



The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is taking aim at your public services.

**Learn more about the CETA deal**

pages 4 and 5

CUPE's quarterly publication

cupe.ca

Summer 2011

# Counterpoint

## Meet Rathika Sitsabaiesan:

### CUPE 1281 member and the newly elected MP for Scarborough-Rouge River!

BY CHRISTIAN MARTEL

**A**t 29, Rathika Sitsabaiesan, from CUPE 1281, and member of CUPE Ontario Women's Committee, is now Canada's Member of Parliament (MP) for the riding of Scarborough-Rouge River and opposition critic for post-secondary education.

Sitsabaiesan came to Canada with her family when she was five, and she is Canada's first Tamil MP. She grew up in Mississauga as the youngest of four sisters. Her father was permanently disabled in a workplace accident and her mother had to quit school to work to support the family.

"I caught the political bug during the 2004 election, when I met the NDP's former leader Ed Broadbent who was making a comeback bid for a downtown Ottawa seat," she explained.

Sitsabaiesan's involvement with the student movement includes both the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and CFS Ontario, on top of serving as the VP Internal for the Carleton University Students Association,

where she was the chair of the Carleton University Government Caucus, and operations manager for the Rideau River Residence Association.

Addressing the CUPE Ontario Convention, she was beaming when she said: "We made history in this federal election on so many levels. At the start of the campaign, 40 per cent of NDP candidates were women, and after the elections, the caucus is 40 per cent women, and 16 per cent of us are from different minorities. We stand together with the people we need to bring change to." She is a prime example of how the power of one person can bring about change. Sitsabaiesan was a first time NDP candidate who took a Liberal seat that had been held for 23 years.

She concluded by saying: "I am standing here today to ask for your support for the next four years. And I encourage you to start now to prepare to run for the next election in many ridings. If you need any help, call on me! I will help you."



Rathika Sitsabaiesan addresses CUPE Ontario delegates.

## Edmonton school board moves to block corporate day care

The Edmonton Public School Board is making moves to prevent the advance of big box day care centres onto school property.

School trustees voted seven to two to prevent the lease of space to publicly-traded companies providing child care services.

Vice-Chair Sarah Hoffman, who moved the motion, called on the board to promote community-based child care centres, with an emphasis on public and not-for-profit delivery.

"Local providers have the interests of children closer to heart, while corporate providers have to keep an eye on profits – that's their job," said Hoffman.

Trustees heard presentations from CUPE Communications Representative Lou Arab and Research Representative Margot Young, as well as Bill Moore-Kilgannon of Public Interest Alberta. All three spoke in favour of the motion.

Young noted that most studies show the best determinants of quality child care are the wages and benefits of the staff. She pointed out that in Australia, where there were a large number of corporate operators, the private providers invested about 50 per cent of revenue on staff costs, compared to 75 per cent of revenue in public and not-for-profit centres. Higher wages result in less staff turnover and greater quality for children and parents.

**CUPE** / Canadian Union of Public Employees

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## Counterpoint

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## CUPE's international work highlighted in annual report

Across the globe, we are witnessing a historic moment as millions of people stand up for justice. CUPE's International Solidarity Report documents our union's global justice work over the past year. Electronic copies of the report can be found at [cupe.ca/2010internationalsolidarityreport](http://cupe.ca/2010internationalsolidarityreport).

### STEWARD PROFILE –

## Judy Frizzel, Local 1028



**Judy Frizzel, Chief Steward, Local 1028.**

### BY DERRICK BARRETT

Judy Frizzel became involved with Local 1028 as a union activist in the mid 1980s.

"I initially started as the recording secretary of my local, which is an adult support and rehabilitation centre in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia," says Frizzel. She immersed herself in all the aspects of the position, which included taking the minutes of grievance meetings. It was that exposure that helped her along to her current role as chief shop steward.

"There were big things happening all around me. The employer had decided to move our workplace to a new location. With that came reductions in staff. As well, my local executive was changing and vacancies came about.

I was being called on to help represent our members as a shop steward. The more meetings I attended, the more I came to realize that being a steward is where I should be. So in 2005, I took on the

position of chief steward," she said.

