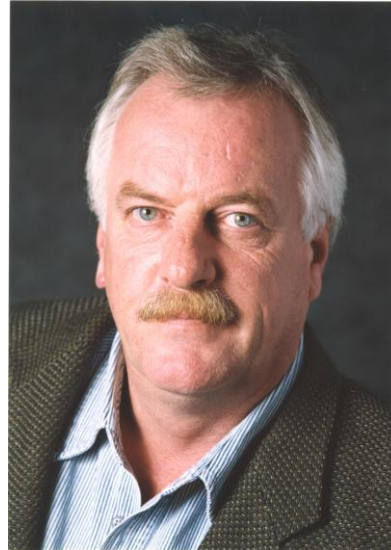


# Taking the side of our communities

A message from the president of CUPE BC

**W**HEN working people are attacked by governments, it causes great uncertainty and hardship in our workplaces and our communities.

The social system they have helped build is shaken. Their families and neighbours watch the demolition of the public services that they want, need and deserve.



When employers become aggressive at the bargaining table, our members' jobs are threatened and this in turn undermines the confidence of local business people.

That is why CUPE BC has invested so heavily in our Strong Communities campaign. We need to assure the public – and employers – that we care about our communities. We need to show that we are dedicated to keeping them safe, healthy and strong...and that we're willing to do whatever it takes to keep them that way.

That is also why CUPE BC has put such great store in union education. Understanding what is happening to our communities under the current government, and finding out how to fight back, is a critical aspect of our work.

CUPE education plays a key role in that great effort. It is vital to building our capacity to face the resulting challenges.

A hallmark of that important work is our annual school at Parksville, B.C. For over a quarter century, our members have traveled from all over the province to take advantage of this wonderful education opportunity.

They go to learn from each other and to teach each other. They share experiences in a positive, equity-based environment. They trade stories of success and failure in the struggle for workers' rights.



Never have our members been more aware of the need for a proven union education program than now. I encourage you to take part in this proud B.C. tradition. Join your brothers and sisters in a workshop that interests you. I promise you won't regret it.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Barry O'Neill'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Barry O'Neill  
President