

CUPE Ontario Division Conference

Sheraton Hotel, Toronto (May 27-30, 2015)

I would like to thank the Union for allowing me to attend the Ontario Division Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto.

A great conference that only gained speed as it progressed. With a top attendance of 1,146 members from 237 different Unions across Ontario. Technology helped with Tweeting, watching the conference live on-line and many members recording information and posting on Facebook. We've come a long way!

Fred Hahn was his usual energetic personality even though at one point, the conference ground to a resounding HALT when it was made known CUPE was thinking of contracting out the I.T. Department! Imagine approximately 30-40 members with placards, standing at the front of the conference while our National President, Paul Moist was speaking. Members began to yell and pound on their tables while the I.T. members paraded around the entire room several times. Much to the dismay of Paul Moist and Fred Hahn, the room would NOT be silenced (isn't this what Unions are all about)? It was an amazing sight.

Hot topics included the HydroOne sellout, CUPE Ontario becoming debt-free and Lucia McKeever (UNISON) spoke to Austerity and how it failed in the U.K.. Even Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the NDP of Canada made an appearance and gave a speech. And what a great presentation of the Youth Camp – visit YouTube to watch the kids in a fantastic video promoting Unions. Their comments really hit home (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60c05AFAGPo>).

I look forward to attending the National Convention coming up in November and make our voices heard.

Yours in solidarity,

Marg Lemoine

Local 973