

Rich history, vibrant culture **Welcome to Montréal CUPE!**

Get ready for the 24th national convention. It's CUPE's big event where every two years, members gather to take on the tough issues, meet old friends, make new ones and mix hard work with a little fun.

CUPE members will get a warm welcome Monday from CUPE Québec President Lucie Levasseur. Hundreds of CUPE Québec members are also here to welcome you to "la belle province."

Preparations for convention have long been under way. Resolutions from across CUPE's sectors are ready for debate. The halls, meeting and reception rooms and the lineups to register are already buzzing with conversation.

Your decisions this week will guide CUPE's future and policy choices for our 600,000 members who are at work delivering quality public services in communities across the country.

Strategic Directions: taking action

With the worldwide economic crisis threatening to derail hard won gains for workers, CUPE is gearing up to take action with Strategic Directions: 2009-2011. The focus is two-fold: at the bargaining table and in political action as our union moves to protect and expand pensions, secure recession relief, transition to green jobs, and continue the struggle against privatization while making equality gains. This major policy document spans the critical issues our members are facing and is sure to produce passionate debate.

Guests, forums and awards

Guests this week include Canadian Auto Workers President Ken Lewenza. Lewenza is leading his members' struggle against unprecedented economic upheaval in Canada's auto industry. On Wednesday, Métis human rights activist Michèle Rouleau is a guest speaker and on Thursday, Ken Georgetti, Canadian Labour Congress president. On Friday, New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton will take the podium to talk about the latest news from the House of Commons. And there's a lot to talk about with the governing Conservatives and the Liberals escalating the election stakes.

CUPE also has a number of international guests who will be visiting. Among them are: UNISON President Gerry Gallagher, Nomvula Hadi and Steve Faulkner (South African Municipal Workers' Union), Saw Kwehsay (Burma Issues/Peace Way Foundation), and from Columbia, Mariano Jose Guerra Diaz (FENALTRASE/National Federation of Public Sector Workers).

Evening forums on pension, youth, equality, health and safety and global justice issues promise rousing discussion and some special guests. And a few have entertainment. Watch this space for details.

Five CUPE members will be recognized this week for their outstanding activism: women's issues (Grace Hartman Award), literacy, health and safety, membership communications, and disability rights.

Let us entertain you

CUPE's cultural program showcases some of the best artistic talent and diversity that Québec and CUPE have to offer. You'll experience everything from folk to Brazilian rhythms, hip hop and spoken word to didgeridoo and dance music.

Join the choir, convention drumming, or tour the thought-provoking Squat Polaire, an art installation on climate change by Québec's ATSA (Action Terroriste Socialement Acceptable).

CUPE's gone green



You'll notice less paper, plastic and fewer giveaways in the gallery and throughout this convention. CUPE's going green by promoting ecologically-friendly practices. While zero waste isn't possible, reduce, reuse and recycle are the focus. For more about going green, visit the environment booth in the gallery or check cupe.ca.

We're online at **cupe.ca/convention**

Talking with or emailing members back home? Make sure to tell them they can follow the best of convention action online at cupe.ca/convention with our live audio feed, Twitter, podcasts and video interviews.

Calling all **CUPE communicators!**

Do you produce a newsletter or take care of the website? You are invited to attend the Communicators' Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 6.

Morning videos

Twenty minutes before the daily convention call, watch members in action from your convention hall seat.

Monday

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| 9:10 a.m. | Hold the Line
(Windsor Strike) |
| 9:25 a.m. | Olivia Twist & Canadian
Public Libraries |

Tonight

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| 4:00 p.m. | Pension Forum,
room 516de |
| 8:00 p.m. | Delegates' reception,
Grand Salon,
Hyatt Regency |