

2015 OMECC Conference REPORT
(Ontario Municipal Employees Co-Ordinating Committee)
Marg Lemoine

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to attend the Ontario Division Conference which took place in Ottawa at the Delta Conference Centre, April 8-11, 2015

- Fred Hahn conducted plenary Friday night noting CUPE coffers are now up to \$80 million and for the last 20 years, 20 cents of every dollar goes to the “1%” (the richest).
- OMERS consisting of 650,000 members strong however, becoming heavy with lawyers from Bay Street. Some locals are accepting contracts with “status quo” for existing members and crappy pension plans for new members. Happy Valley/Goose Bay fought this on a 4-week strike whereas St. John’s accepted cuts against the President’s recommendations.
- A movement on expanding CPP and restoring OAS is coming. OMERS is the **only** pension that has 100% indexing – DON’T GIVE THIS AWAY...EVER. Bridging misses 2-year gap between 65 and 67 years of age. The only solution is to move the age of retirement BACK to 65!
- A last-minute resolution was brought forward that OMECC/CUPE does not endorse and will fight the sale of Ontario Hydro. This was carried unanimously.
- On Thursday, Paul Dewar, MP spoke to “Stand Up for Fairness” campaign and encouraged everyone to join the local campaign/NDP. As well, Paul Blaine/OSHA noted in the eyes of Health & Safety, the “last person in the building is considered a supervisor” in the eyes of the Act. Be aware!
- The average 2016 wages experienced a 1.64% average increase.
- The Conference then broke into “Area” meetings (ours being “Area 9”) with Kathy Todd and Marie Boyd instructing. We touched on experiences in bargaining, gathering information from other locals and comparisons, engaging members with pertinent information that affects them, co-ordinating area contracts for striking purposes (strength in numbers if area locals have negotiations at same time).
- I also participated in “note taking for bargaining” with Alison Davison and Janet Dawsonger as the instructors. We touched on the elements of a successful survey (timing, survey info from National Rep, Self-populating answers, length of survey/time to complete it, having too many questions, using an on-line survey, asking the type of questions (not too personal), KISS method, end-time for completion, clear language (no acronyms)).
- I also met a member of the Kitchener local who invited anyone interested to attend the Waterloo Regional Labour Council. It meets every 2nd Tuesday of each month (600 Wabanaki Drive at the Unifor Hall) from 7pm to 9pm.

Yours in solidarity,

Marg Lemoine
Treasurer, CUPE Local 973