

CUPE 2011

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION – VANCOUVER

Sunday, October 30

Building our strength and our communities

Welcome to CUPE's 25th national convention. This week will be full of debate, discussion and decision-making that guides our union's direction for the next two years.

Tomorrow, CUPE British Columbia President Barry O'Neill will welcome CUPE members to Vancouver and beautiful BC, where CUPE and HEU members are on the front line protecting public services and building strong communities. The agenda is packed with resolutions, reports and policy discussion. And there's plenty of opportunity to keep the conversation going at forums and caucuses, and through social media.

It's also an election year, as we say thank you and farewell to National Secretary-Treasurer Claude Généreux and choose his successor.

Over the coming days, you will join more than 2,000 delegates to shape CUPE's agenda on behalf of the 610,000 members who are the heart of our communities and the bedrock of our country.

Strategic Directions: A blueprint for the future

This convention's policy paper lays out a strategy that puts CUPE members and our work at the centre of our fight to defend jobs and services. CUPE's plan to tackle growing inequality and the attack on working people will strengthen connections and build capacity in our union and the labour movement; forge deeper and more diverse community alliances; and shine a spotlight on the positive role of CUPE members and public services in our cities and towns. This critical debate begins Tuesday afternoon.

Powerful voices

The inspiring lineup of convention speakers will have you on your feet and ready for action. It includes Stephen Lewis, Distinguished Visiting Professor at Ryerson University; Nycole Turmel, interim leader of the official opposition and the NDP; Council of Canadians national chairperson Maude Barlow, and Canadian Labour Congress president Ken Georgetti. We'll also pay tribute to Jack Layton and Nancy Riche, honouring their incredible advocacy for workers and social justice – and pledging to continue their work for a better world.

Our convention will also welcome international guests Dukens Raphaël (Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers, Haiti), Margarita López (SINTRACUAVALLE, representing water workers in Cali, Colombia), Eleanor Smith and Nick Sigler (UNISON, the UK public sector union), Candice Owley (Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals), Burmese human rights activists Aung Naing Soe (Nationalities Youth Forum) and Mi Aie Son (Mon Youth Progressive Organization), as well as Junéia Batista and Mark Langevin (Public Services International).

Cultural program moves and shakes

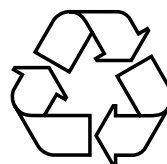
Prepare to be moved – and mobilized – by CUPE's cultural program. It's a lively mix of cultures and musical styles including folk, Persian, First Nations, Afro-Cuban, Chinese-Western fusion, DJ and vocal performances. You can be part of the soundtrack for our struggle by joining the convention choir, or the drumming group.



Something to tweet about

CUPE is mobilizing the power of social media to engage members, locals and staff at convention and across the country. Get involved through Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and cupe.ca. Download a social media guide at cupe.ca/convention2011 and join the conversation. The official convention Twitter hashtag is **#CUPE2011**.

Greening convention



CUPE is working to reduce waste and minimize our convention's carbon footprint. There's a new virtual gallery,

which showcases documents from CUPE and other exhibitors and cuts paper use. You can browse the virtual gallery at cupe.ca/virtual-gallery. Gallery giveaways are limited, and can't be plastic. Beyond the gallery, we're encouraging recycling and re-use throughout the convention.

Hey communicators!

Do you work on your local newsletter or website? You're invited to a special breakfast for CUPE communicators from 8 to 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 1 in room 118-119-120. We'll share strategies to reach your members, and celebrate the CUPE's communications award winners.

Morning videos

Grab a coffee and head to the main convention hall to watch labour videos from across the country. The daily show starts 20 minutes before the convention call.

Tonight

4:00 p.m.	Pension forum, room 114-115
8:00 p.m.	Delegates' reception, Westin Bayshore, Grand Ballroom