Frizzel says she was able to transition into the role because of the training she received from CUPE.

"I had completed a number of training courses offered by CUPE. The courses provided me with the information I needed to deal effectively with situations as they arose."

She also counted on the experience of past executive members to help her along. "I was very fortunate to be able to draw on the knowledge of other seasoned members. They provided me with the extra support and encouragement I needed to get the job done."

Frizzel thoroughly enjoys her role as her local's chief steward.

She says: "Being a steward provides me with a great opportunity to learn. It also gives me a direct connection to the membership. I take great pride in knowing that I'm helping to improve my workplace for all members of Local 1028."

## CLC 26<sup>th</sup> Convention: Better Jobs. Better Lives.

### BY GREG TAYLOR

On the first day of the CLC 2011 Convention, more than 2,000 delegates passed a resolution calling for the CLC to work towards greater accountability and transparency in CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) negotiations, and to oppose any trade deal which would threaten Canada's public services.

Currently being negotiated by Canada and the European Union, CETA could allow large multinational corporations to take over the delivery of vital public services—like water and waste disposal—whether communities and local governments like it or not.

CLC delegates passed resolutions covering fair taxes, retirement security, and defence of public health care, child care, and pay equity to name just a few. Delegates passed a resolution calling for an end to raiding. It establishes clear penalties for unions which raid, and creates an oath of office for union leaders committing them to follow the anti-raiding pledge.

One of the biggest highlights was NDP Leader Jack Layton's speech to delegates -- his first major public address since becoming Leader of the official Opposition. Layton commended the CLC for its "Retirement Security for Everyone" campaign, and pledged NDP support on expanding public pensions for all Canadians.

More from the CLC convention, including videos of speeches and panels, can be found on the CLC website, [canadianlabour.ca](http://canadianlabour.ca).

# Toronto city council votes to see all the numbers before contracting out garbage and recycling

BY HEATHER FRASER

Toronto city council voted in principle to contract out garbage and recycling services – but they stopped short of doing so until they see all the numbers. City staff must come back to council with details on private bids for residential collection in Toronto, west of Yonge Street, and for parks litter pickup, and supply an independent assessment of in-house costs.

“I want to have all the facts released publicly because I’m confident that the city’s garbage and recycling workers can deliver a better, more accountable, more efficient service, and the figures prove we have much better diversion rates,” said Mark Ferguson, president of the TCEU/CUPE 416 after the May vote.

TCEU/CUPE 416 members have worked tirelessly over the last several months to inform city councillors and taxpayers that figures released by the city are not complete, that their comparators



were incorrect, and that the responsibility for such a large contract should rest with city council. Ferguson added: “We are dealing with a \$250 million contract and all the facts must be in the public record.”

Ferguson said that CUPE will continue to work with community

partners to ensure that the residents of Toronto receive the best, cheapest, and greenest collections possible. For more information on the Toronto local 416 campaign to stop the privatization of garbage and recycling services please visit [www.local416.com](http://www.local416.com).

## Flaherty's axe or fairer tax?



BY GREG TAYLOR

Canadians for Tax Fairness is a newly formed organization promoting a fairer and more progressive tax system.

At a recent Parliament Hill press conference the group called for a national public discussion and political debate on tax fairness.

Rather than slashing existing public services and programs and not addressing other public needs, Canadians for Tax Fairness advocates for a more balanced tax system that could generate tens of billions of dollars to support “the Canada we love, and the Canada we need to build”.

To learn more about Canadians for Tax Fairness or to get involved with the campaign for more balanced tax system, visit their website, [taxfairness.ca](http://taxfairness.ca).

# A bittersweet victory

BY PAUL MOIST

Our political landscape has undergone a historic realignment – surging support across Canada and an unprecedented showing in Quebec has propelled the New Democrats into official Opposition.

This remarkable showing for our party is bittersweet. As their past record shows—with an unflinching dedication to corporate interests—the Stephen Harper Conservatives pose many challenges for CUPE.

I am confident we are ready to face these challenges. Our first step is supporting our brothers and sisters now in the House

of Commons.

