

**CUPE National Conference  
Quebec City, Quebec – October 2013**

First, I would like to thank the members for allowing me to attend the 2013 CUPE National Conference held in Quebec City, Quebec. What an amazing week.

Our current 627,000 public section members celebrated 50 years of CUPE watching short videos of each decade from 1963 where CUPE won the right for women to wear pants to work; creation of medicare as well as pensions and remove separate contracts for women and men through to present day accomplishments such as contract language regarding sexual orientation, scent language the first National Women's Conference in 1984, and Health and Safety improvements.

Through the week as days progressed, members voted on such things as Strike pay increases from \$200 to \$300.

Elections took place reinstating Paul Moist as President, Charles Fluery as Secretary Treasurer. General Vice President (total of 5) consisted of Danis Legere, Kelly Moist, Fred Hahn, Lucie Lavaseur, Marlee Roberts. Regional Vice President for each province were Danny Cavanaugh (NS), Wayne Lucas (NL), Sandy Harding (NB), Laurie McKay (PEI), Marco Lufty/Denis Bolduc (QC), Candice Rennick/Mike Hierley (ON), Henri Giroux (Northern ON), Mike Davidson (MN), Judy Henley (SK), Don Munroe (AB), Mark Hancock/Victor Elkins (BC). Diversity Vice Presidents were Brian Barron (Aboriginal) and Yolanda McLean (Colour). The one opening for Trustee was won by Christian Trudeau.

Financial Statements were given by Charles Fluery and accepted. It was noted in 1967, the dues paid by members to National began at 10 cents/member. Currently, there is \$69.5 million in the strike fund budget which brought about the resolution request for increase in strike pay to members.

As the week continued, such points as 50% of workers can't find stable full-time jobs in the GTA and complaints pension plans. Paul Moist stated CUPE would like to see ALL workers have "gold plated pension plans" so everyone would be equal. The motto "strive for more, not settle for less" was a great statement made by Thomas Mulcair, NDP candidate.

It was noted 2011 was the first "carbon neutral" conference held by CUPE and would be trying the same again this year. Any additional papers were kept at side tables for members to pick up if they so wished. If papers ran out, more were copied as needed. What a great idea!

Awards were handed out such as the National Health & Safety Award to David Lemanna from T.T.C.; the Grace Hartman Award was received by Silvie Goyer and so on.

Currently, the Labour Movement is at an all-time low of 31.5% participation. Equal to what it was 50 years ago. This is the corporate agenda. Thompson Highway (aboriginal leader at the

conference) stated “The Union is the guardian of human dignity”. Strong words.... Let’s not lose sight of that.

Three different Unions approached the conference who have been on strike for various amounts of time (Local 389: North Shore Winter Club, B.C. since May 2013; Local 4616: Township of Bonfield, ON (16 workers) on strike since Aug. 1/13 of which the Mayor has already terminated 5 employees); Local 1281: Ryerson University, ON for approximately 1 month with 2 striking members).

Wednesday, was a busy day. We started with a minor fire but then really “fired things up” as a rally took place with almost the entire conference attending. The group walked to Quebec Parliament buildings with the help of the local police blocking traffic as we took to the streets. Blue collar workers who have been on strike for quite some time. Paul Moist who concluded the speeches at the rally really gave his all as he continually lost his voice during the remainder of the conference.

Attendance topped at 2,182 members with 182 alternate delegates. This is an all-time attendance record.

At the end of the week, it was noted fundraising efforts amassed \$6,000 for the Alberta Justice League as well as \$5,000 for the Alberta CUPE members affected by the floods. Also, an additional \$7,500 was raised for the striking members of Quebec’s blue collar movement in addition to the original \$33,000 raised at the first day from the CUPE National Committee.