

Newsletter

CUPE will fight right-wing agenda across Canada

Aug 7, 2018 (Source: cupe.ca)

Charles Fleury | National Secretary-Treasurer



CUPE members face many challenges across the country.

With the election of Doug Ford's Conservative right-wing government in Ontario, our members face even more challenges. Ford promises to cut six billion dollars from the provincial budget to eliminate "inefficiencies," to scrap the 15-dollars-an-hour minimum wage and to eliminate the cap-and-trade system for carbon emissions, among other things. The new Ontario premier is also considering privatizing the sale and distribution of alcohol and cannabis.

CUPE will defend our public services and keep decent paying jobs in our communities. We oppose governments who cut public services and implement austerity measures. We know public services are the great equalizers in our society. We push back when governments and employers want to cut jobs, reduce salaries, working conditions and take aim at retirement security. We campaign to derail privatization and contracting out. We say no when concessions and two-tier proposals are presented at the bargaining table. We stand up against precarious work, violence, harassment, discrimination and racism in the workplace. We defend our members' right to strike and their bargaining power against anti-union legislation.

Every day is full of challenges for CUPE members. But because we have managed our finances very carefully, we have the resources to take these governments and employers on. This year, our General Fund budget includes the highest number of new staff positions in many years. Our Defence Fund budget has more money for organizing, restructuring votes and campaigns. Our Strike Fund is 97 million dollars strong. This is the power of CUPE, a pan-Canadian union of 665,000 members. Our union is on a solid financial foundation.

CUPE National will continue to be with you in all your fights. Each and every CUPE member will benefit from our collective strength for years to come.

Inside this issue

CUPE will fight	1
Know Your Contract	2
Filipino trade union leader.....	3
Pics from June Meeting	3
1919 General Strike.....	4
CUPE represents WestJet	5
President's Message.....	6

SAVE THIS DATE

CUPE Local 744 will hold its next General meeting on Saturday, November 24, 2018 at the ANAVETS Hall, 3584 Portage Ave.

**Meeting starts at 10 am.
Come early for breakfast.
Local Executive Committee meeting starts at 9 am.**



Bob Guenther, Steve Magian, Kevin Rebeck and several hundred other folks at the Labour Day March on September 3rd, 2018

CUPE Manitoba President, Terry Egan, Steps Down

On the advice of his doctors, family and friends, in July, 2018 CUPE MB President, Terry Egan stepped down. He was elected president at the CUPE MB Convention in 2017.

As President, Bro. Terry was part of the fight against healthcare cuts, the successful fight against P3 schools and the fight for better wages, pensions and benefits for CUPE members and the wider Labour movement.

According to CUPE MB Bylaws the Presidency will go to 1st Vice President, Gord Delbridge.

Getting To Know Your Collective Agreement

If you are applying for a different job within the Division that is covered by our Collective Bargaining Agreement you need to be aware of **Article 10 - Staff Changes**.

The employer will post CUPE job vacancy notices for a minimum of working 5 days prior to the posting's closing date. Working days do not include Saturday, Sunday or recognized General Holidays as outlined in Article 16 of the CBA. During the school year job vacancy notices will be posted in the Division's offices and shops and on a board in each school. From July 1st to August 31st job notices will only be posted in the Board Office and Division website. If you are considering a change it is recommended you regularly monitor the Division's website.

When a position becomes vacant it is to be posted by the Division within 10 working days after the vacancy happens.

It is important to remember that, under our Contract, if you are the successful applicant you can return to your previous position, but you must do so **before** the closing date of your previous position's vacancy notice. This means you would have, **at most**, 10 days in your new job to make that decision. In many cases however, the closing dates happen on, or close to, the date you start your new job. This will leave you with minimal, or no time to change your mind.

Filipino trade union leader visits Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Aug 7, 2018 (source: cupe.ca)

Guy Marsden | CUPE Representative



CUPE strongly believes that our power to fight back against privatization of public services, cutbacks to operating budgets and attacks on workers' rights is strengthened through the relationships we build with workers in other workplaces struggling for common causes. This includes workers in other countries.