CUPE NDP candidates did us proud in the election, collectively achieving over 220,000 votes across the country. Of the 24 CUPE members, staff and retirees who ran, six won.

Rathika Sitsabaiesan, a member of CUPE 1281 at the University of Toronto Students’ Union, was elected in Scarborough-Rouge River and is a member of the shadow cabinet as the NDP post-secondary education critic. Sitsabaiesan is the first Tamil-Canadian elected to the House of Commons.

Four of our new CUPE NDP MP’s are part of the remarkable

Quebec showing. Ruth Ellen Brosseau, a former member of CUPE 3011, is the new MP for Berthier-Maskinongé. François Pilon, a former vice-president of CUPE 4545, was elected in Laval-Les Îles. Sylvain Chicoine, a member of CUPE 1186, was elected in Châteauguay—Saint-Constant.

Alexandre Boulerice, a communications representative for CUPE-Quebec, was also elected. Alexandre will be representing Rosemont—La Petite-Patrie, and he’s also the NDP critic for the Treasury Board (TB), tasked with keeping an eye on the TB President Tony Clement, who is responsible for the federal public service.

Joining him in the shadow cabinet is newly elected MP for Dartmouth – Cole Harbour, Robert Chisholm. A former CUPE Atlantic Regional Director and former leader of the Nova Scotia NDP, Robert will be international trade critic. With CETA negotiations continuing, I am sure Robert will press the Conservatives to ensure the

interests of Canadian workers are protected in any new international trade agreements.

Our MPs are joined by labour activists from private and public sector unions from across the country. The interest of Canada’s workers are truly well represented in the NDP.

Over the next four years, the task ahead is clear. We need a strong CUPE to stand up to the Harper Conservatives.

Stephen Harper’s majority does not absolve him from listening to Canadian workers.

With a never-stronger NDP opposition lead by Jack Layton, and with the support of CUPE and the Canadian labour movement, we can work together to keep this government in check.

With your help and support, we can use the next four years to show Canadians there is a better option-- an option that means retirement security for all Canadians, a strengthened public health care system, a real child care solution and fair taxation. That option is a New Democrat federal government.

[cupe.ca/Paul-Moist](http://cupe.ca/Paul-Moist)

[@cupenatpres](https://twitter.com/cupenatpres)



Jack Layton, Leader of the official Opposition and National President Paul Moist.

# CETA: A big deal and a bad deal for Canada

## Canada and the European Union are negotiating a new “Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement” (CETA) to be signed by the end of this year.

By **HEATHER FRASER**

CETA is a big deal and Canadians should pay close attention. So far, negotiations have been quietly taking place behind closed doors. It's time to shine some light on this trade deal which threatens public services, gives extensive powers to corporations and limits local democratic control for municipal governments.

### **CETA is a corporate power grab**

CETA takes power from local governments and gives it to large multinational corporations whose primary interest is in profit, not service delivery.

If CETA is signed, we could see large multinational corporations take over delivery of vital public services like water, transit, energy and health care – whether our local communities like it or not. That's because the proposed agreement may include a dispute resolution system that would give large European corporations the right to sue Canadian governments for public policies with which investors disagree. Policies which promote buying local goods and services, hiring local workers or ensure services like wastewater

treatment are provided locally, could be deemed unfair under the agreement.

This deal is important because it's the first time that a trade agreement will include municipal activities like purchasing, infrastructure projects and the delivery of municipal services. Because it expands the rights of corporations, it could lead to increased privatization.

### **CETA will cause drug costs to skyrocket**

The European Union wants to use CETA to make it harder for Canadians to have access to low cost prescription drugs.

A study by the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association warns that this deal could potentially add nearly three billion dollars to Canadian medication costs annually.

### **CETA puts Canada's water up for sale**

CETA could open up public municipal water systems across Canada to privatization. At the request of Europe's large private for-profit water corporations our governments are considering including drinking water and wastewater services under CETA. Water and wastewater services are vital to our communities and should not be put up for sale.

