

Bulletin



A solid mandate & timetable. Delegates expect CUPE to change.

Blizzard, holidays do not deter local leaders

750 delegates from Ontario local unions attended an Emergency Leadership meeting December 15 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. In October at the CUPE National Convention, Ontario delegates

walked out to protest the defeat of a resolution that would have re-opened the national strike fund to campaigns supporting strikes of a political nature.

Ontario delegates at the national convention were promised a provincial leadership meeting following the CUPE National Executive Board meeting held December 12 and 13. Despite being so close to the holidays and with a major winter storm in progress, the turnout was huge.

Delegates at the December 15 meeting voted on five resolutions which together form

an agenda for negotiations with CUPE about significant change in our relationship.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW

Delegates approved a timetable for resolving the five resolutions by the May 2008 CUPE Ontario convention. Each jurisdictional conference this spring will feature an update. It is expected that negotiations with CUPE will begin in January. In the event these five resolutions are not resolved by the May convention, delegates there will decide how to proceed.



750 Ontario local union delegates met December 15th
to set the agenda for negotiations with CUPE

Here are the 5 resolutions adopted by the leadership meeting:

Access to the **Strike Fund** by every member

Be it resolved that every member of CUPE must have access to the National Strike Fund. CUPE Ontario leadership must begin immediate discussions with the National Executive Board around accessing the strike fund for political strike averting actions and campaigns (which will include a process, formula and a cap on the amount accessible for this purpose.)

Taking measurable action on **Equality**

Be it resolved that real, measurable action be taken on equality issues. CUPE Ontario will call on CUPE National to develop and resource an implementation plan for the “Vancouver Declaration” and the Women’s Task Force; specifically providing a budget for Diversity Vice-Presidents’ Action Plans, an employment equity program with targets, timelines, and reports to the membership, and member driven organizing and bargaining strategies that will strengthen the participation and improve the working conditions of all equality seeking groups in the union. CUPE Ontario will lead by example in implementing an action plan on these issues. We call upon CUPE National to

integrate an anti-oppression framework into all CUPE courses to support a strong equity agenda.

Ensuring CUPE implements **National Policy** directed by convention

Be it resolved that CUPE National ensure the implementation of National Policy based on the resolutions that have been debated, supported and passed at all conventions. CUPE Ontario will call on the National Officers for immediate assistance in ensuring that National Policy, as directed by our conventions, is implemented in the regions through meaningful planning and priority meetings between senior leadership and senior staff and re-affirm our unions commitment to a membership driven organization. Be it further resolved that CUPE Ontario will commit resources to mobilize through regular mass meetings to organize fight back campaigns.

Getting our fair share of **Resources**

Be it resolved that Ontario immediately start to get its fair share of resources – both in staffing and other financial resources and to ensure every sector has a full time co-ordinator. This means specifically that we demand CUPE National ensure that



Ontario meets the average staffing levels across the country within no more than four years and we demand that Ontario be given our fair share of the surpluses we generate to step up and further conduct member driven and designed campaigns on behalf of the membership. Be it further resolved that CUPE Ontario is no longer to be marginalized on this and previous resolutions moved. And be it further resolved the Ontario National Executive board reps be directed to negotiate and use whatever means reasonable to obtain access to the LUIS system by February 1st 2008.

Moving to consensus in **Decision-making**

Be it resolved that CUPE Ontario stop being continually outvoted on matters of substance, and that discussions begin immediately with the National Executive Board to achieve a model of consensus decision making at the national level. Be it further resolved that CUPE Ontario Leadership call on CUPE National to recognize and fix the problematic representation system at the National Level, exploring options not limited to adding seats for Ontario and introducing weighted voting to achieve proportional representation.

