

## Friday, November 4

### Turmel blasts Harper's corporatist plan



Interim federal NDP leader Nycole Turmel dismissed the Harper government's economic plan as "more corporate tax cuts to already profitable corporations" that will do nothing to create employment opportunities for Canadians, in her address to delegates.

"The prime minister has had no trouble sticking his nose into labour relations, creating more and more economic instability by doing so. His actions have

taken away any incentive for either side to come to a reasonable agreement," said Turmel, the NDP's interim leader since July when she was appointed by Jack Layton before his passing.

"The NDP is pleased with its links to your union, and understands the value of the work CUPE members do, whether it's in health care, school boards, social services and much more," she said.

Before being elected to Parliament, Turmel was the first woman elected president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, serving from 1997-2006.

### Call for Health and Safety enforcement

Health and safety advocates took to the "pro" microphones on the convention floor to show strong support for resolution 121, which passed unanimously. The resolution calls on CUPE to lobby governments for proper enforcement of health and safety laws and greater repercussions for employers who violate those laws.

Despite some of the best health and safety legislation in the world, a lack of enforcement prevents many Canadian jurisdictions from effectively reducing the rates of injuries and deaths at work.

### Celebrating a disability rights activist

A touching, emotional ceremony on the convention floor celebrated the life and activism of Richard Sherring, winner of the 2011 CUPE National Disability Rights Activism Award. Sadly, Richard passed away on June 29, 2011. His parents, Cheryl and Bob Sherring, accepted the award on his behalf.



Known as an active member of CUPE 998 in Manitoba and at the national level, Richard improved disability rights awareness and promoted other social justice causes through award-winning videos and innovative educational tools. He leaves behind an eight-year-old daughter, Evelyn Grace.

### Union elections

Delegates have elected 14 Regional Vice-Presidents: Danny Cavanagh (N.S.), Wayne Lucas (N.L.), Sandy Harding (N.B.), Lori MacKay (P.E.I.), Nathalie Stringer and Denis Bolduc (Que.), Candace Rennick and Michael Hurley (Ont.), Henri Giroux (N. Ont.), Mike Davidson (Man.), Judy Henley (Sask.), Marle Roberts (Alta.), Mark Hancock and Ken Robinson (B.C.). The Diversity Vice-Presidents are Yolanda McClean (Persons of Colour) and Brian Barron (First Nations).

### Global Justice Forum

Wednesday night's Global Justice Forum, themed "Democracy and the Struggle for Justice," was a lively Q&A session featuring comparative perspectives from Burma, Haiti and Wisconsin.

Burmese youth activist Mi Aie Son, Haitian labour leader Dukens Raphael, and American Federation of Teachers Vice-President Candice Owley discussed the challenges of fostering democratic movements in the face of "perverse inequality", defending public services and promoting international solidarity.

### Communication Awards

Union solidarity depends on good communication. CUPE's local communicators put in long volunteer hours to make sure our members are informed.

This year we honoured our communicators on the convention floor with 15 Communications Awards.

For a complete list of winners, go to [cupe.ca/comm-awards](http://cupe.ca/comm-awards).