Robert Mendoza, President of the Alliance of Health Workers in the Philippines, recently visited Saskatchewan and Manitoba. His visit is just the latest example of CUPE's global justice work and alliance-building with unions and workers in countries across the world.

Mendoza toured health care facilities in both provinces and spoke at public meetings. Through these visits and presentations, he spoke about the struggles facing health care workers and trade unionists in the Philippines – budget cuts to public hospitals, rampant privatization, “contractualization” or precarious work where many health care workers receive no benefits and have minimal job security. Currently, out-of-pocket spending accounts for 57 per cent of health expenditures in the Philippines and results in poverty and poor health for most Filipinos.

Mendoza also spoke of the many campaigns and mobilization efforts his union and others are undertaking to fight back, including the People's Health Agenda for free, comprehensive and progressive health services for all citizens.

The Filipinos struggle to secure quality health care is something Canadian workers can relate to, since we face the common foes of privatization and growing inequality. CUPE is committed to continuing its global solidarity work with allies around the world.

June 23, 2018 General Meeting



Past President, John Marsh (right) accepts a memento of appreciation for all his work for and on behalf of Local 744.



Steve Magian (left), our 2018 Scholarship recipient, Alfred Dabalos, proud Dad, Alfredo Dabalos and Randy Palmer, Recording Secretary.



Retiring Local Executive Members, Susan Reynolds-Masnyk (left) and Greg Lefurgy (right).

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike

(source: /www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/winnipeg-general-strike/)

The Winnipeg General Strike, 15 May - 25 June 1919, is Canada's best-known general strike. Massive unemployment and inflation, the success of the Russian Revolution in 1917, and rising Revolutionary Industrial Unionism all contributed to the postwar labour unrest that fuelled the landmark strike.

In March 1919 western labour leaders met in Calgary to discuss the creation of One Big Union. In Winnipeg on 15 May, when negotiations broke down between management and labour in the building and metal trades, the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council (WTLC) called a general strike. At stake were the principle of collective bargaining, and better wages and working conditions. Within hours almost 30,000 workers left their jobs. The almost unanimous response by working men and women closed the city's factories, crippled Winnipeg's retail trade and stopped trains. Public-sector employees, including policemen, firemen, postal workers, telephone operators and employees of waterworks and other utilities, joined the workers of private industry in an impressive display of solidarity.

The strike was coordinated by the Central Strike Committee, composed of delegates elected from each of the unions affiliated with the WTLC. The committee bargained with employers on behalf of the workers and coordinated the provision of essential services.

Meanwhile, opposition to the strike was organized by the Citizens' Committee of 1,000, created shortly after the strike began. The committee was made up of Winnipeg's most influential manufacturers, bankers and politicians. Rather than giving the strikers' demands any serious consideration, the Citizens' Committee, with the support of Winnipeg's leading newspapers, declared the strike a revolutionary conspiracy led by a small group of "alien scum." Though evidence failed to support its charges that the strike was initiated by European workers and Bolsheviks, the Citizens' Committee used these unsubstantiated charges to block any conciliation efforts.

Afraid the strike would spark confrontations in other cities, the federal government decided to intervene. Soon after the strike began, Senator Gideon Robertson, minister of labour, and Arthur Meighen, minister of the interior and acting minister of justice, went to Winnipeg to meet with the Citizens' Committee. They refused requests from the Central Strike Committee for a similar hearing. On Citizens' Committee's advice, the federal government swiftly supported the employers. Federal workers were ordered to return to work immediately or face dismissal. The Immigration Act was amended so British-born immigrants could be deported. The Criminal Code's definition of sedition was also broadened. (Continued on page 5)



Main Street at McDermot Avenue, Winnipeg, 1919

1919 Winnipeg General Strike (continued from page 4)

On 17 June the government arrested 10 leaders of the Central Strike Committee and two propagandists from the newly formed One Big Union. Four days later, a charge by Royal North-West Mounted Police into a crowd of strikers resulted in 30 casualties, including one death. Known as “Bloody Saturday”, it ended with federal troops occupying the city’s streets. Six of the labour leaders were released, but Fred Dixon and J.S. Woodsworth arrested. Faced with the combined forces of the government and the employers, the strikers decided to return to work on 25 June.

