to direct CUPE Ontario in the year ahead, and will elect a three-year trustee, one at-large board member (by-election) and at the Pink Triangle Caucus will hold an historic first election for a Diversity Vice-President, LGBTQ.

Another highlight of this Convention will be a special 50th anniversary celebration on Friday before lunch. This is a celebration not to be missed, and includes a video presentation and a performance by Toronto spoken-word artist Ritallin.

If this is your first time at Convention, come to the New Member Orientation at 4:30 on Tuesday.

“We have a lot to celebrate and to learn from our past,” said Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick. “Since this is the Year of the Young Worker, it’s the perfect time to build for the future, too.”

Keynote speakers

Our history teaches us that we succeed when we have strong, grassroots mobilization. On Thursday afternoon, we will hear from Sylvia McAdam, a co-founder of Idle No More, the grassroots movement that has been making headlines for First Nations and Aboriginal rights over the last year.

On Friday morning, CUPE Ontario is proud to host Michael Harrington, leading strategist for the Chicago Teachers Union and its high-profile strike to improve quality education, which coincided with this year’s introduction of Bill 115.



Child care kitchen table discussion

Come to a “kitchen-table discussion” about CUPE’s new child care campaign on Thursday evening.

These discussions are taking place at Conventions across the country to introduce the new campaign. You can learn more by visiting rethinkchildcare.ca.



Equality committees

CUPE Ontario’s Equality Committees work throughout the year to implement members’ equality resolutions.

CUPE’s “Year of the Young and New Worker” will be front and centre at the Equality Lunch at noon on Thursday. On Wednesday at 8:00 p.m., visit the Young Workers and Allies Hospitality Suite for a special cocktail reception.

This year’s International Solidarity Forum, Thursday at 7:00 p.m., is themed From “Global South” to “Global North”: The impact of austerity on working people.



Send a message they’ll hear at Queen’s Park!

Workers’ rights and unions are under attack. On Friday at noon, delegates will assemble outside the hotel to march to the Ministry of Labour to send a clear message—stop the attacks on workers’ rights to free collective bargaining and independent arbitration.

Bring placards, flags, signs, noisemakers, comfortable shoes and a few friends, and let’s make sure our voices are heard by all political parties!

Mark the time and location! Day 1 Events:

- ⇒ 7:30 a.m. to noon - Registration (Concourse Checkroom)
- ⇒ 9:00 a.m. to noon - Call to Order (Grand Ballroom)
- ⇒ 9:45 a.m.—CUPE Ontario President Fred Hahn
- ⇒ Noon to 1:30 p.m. - Caucuses (Various locations)
- ⇒ 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. —Call to Order (Grand Ballroom)
- ⇒ 1:30 p.m.—CUPE National President Paul Moist
- ⇒ 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Caucuses (Various locations)
- ⇒ 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.—Young Workers & Allies Hospitality (Suite 3529)



Awards and recognitions

At Convention, we honour many members who contribute to the struggle, including locals who went on strike for workers’ rights. The Injured Workers Advocacy and Health & Safety committees will present awards on Friday after lunch. At the same time, CUPE Ontario’s Women’s Committee will present the Sisters in Solidarity award.

Andrea Horwath

Ontario NDP leader Andrea Horwath will join us for a special address at 2:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon.

Politics shapes what happens at the bargaining table, so don’t miss this chance to hear about the policies and issues we will face at Queen’s Park.