### **CETA threatens local job creation**

Our tax dollars should be used to create jobs and business opportunities in our local communities. One way governments do this is by deciding to purchase the goods and services they need from local companies. But under CETA, European corporations would have unrestricted access to purchasing contracts – and that means creating jobs in Europe, instead of here in Canada.

It's time to stop this deal and protect our public services. Find out more: [cupe.ca/ceta](http://cupe.ca/ceta).



# CUPE launches national tour to stop CETA

**C**UPE National President Paul Moist and Council of Canadians National Chairperson Maude Barlow launched a cross-country tour to oppose the proposed trade deal called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The first phase of the tour took place prior to the critical eighth round of CETA negotiations between Canada and the European Union in Brussels this July. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said recently he is committed to proceeding

'full-throttle' on CETA and on having the deal signed by January 1, 2012, just a few months from now.

The tour included stops in Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax and St. John's. More stops are planned for the fall in Ontario, New Brunswick, British Columbia and PEI. Keep your eye on [cupe.ca/ceta](http://cupe.ca/ceta) for tour dates in your community.

Nearly 2,000 Canadians participated in the public meetings. People want to know more about this deal that has had little attention in the media

and has such deep consequences for Canadians.

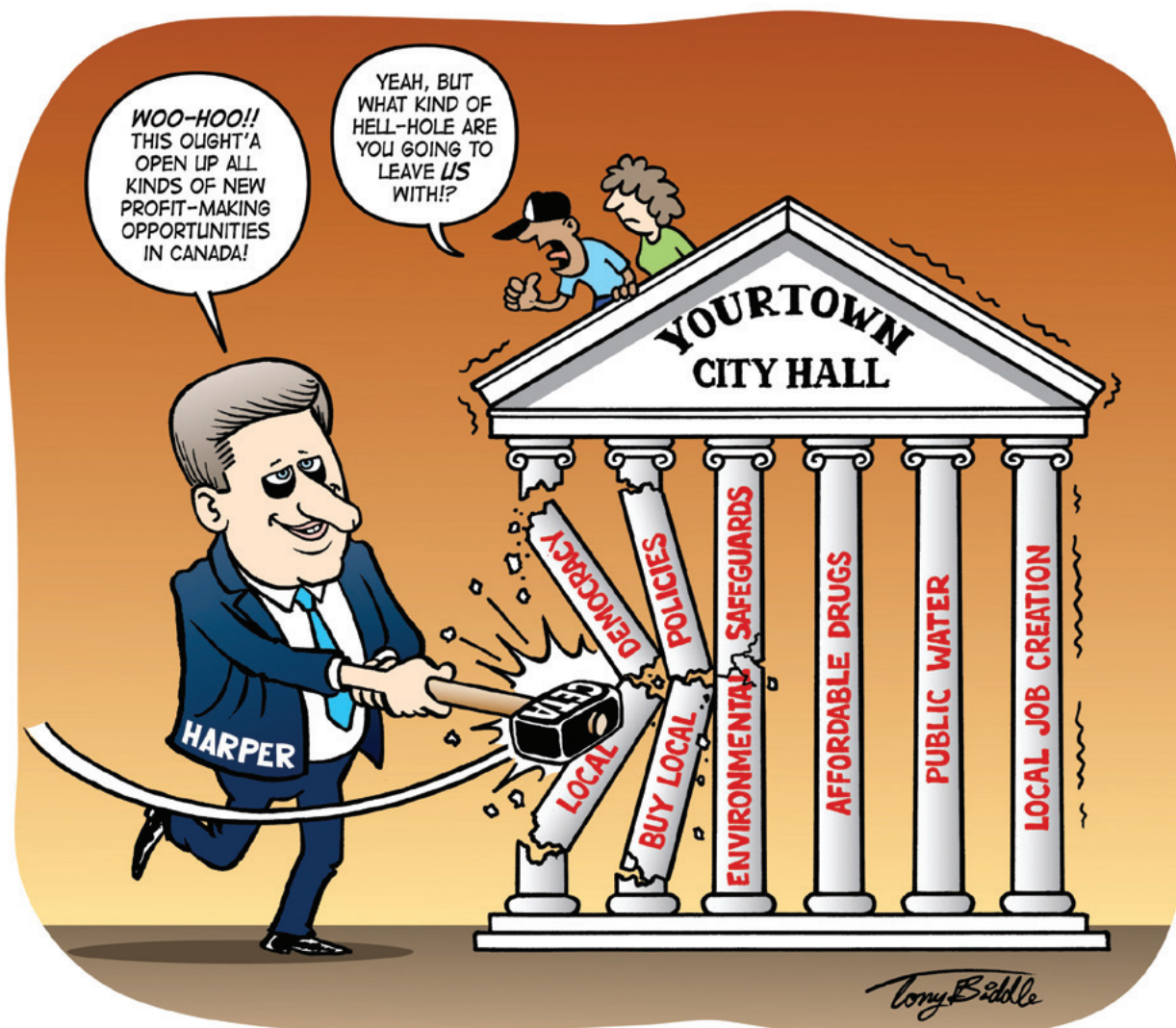
CUPE is also working to stop CETA in other ways. Here are a few examples:

