

1375, boul. St. Laurent Blvd., Ottawa, ON K1G 0Z7

Tel./Tél. : (613) 237-1590 Fax/Téléc. : (613) 237-5508 Toll free/Sans frais : (844) 237-1590

cupemail@cupe.ca/courriel@scfp.ca – cupe.ca/scfp.ca

July 17, 2026

TO ALL CUPE CHARTERED ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Friends:

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is here, and it is hitting our communities hard. Once again, what has tragically become an annual crisis is unfolding before our eyes. Wildfires are tearing across several provinces and territories, forcing evacuations, threatening and destroying homes and infrastructure, and displacing residents from their communities.

This year's wildfire season is having devastating consequences in many parts of Canada, with particularly severe impacts in northern and remote communities. More than 800 wildfires are burning across the country, with 150 in northern Ontario alone. The fires have resulted in evacuation orders and evacuation alerts in several communities, and widespread air quality alerts. Indigenous communities continue to be disproportionately affected, often facing urgent evacuations, limited transportation options and prolonged displacement from their homes, families and traditional territories.

Last year, when a similar disaster struck communities in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, CUPE responded swiftly by reinstating our **Natural Disaster Relief Fund**. Thanks to your generosity, we raised and distributed \$100,000 to five local organizations at the heart of relief efforts supporting those who had lost everything, their homes, their belongings, and in some cases, their workplaces.

Today, we are calling on all chartered organizations and individual members to step up once again. Your support will directly help those facing unimaginable loss and upheaval across the country, particularly Indigenous communities, who are disproportionately affected by this crisis.

In the spirit of CUPE's ongoing **commitment to truth and reconciliation**, we recognize the importance of standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples in times of crisis, and ensuring our support reaches those who need it most.

How to give:

- **Cheques:** Payable to *CUPE National* (Natural Disaster Relief)
Send to: **1375 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 0Z7**
- **E-transfer:** Send contributions to wildfires@cupe.ca

.../2

MARK HANCOCK

National President/Président national

CANDACE RENNICK

National Secretary-Treasurer/Secrétaire-trésorière nationale

DAWN BELLEROSE, PATRICK GLOUTNEY, SHERRY HILLIER, GINA MCKAY, KAREN RANALLETTA

General Vice-Presidents/Vice-présidences générales

Please note that, as CUPE is not a registered charity, we are unable to issue tax receipts.

Together, we can show what solidarity looks like in action. Please give what you can, as soon as you can.

In solidarity,

Handwritten signature of Mark Hancock in black ink.

MARK HANCOCK
National President

Handwritten signature of Candace Rennick in black ink.

CANDACE RENNICK
National Secretary-Treasurer