

SECTOR COUNCIL MEETINGS NOTICE

VANCOUVER CONVENTION CENTRE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

National Sector Council meetings will be held immediately prior to the national convention on Sunday, November 1st.

Locals are encouraged to join these meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to meet, share strategies, challenges and stories with others from your sector from across the country.

The 2013 National Convention adopted the creation of a National Sector Council for our 11 major Sectors. In October of 2014, the very first gathering of over 1,200 CUPE members and staff took place in Toronto. Sector Council is a structure which shows us how we are indeed stronger together.

The meetings held before this National Convention will now align with the National Sector Council structure. This will be the second opportunity for all sectors to meet with the exception of the Airlines who will continue to meet as they have in the past.

Locals can register for as many sector meetings as they wish for only \$40. If you wish to attend any of the meetings, please complete and return the attached registration form along with your cheque, payable to CUPE, to the convention office.

MORNING

10:00 a.m.
Room 109-110

1. EDUCATION WORKERS

Education workers across Canada continue to feel the impact of declining enrolment in public and secondary schools. The session will offer delegates an opportunity to compare experiences and share strategies to cope with and counter funding cuts, school closures and increased workloads. We will be sharing some best practices on key issues of concern to many education workers, including health and safety and communicating with members.

10:00 a.m.
Room 118-119-120

2. SOCIAL SERVICES WORKERS

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. 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 campaign success stories that mobilize members and build power at the bargaining table. We will discuss how to maintain working conditions and decent wages while pushing for quality public services for the vulnerable and often marginalized people we support.

10:00 a.m.
Room 116-117

3. EMERGENCY WORKERS

This meeting will allow delegates to connect about issues affecting paramedics and EMS dispatchers across the country. Delegates will have an opportunity to discuss the promotion of paramedic work, mental health injuries, workers compensation, EMS funding, ER overload, ambulance offload delay, pensions, regional issues, EMS bargaining, community paramedicine and other issues.

10:00 a.m.
Room 114-115

4. LIBRARY WORKERS

This meeting will provide a forum to discuss current challenges and successes that affect library workers across the country through small group discussions. There will be reports from the National and Provincial Library Workers' Committees. Time will also be set aside to discuss key national convention resolutions.

10:00 a.m.
Room 111-112

5. ENERGY WORKERS

The Energy Sector Council will be discussing Hydro One privatization and electricity sector reorganization and other privatization initiatives across the country. There will also be discussions on demand-side management, contracting out, pensions, health and safety campaigns, demographic shifts and training, modernization of infrastructure, climate change as it relates to just transition and other bargaining priorities for the sector. There will be time allocated for group discussions on local priorities and campaigns.

AFTERNOON

1:00 p.m.
Room 116-117

6. MUNICIPAL WORKERS

Municipal pension plans are under attack across the country. The municipal sector has a strong history of leading for workers' rights and we are at the forefront of many fights across the country, protecting pensions and working to get more workers covered by pensions. Starting with an educational component of advanced pension literacy, researcher Mark Janson will take us through the language of pensions and how to understand them and some of the arguments being used against defined benefit pension plans and how to articulate arguments in the community and at the bargaining table. We will then hear from a panel of pension advocates from across the sector and learn how they are fighting for our pension plans.

1:00 p.m.
Room 109-110

7. HEALTH CARE WORKERS

This meeting will be an opportunity for delegates from hospitals, long-term care facilities, home care, and community health agencies to discuss many topics including the current state of public health care, the challenges that it faces: legal attacks, cuts in federal and provincial funding and the expansion of private clinics. Delegates will participate in discussion of what the federal election results mean for achieving a new Health Accord, public pharmacare and a national continuing care strategy in the next years, as well as discuss the health care resolutions which support organizing for these initiatives. The challenges CUPE members face from contracting out, restructuring of health care work, and the impact of privatization on wages, benefits, pensions, working conditions and services will be topics of panel discussion.

1:00 p.m.
Room 114-115

8. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS AND CROWN CORPORATIONS WORKERS

This meeting will enable delegates to discuss issues of common concern, principally collective bargaining in the context of increasing privatization, service cut backs, job loss, and government corruption. There will be time set aside for small group discussions on transportation issues, and bargaining/campaign success stories.

1:00 p.m.
Room 118-119-120

9. POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION WORKERS

Delegates from university and college locals will have an opportunity to share information on national, provincial, regional and local trends. Topics will include precarious employment, privatization /contracting out, PSE funding and the impact on staff and students, collective bargaining, raising the profile of the sector within CUPE and supporting each other on a national level.

1:00 p.m.
Room 111-112

10. CHILD CARE WORKERS

This meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss key issues facing this sector including privatization and the relationship between adequate funding, good wages and working conditions, and quality child care. We will focus on what the next steps for the Let's rethink child care campaign in light of the election results. Delegates will also hear first-hand about the work of CUPE's National Child Care Working Group. We will discuss priority resolutions for convention.