**Lobbying Canada's political leaders:** CUPE members are actively lobbying municipal councils to take a closer look at CETA and adopt a resolution opposing the deal. We're meeting with federal and provincial politicians and urging them to ask questions and push the details of this deal into the open.

**Delivering our message in Europe:** When CETA negotiators from Canada and the EU

held negotiations in Brussels, CUPE was there. CUPE representatives travelled to Brussels and Strasbourg with other Canadian groups to oppose the deal, raise our concerns and meet with decision-makers and other organizations.

**Working with the Trade Justice Network:** We've joined a coalition with the Council of Canadians, other unions, First Nations organizations and other civil society organizations to stop the deal. For more on the coalition, visit [tradejustice.ca](http://tradejustice.ca).



## What can you do?

This deal has not yet been signed and there's still time to stop it in its tracks. Here's what you can do.

- Join our postcard campaign to Stephen Harper. You can order postcards for your local by emailing [comm@cupe.ca](mailto:comm@cupe.ca) or by joining our online postcard campaign [cupe.ca/action/halt-ceta-negotiations](http://cupe.ca/action/halt-ceta-negotiations).
- Organize a fight back committee to raise awareness in your community.
- Attend a public meeting about CETA.
- Call your municipal councillor and tell him/her you want your city or town to take a stand.
- Write your MP or MPP and tell them you oppose the deal.
- Help spread the word – talk to your colleagues, friends and neighbours.

### Stay informed and get active

Go to [cupe.ca/ceta](http://cupe.ca/ceta) for the latest news. Follow us on twitter [@cupeceta](https://twitter.com/cupeceta).

## What do Canadians think about CETA?

- **77 per cent** oppose the deal if it causes prescription drug prices to rise.
- **60 per cent** oppose the deal if it opens up government purchasing to EU corporations.
- **52 per cent** oppose the deal if it opens up water treatment services to competition from European corporations.

Source: CUPE/Enviroics Research poll May 2011

## CUPE New Democrats in the House of Commons

By COLLEEN REYNOLDS

Twenty-four CUPE members, staff and retirees ran for the NDP, gaining more than 220,000 votes collectively.



In Ontario, **Rathika Sitsabaiesan**, is the first Tamil-Canadian elected to the House of Commons. A member of CUPE 1281 – she was elected in Scarborough-Rouge River. Sitsabaiesan is the post-secondary critic in the shadow cabinet.



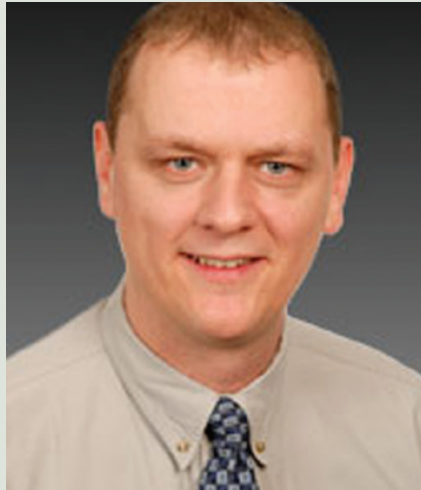
**Robert Chisholm**, formerly CUPE Atlantic Regional Director and former leader of the Nova Scotia NDP, is now the MP for Dartmouth – Cole Harbour. He is the International Trade critic in the shadow cabinet.



