**Social Services Workers Sector Meeting**

**Vancouver Convention Centre**

**Rooms 111-112**

**Sunday October 30, 2011**

**1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Sector Meeting: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

CUPE social services workers across Canada are experiencing an increased demand for social services programs and supports. At the same time, many community social services agencies are experiencing the negative effects of chronic government underfunding. In some jurisdictions, governments have attempted to freeze workers’ wages. Legislative changes, underfunding, and the push to privatize programs and services are eroding a sector already pushed beyond capacity. The current climate has contributed to increased concerns about recruitment and retention of qualified staff, workload, burnout, and erosion of workers’ wages. We are also experiencing tougher bargaining. Delegates will discuss trends experienced across the country and share strategies to address the many challenges impacting workers, supported individuals and their families, and the provision of quality public services.

**1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.**

Equality Statement, Introductions and Agenda

Regional/Provincial Reports – Setting the Context

* What’s happening to social services in our communities?
* What social services are at risk?
* Who does it impact and how?

**1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Trish Hennessy

Director of Strategic Issues, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA)

Consultant, Hennessy Strategic Communications

*Connecting with Canadians on Public Services* – Trish Hennessy will present findings on focus group research that shows Canadians really do care about public services. She’ll share focus group findings and suggest ways to connect with a broad swath of Canadians on the issue.

Discussion

**2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Resolutions

Adjournment