

Resolution of the National Executive Board

Trade War

CUPE WILL:

1. Work with all levels of CUPE to pressure all levels of governments to adopt procurement policies that recognize public ownership, public infrastructure and direct public service delivery as the best options for meeting public service needs.
2. Support CUPE locals and other chartered organizations in identifying opportunities to end contracts with U.S. companies and bring work back in-house.
3. Encourage and support-chartered organizations to push all employers to adopt robust Buy Canadian procurement policies that prioritize Canadian, union-made steel, aluminum, wood products, vehicles, and manufactured goods.
4. Work in solidarity with unions representing private-sector workers, particularly those in industries and communities hardest hit by the trade war, to protect good union jobs and to strengthen Canadian industries and public services.
5. Use CUPE's platform to highlight threats to union jobs and mobilize CUPE members to participate in demonstrations and other collective actions in defense of affected workers and industries.
6. Participate in joint lobbying, political action and public campaigns with affected unions.
7. Contribute resources to inter-union coalitions and coordinated campaigns.
8. Promote the Canadian Labour Congress' directory of "Canadian Union-Made Products and Services" and similar resources to help chartered organizations and CUPE employers make procurement decisions that support good union jobs in Canada.
9. Conduct a comprehensive review of CUPE National's contracts and purchasing practices and end procurement from U.S. suppliers in favour of Canadian unionized suppliers.
10. Develop and provide chartered organizations with a campaign toolkit to advance these objectives.
11. Commit resources to pursuing new partnerships with other groups or coalitions who share these goals.

BECAUSE:

- Municipalities, provincial governments, school boards, health authorities, Crown corporations, and other public sector entities spend hundreds of billions of dollars on goods and services annually. Much of this spending is in international markets.
- Public procurement is an important economic policy tool that can be used to support good union jobs, strengthen local communities and supply chains and build domestic industrial capacity.
- Governments must retain the ability to prioritize local and domestic suppliers, and this must be protected in trade negotiations and not traded away through concessions.
- Public procurement policies should complement, not replace, direct public delivery.
- Governments must also make sustained investments in public infrastructure, public services and public-sector employment, ensuring that public dollars build public capacity.