**Alexandre Boulerice**, a communications representative for CUPE in Quebec, was part of the remarkable NDP breakthrough in Quebec as the new MP for Rosemont–La Petite-Patrie. Also part of the shadow cabinet – Boulerice is the new Treasury Board critic.



**Ruth Ellen Brosseau**, a former member of CUPE 3011, was also part of the New Democrats landslide victory in Quebec. As the new MP for Berthier-Maskinongé, Brosseau sent a message to voters in her riding, saying: “I will make sure voices of regular families like ours are heard loud and clear in the House of Commons.”



Also in Quebec, **Sylvain Chicoine**, a member of CUPE 1186, support workers at the University of Montreal, was elected in Châteauguay—Saint-Constant, Quebec.



And CUPE 4545 member **François Pilon** won Laval-Les Îles for the NDP. A life-long resident of Laval, he has worked for the City for almost 25 years. “It’s indescribable,” François told the Montreal Gazette after winning the riding by more than 14,000 votes.

## Cutting superbug infection deaths in hospitals



By STELLA YEADON

Studies show that hospital-acquired infections kill between 8,000 and 12,000 Canadians each year. Globally, there is a growing recognition of the relationship between the effective cleaning of hospitals and long-term care facilities and rising rates of hospital-acquired infections. Links are also being made between bed-occupancy rates, patient mobility within the hospital, shared facilities, and contracted cleaning and hospital acquired-infection rates.

To draw attention to this leading cause of preventable death, CUPE’s Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU) has launched a 15 community tour of northern Ontario using a theatre set representing a hospital room to demonstrate the disinfection of a room that has been occupied by a patient with a superbug like *C. difficile*, VRE or MRSA. Between 3,200 and 4,800 of hospital-acquired infection deaths in Canada are in Ontario.

OCHU is calling on Ontario’s health minister to bring down death rates from hospital-acquired infections by lowering hospital-occupancy rates, doing a deep clean of hospitals, and providing more resources for cleaning and infection control.

The mobile hospital room will begin touring southern Ontario communities in August 2011.

[www.ochu.on.ca](http://www.ochu.on.ca).

## CUPE in brief:

### CUPE’s bargaining newsletter has a new look!

Big changes are taking shape for all CUPE publications and *Tabletalk*—CUPE’s bargaining newsletter—is the first to get a makeover.

The latest issue of *Tabletalk* launched in May with a completely new design. And for the first time it’s in full colour!

Check it out online and subscribe to the email edition at [cupe.ca/tabletalk](http://cupe.ca/tabletalk).

### CUPE members provide quality public services you can count on

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) held its annual meeting in Halifax in June and CUPE was there with a simple message to politicians: quality public services help build the strong and vibrant communities we all want.

Our union offered solutions and alternatives to keep services public, provide adequate financing for municipalities and rebuild the infrastructure so desperately needed in our cities and towns.

# Private inspection brings public pain



Sign in front of condemned condo buildings.

BY JANET SZLISKE

In March, seven condo buildings in Fort McMurray that had been inspected and passed by private inspectors were declared unfit to occupy, after a structural engineer's report found that the buildings were unsafe. Condo residents were given fifteen minutes to vacate their homes. Approximately 30 members and their families who lived in the housing development are

directly affected by this fiasco.

To add insult to injury, the inspection company, Alberta Permit Pro, declared bankrupt and has re-opened their business as Innovative Inspection Agency.

Inspectors have since been brought back in-house.

All four CUPE Locals in Fort McMurray – Local 1505 (Regional Municipality of Wood

Buffalo, MacDonald Island Park Corporation, and the Fort McMurray Airport Authority); Local 2545 (Public School Board); Local 2157 (Keyano College); and Local 2559 (Catholic School Board custodial staff) – are working together on a campaign to promote public services. "CUPE at your service" will feature CUPE members and focus on the advantages of public versus private services.

