

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION QUEBEC CITY 2013

Dear CUPE members of Local 973:

I want to thank you for allowing me to attend the CUPE National Convention in Quebec City. This was CUPE's 50th anniversary and a special CD was presented each day of the convention covering five decades showing the many struggles CUPE has faced over the past 50 years. The Convention was the largest ever attended with a total of 798 local unions and 17 District Councils. The total delegates were approximately 2,182 with another 182 alternates.

The opening day featured greetings from Paul Moist our current President. Tom Mulcair spoke on behalf of the NDP party congratulating CUPE on growing from about 63,000 members in 1963 to over 627,000 today. He spoke of improving the financial gap between generations and reducing inequalities in the work force. He was concerned with the 36 million dollars in Health Care which had been slashed by the federal government in transfer payments. He was also upset about the OAS being raised from 65 to 67 and what will the Conservative government do next.

Mr Mulcair also demanded that we defeat bill C-377 which would make unions have to disclose all union dues. He also spoke to strengthening our fight on pensions and benefits among all sectors. Public sector wages have not kept up with inflation and the PC cornerstone is cheap labour. Our trade deficit under the Liberals and PC governments has gone from 26 billion trade surplus to a 65 billion trade deficit over the past 10 years.

The convention also focused on Strategic Directions strengthening and expanding our membership. Ken Georgetti also spoke on Wednesday representing the Canadian Labour Congress. He talked about the labour movement is fighting back and together fairness works.

We took part in a rally to support the Quebec City blue collar workers who have been working without a contract for nearly three years with a mass demonstration at the National Assembly. An attack on one is an attack on all

The third day was mainly elections resolutions and constitutional amendments. All positions were re-elected or appointed within the caucus with no change among the executive. Resolution 269 was passed effectively increasing the strike pay to \$300.00 a week effective the 10th strike day. CUPE National has a strike fund in the amount of 62 million dollars.

Throughout the convention there were 17 National Committee reports and presentations. Here is a list of all the committees starting with the National Aboriginal Council, Committee on Pensions, Child care working group, Contracting out and privatization Committee, Environment Committee, Global Justice Committee, Health and Safety Committee, Health Care issues Committee, Library Workers Committee, Literacy Working group, Pink Triangle Committee, Political Action Committee, Post-Secondary Education Task Force, Women's Committee, Young Workers Committee, Persons with Disabilities Workers Committee and Committee on

Racism, Discrimination and Employment Equity.

On Friday further strategic directions were debated and eventually the second draft was passed. Further resolutions were passed before the convention came to a close .

I again would like to thank the members of Local 973 for allowing me to attend this convention.

Respectfully,

Stephen Walmsley
Vice President- Local 973 County