The General Strike left a legacy of bitterness and controversy among organized labour groups across Canada. It sparked a wave of increased unionism and militancy, and sympathetic strikes erupted in centres from Amherst, Nova Scotia to Victoria, British Columbia.

Seven Winnipeg strike leaders were eventually convicted of a conspiracy to overthrow the government and sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to two years. The charges against Woodsworth were dropped. It would take another three decades before Canadian workers secured union recognition and collective bargaining rights.

“On behalf of all 665,000 CUPE members across Canada, it’s an honour to welcome WestJet flight attendants into our CUPE family,”

CUPE cleared for takeoff to represent WestJet flight attendants

Aug 1, 2018 (source cupe.ca)

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has been issued an interim certification by the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB) to represent 3,000 mainline flight attendants at WestJet. With the majority of WestJet flight attendants having signed cards in support of unionization, CUPE filed an application for certification on July 9.

“On behalf of all 665,000 CUPE members across Canada, it’s an honour to welcome WestJet flight attendants into our CUPE family,” said CUPE National President Mark Hancock. “CUPE is Canada’s flight attendant union, and we’re ready to hit the ground running in support of WestJetters as they push for a strong contract to make their work lives better.”

CUPE has been working with WestJetters for the past year to deliver strong union representation for WestJet flight attendants and is now officially recognized as the bargaining agent for over 3,000 WestJet flight attendants nationwide.

With the addition of WestJet mainline, CUPE now represents roughly 15,000 flight attendants nationwide.

This increases CUPE’s ability to address industry-wide issues facing all of Canada’s flight attendants.

“CUPE has the resources, the experience, and the expertise to get WestJetters the fair treatment and improved working conditions that they deserve,” said CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer Charles Fleury. “We could not be more excited to get to work with our new members.”

Now that mainline WestJet flight attendants are certified, CUPE will work with WestJetters to build the network of advocates they need in the workplace and bargain their first ever collective agreement.

CUPE’s efforts to unionize flight attendants at WestJet’s regional carrier, Encore, and low-cost carrier, Swoop, are also ongoing



President's Message

Sisters, Brothers and Friends,

With a rousing rendition of "O Canada" by students the 2018/2019 school year got underway. It is hard to believe how quickly we got here. Hopefully everyone had a great summer. This year will be a busy one for the Local: Our Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) expires on February 28, 2019 so we will soon be going into contract negotiations with the employer. The Local Executive Committee will confirm the members of the 2019 Negotiating Committee shortly and those folks will become involved in training and strategic planning. In early November a survey will be sent to members seeking your direction/input on proposed changes to our CBA. I strongly urge everyone to complete, and submit, the survey. Your thoughts matter and the more you are involved with your Local the stronger our Union is.

Bob Guenther, John Marsh and I will be attending the upcoming CUPE Educational Sector Conference in lovely Dauphin, MB. It is an excellent opportunity for all CUPE Locals representing educational workers in Manitoba to discuss current issues and upcoming negotiations. Bob will be attending specific training provided by CUPE MB for Local Financial Officers and there is an upcoming Workplace Health and Safety Conference being put on by the Manitoba Federation of Labour that Dale Gibson will be attending. Additionally, Randy Palmer will be attending a conference for our pension plan. The website will soon be "under construction" as we change and update it. The new format will work much better on your phone. Work on a "Member's Handbook" is progressing and, once complete, will be made available to all members as well as form part of a welcome package for new members. We are also engaging with the employer about concerns raised by members.

There is a lot to do and the Executive Team is up to the challenge. I would like to close by asking everyone to get out and vote in the upcoming civic election. Unions seek out candidates who support Labour because we are voting in our bosses. Something to consider before casting your ballot is the candidate's support of, and for, working people.

Steve

Local Executive Committee

2018

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Sergeant at Arms	Ken Peters
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