# Pride events taking shape for the summer

BY WES PAYNE

It's that time of year again! Pride weeks, pride parades and events organized by LGBTT community activists will take place all summer in Canadian cities.

Halifax Pride launches on July 17 and goes until July 24, with the parade taking place on July 23.

Montreal Pride Celebrations go from Aug. 9 to 14, with a parade on the final day.

In Toronto, Pride Week starts on June 24 and ends on July 3 with the city's 31<sup>st</sup> annual pride parade.

The Saskatoon Pride Festival kicks off June 4 and ends with a parade on June 11, while in Regina the Pride Parade takes place June 18.

In Vancouver the Pride parade will take place July 31, with other official events leading up to the parade beginning on July 25.

Other events are planned in most major cities. To find out what's happening in your local area, check out [pridecanada.com](http://pridecanada.com).

CUPE members often come out in great numbers to support Pride events in their areas. Get out and show your pride!

[www.mygsa.ca/calendar](http://www.mygsa.ca/calendar)

CUPE also sponsored a panel about the challenges communities face to ensure healthy and sustainable water and wastewater systems for the future.

To see our new booklet on communities and fact sheets on key issues visit [cupe.ca/communities](http://cupe.ca/communities).

## Preserving Air Canada pension benefits

CUPE joined two other unions representing Air Canada workers – CAW and the IAMAW – in a joint statement calling on the airline to halt attacks on its workers' pension plan.

All three unions are currently in collective bargaining negotiations with Air Canada. CUPE's Air Canada Component represents more than 6,800 flight attendants.

To read the statement, go to [cupe.ca/air-canada/preserving-air-canada-pension-benefits](http://cupe.ca/air-canada/preserving-air-canada-pension-benefits).

## CUPE National Convention

CUPE national convention will take place in Vancouver from October 31 to November 4, 2011.

CUPE's bi-annual national gathering kicks off October 30 with sectoral meetings for: municipalities, school boards,

health care, child care, post-secondary education, libraries, energy, water and wastewater, paramedics/emergency and social services.

Each chartered organization is urged to ensure that enough leave of absence is requested for each delegate so that they will be able to complete the business of the national convention on the final day without having to leave early.

In order to assist your local with advance planning, information on travel and accommodations can be found at [cupe.ca/cupe-national-convention](http://cupe.ca/cupe-national-convention). Please bear in mind, however,

that registration for the national convention will not open until after the official call and credential forms are distributed in August.

## Asbestos

CUPE has endorsed the [CanadaCausesCancer.ca](http://CanadaCausesCancer.ca) campaign launched by a group of young Canadian comedians. The campaign calls on Prime Minister Stephen Harper to support the United Nations vote in June to include chrysotile asbestos on a list of hazardous substances or to have the substance re-installed in his home. [cupe.ca/asbestos](http://cupe.ca/asbestos)

# The Orange Wave: From a national front to a labour front



An interview with CUPE  
National Secretary-Treasurer,  
Claude Généreux

BY ROBERT LAMOUREUX

**Robert Lamoureux:** The NDP's results in Quebec were the big surprise of the May 2 federal election. How do you explain the orange wave?

**Claude Généreux:** Halfway through the campaign, nobody could have predicted it. I think the orange wave was the result of several factors, and there's a cumulative effect. Voters don't see federal elections in isolation from other levels of government. They think about provincial and municipal elections, as well.

At the federal level, Quebecers were tired of Harper. Rejecting the Bloc represents a reconfiguration of the electorate. For 40 years in Quebec, there's been a call for national unity, without taking the needs of the workers into account. What we're seeing now is a labour front. There's a polarization between the left and the right. Quebecers got tired of sitting around while their values as workers were put on hold.

