

## 2011 CUPE National Convention Vancouver

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend this year's National Convention in Vancouver. This was my first time attending and I would like to say a great experience.

It was very well attended with approximately 2200 delegates from 787 locals across Canada.

The first day we were welcomed by Barry O'Neill president of CUPE BC followed by Paul Moist CUPE National president. Both spoke to the challenge ahead for CUPE and the entire Canadian labour movement against the Steven Harper attack on workers and defending quality public services. National treasurer Claude Genereux presented his report stating CUPE has passed the 50 million dollar mark for the National Defense Fund.

Tuesday morning was a tribute to Jack Layton followed by a wonderful speech from his wife Olivia Chow. The afternoon we heard Stephen Lewis speak on the labour movement and CUPE defending the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. There was a presentation from the Strategic Directions Policy Committee followed by discussion.

Wednesday was elections. Paul Moist was acclaimed for National President, and Charles Fleury became the new National Treasurer. After serving as National Treasurer Claude Genereux retired. We heard Maude Barlow speak on the water issue and other services that are being threatened by privatization. She praised CUPE's stance on the fight to stop CETA and protect medicare.

Thursday morning elections resumed for Regional and Diversity Vice-Presidents and Trustees. This was followed by more discussion on the Strategic Directions Policy.

On Friday further discussion of the Strategic Directions Policy. We heard a wonderful closing speech from Paul Moist rallying members and encouraging the fight for the rights of workers across the country.

Again I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend.

Sincerely

Sylvia Miller

Secretary-Treasurer CUPE Local 973