



CUPE 2011

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION – VANCOUVER

Tuesday, November 1



A CUPE united is unstoppable: Paul Moist

CUPE needs to increase its work reaching out to other Canadians as it fights the anti-union vision of the Harper Conservative government, Paul Moist said in his president's report.

"We are proud public employees and we will fight to defend quality public services and trade union rights and build a better world for all workers," Moist told convention on Monday morning after a warm introduction by CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill.

In his address, Moist said the biggest challenge ahead for CUPE and the entire Canadian labour movement will be countering the Harper Conservatives' attack on workers.

"We cannot allow Harper to place us in a box, playing to Canadians' fears by calling us a privileged class, trying to isolate us," said Moist. "When we unite with other citizens who share our vision, we are an unstoppable force for good."

Moist, joined on stage by members in their work uniforms, declared: "Look at the face of CUPE – 615,000 women and men who make Canada a better place to live."

Mission accomplished for Brother Claude



A lot of time has passed since the 1980s and 1990s, when conventions were the scene of endless debate on CUPE's finances. Before bidding us farewell, Claude Généreux presented his last financial report as National Secretary-Treasurer.

His results, highlighted by these two examples, are eloquent. CUPE now owns, instead of renting, many of its buildings – a project outlined by Claude during his 2001

campaign. And in 2011, the National Defence Fund passed the \$50 million mark.

"I wanted to help make CUPE stronger by making it more stable and transparent financially," Généreux said in his speech. "I am pleased to say that we have succeeded."

Remembering Sister Nancy

Election proceedings at this year's convention won't be quite the same after the passing of long-time labour activist Nancy Riche. She had been scheduled to attend as our Elections Officer, a role she played at many CUPE conventions.

Delegates watched a brief video tribute to Sister Riche, who died earlier this month at the age of 66.

Riche, a Newfoundlander, was famous for her biting wit and fun-loving approach to life and politics. She was also one of the key figures in Newfoundland and Labrador's NDP, which recently went from one seat to five in the October 11 provincial election.

Defending our pensions

Pensions should be a social program like Medicare, lawyer Murray Gold told a packed pension forum on Sunday. "We want universal coverage and universal access," he said. Speakers stressed the need to expand the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans and protect defined benefit workplace pensions so all workers can have a secure retirement.

Health and Safety Award



For more than 37 years, Gary Orsten has been a formidable health and safety activist in Alberta.

Orsten is this year's winner of the National Health and Safety Award. A member of the CUPE 38 (Calgary inside workers) executive since 1977, Orsten's achievements include serving on a tri-partite committee that vastly improved Alberta's health and safety code and helping to establish the Alberta Workers' Health Centre.

Make your vote count!

Candidates vying for the position of National Secretary-Treasurer had ten minutes each yesterday to address delegates and seek their support.

The four candidates are Giselle Burton, Danny Cavanagh, Charles Fleury and Judy Henley. The election for this position takes place on Wednesday.

Tonight

- 7:00 p.m. Health and Safety Forum, Ballroom D
- 9:00 p.m. Convention Dance, Westin Bayshore, Grand Ballroom