**RL:** What can we learn from this surprising campaign? What lessons can we take from it?

**CG:** Firstly, you have to remember the cumulative effect on the electorate, who consider elections at all levels of government. There will be six provincial elections this year. The second lesson is a historical lesson, and we need to remember it: the Bloc is not dead. Not that long ago in the '90s, the Conservative Party under Kim Campbell was reduced to two seats. And now, less than 20 years later, the Conservatives have a majority. The third lesson is the radicalization of voters. We have a clearer picture of a party in power that wants to appeal to big companies. And the NDP needs to represent our

interests in Parliament if it wants to retain the support of the workers.

**RL:** In this new context, what should be the priority issues of the NDP as official Opposition?

**CG:** Our new Official Loyal Opposition should act as a watchdog against financial handouts to big businesses, which lower revenues and, as a result, stifle public services. The NDP will have to defend health care, adequate pensions and transfer payments to the provinces. They will have to sound the alarm against free trade agreements, such as CETA, which would help private companies get their hands on our public services.

**RL:** What would be your advice to trade unions for the next four years?

**CG:** The election results are not the end of our work, but the beginning. It would be a mistake to think that our work ends with the election. We put our hopes into this party, and now we need to contribute our energy. We need to participate, by urging, and criticizing them if necessary. We need to help the NDP influence Parliament in the right direction.

[cupe.ca/podcasts](http://cupe.ca/podcasts)

## NEB Highlights

Our National Executive Board (NEB) met on June 22-23, 2011 in Ottawa. These are the highlights of their deliberations and decisions.

Two new Regional Vice-Presidents (RVPs) were welcomed to the National Executive Board at this meeting. Sister Marle Roberts RVP for Alberta and Sister Lori MacKay RVP for Prince Edward Island were sworn in, having both been recently elected presidents of their respective divisions. The addition of Sister Marle and Sister Lori to the NEB increases women's representation by 10 per cent.

Board members unanimously approved a resolution pledging full support to the members of CUPW, including a \$10,000 donation to the union members who were locked out by Canada Post Corporation. The NEB members stood in proud support of our NDP Caucus of 103 MPs who delayed the passage of the Harper government's draconian back-to-work legislation by three days. The NEB began its meeting with a reception to honour the NDP and celebrate its election to official Opposition.

The 2010 audited financial statements were received and approved by the board. The auditors' findings demonstrated no significant departure from prior years. Spending on cost-share campaigns continues to illustrate the tough battles many locals face across the country. The NEB approved 21 cost-share campaign requests totaling \$943,926.44. Twelve requests for legal and arbitration support were approved, totaling \$398,600.

In preparation for national convention, the board approved an initial draft of the 2011-13 Strategic Directions and approved several general resolutions for presentation to convention. The resolutions cover a variety of subjects such as fair taxation, renewal of the federal-provincial health accord and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union (CETA). In addition, the Board made several decisions to further our progress on "greening" the national convention. The NEB will also present a plain language version of the national constitution to the national convention.

## LPN members in B.C. targeted by second raid attempt

BY MIKE OLD

The BC Nurses Union (BCNU) is once again preparing to spend millions of dollars to raid the licensed practical nurses (LPN) who are members of the Hospital Employees' Union (HEU) CUPE's health services division in BC.

In 2009, BCNU mounted an all-out, costly campaign that could not get enough support in any single health authority, or province-wide,

to back their raid applications. As a result, B.C.'s Labour Relations Board dismissed all their applications.

"This second raid attempt doesn't come as a big surprise," says HEU's Secretary-Business Manager Judy Darcy, "although it is very disappointing that BCNU has chosen to ignore the LPNs' clear decision to remain members of HEU."

Earlier this year, Darcy wrote the BCNU leadership urging them to respect the LPNs' independent professional interests and to "put the mutual interests of our members and B.C. patients ahead of another divisive raid."

"Our shared history

demonstrates that when all health care unions work in cooperation with one another to defend quality services and public health care – we are stronger," she wrote.

"Our unions are also dealing with complex changes to nursing care in B.C.'s health authorities – changes that impact the professional practice of both licensed practical nurses and registered nurses. Another raid attempt, however, can only compromise our collective ability to collaborate in a professional manner on these and other important nursing practice issues."

Learn more about the HEU at [www.heu.org](http://www.heu.org).