



## CUPE Convention 2017

Last week members of your locals from YYZ, YUL and YYC, as well as members from the Component and other airlines, in addition to 2200 delegates from locals representing over 651 000 CUPE Canadian workers, attended CUPE National Convention here in Toronto. This meeting takes place every 2 years to set the strategic directions CUPE National will take. As usual, the members of the Airline Division sat up front to be close to all the action.

Each local can submit resolutions to bring to the floor. This year there were over 330 resolutions submitted, among them the three from our local. Many of the resolutions submitted are similar in nature and intent, and show that CUPE members coast to coast are



concerned with the same things – health care, violence in the workplace, aboriginal issues, pensions, privatization, just to name a few. Many resolutions pass unopposed. There were several that elicited passionate debate, among them the right to strike pay from day one (passed) and the addition of diversity presidents to the National Executive Board. (defeated) Delegates approved a resolution to create a Task Force on Governance which will review the structure of our union as laid out in the constitution. Our governance structure has not changed significantly since our inception as a



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10:00am to 4:00pm

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union in 1963, despite the substantial growth and changes in our membership in the intervening 54 years, and this assessment is long overdue. Another very important motion that passed was for CUPE to establish a National Transport Committee to allow members from transportation locals across the country to meet to discuss important issues, strategize and develop solutions for the problems our sector faces. Your local delegates were very busy at the mic speaking out about these issues : Michelle Duhaney spoke out on airport privatization, Lillian Speedie & Victoria Primavera raised concerns about the strategic directions document and Garnet Colly spoke out on pensions.



In addition, elections for the National Executive Board members took place, presided over by [Canadian Labour Congress](#) Vice-President Larry Rousseau. [Mark Hancock](#) was reelected President, with [Charles Fleury](#) acclaimed as Secretary Treasurer. Vice Presidents and Trustees were also elected, see the [CUPE National website](#) for the full list of names.

Every CUPE National Committee gave a video and written report about their activities over the past two years. The Committees were dissolved and applications are now being accepted for the next two year committee terms. The deadline is November 24 and any CUPE member can apply, if you are interested you can apply [here](#).

The House also worked on the Strategic Directions document, which outlines CUPE's concerns, goals and plans over the next two year period. This, and the documents and other reports presented at Convention, are all available on the CUPE National website.

Various awards were given out as well. The local nominated our retired sister Sheri Cameron for the Grace



Hartman Award and we also nominated our website for best content. While we did not win any awards, we were very happy to see the awesome work done by the recipients, and are inspired to do more going forward. A special thank you to Sheri Cameron, who worked in the local office while we were at Convention, Thanks for holding down the fort!



It wasn't all work. CUPE National invited many interesting key note speakers and entertainers to the floor to address the delegates. [Janice Jo Lee](#) and [Piper Hayes](#) provided the crowd with a rousing version of Bread and Roses to open the convention. In honour of the more than 4000 missing and murdered indigenous women, Jade Brown and Amanda Gould was a powerful live dance and multimedia performance followed later in the day by a vigil. There was also a rally against violence in the workplace and various caucuses at lunch. Among the speakers was Stephen Lewis, who spoke about tuberculosis and the indigenous population in the North. Nesrine Malik, columnist at the Guardian, spoke about how we sometimes play an unconscious role in maintaining a hierarchy which works against our own best self interest, and how we cannot afford to be polite and look the other way in the face of injustice. Dalia Awanda, anti-racism activist, spoke of the difference between islamophobia and a genuine religious critique. Economist Armine Yalnizyan spoke of hope in times of despair, as the crisis we face now is not unlike the economic crisis in the past, and the need for all members of society to weigh in on issues that affect our lives such as childcare, housing and tax reform. On the last day the newly elected Leader of the Federal NDP

Jagmeet Singh brought his message of love and courage to the convention floor. A highlight of the convention was when the youth camp, children of the delegates who had been in child care all week, came to the floor to present the members with a synopsis of the educational activities and field trips they had engaged in while in child care all week. It is always inspiring to see young people curious, engaged and learning about social and labour issues.



There was also a CUPE Village where committees displayed their work, offered training materials, information and of course, swag! For a chance to win a bag full of CUPE swag, including a water bottle, scarf, coffee mug, posters, pens, etc go to the CUPE National website and to find the answer to the following question : ***What is the name of CUPE's 2017-2019 Strategic Directions document?***

Send your answer to [Lillian@local4092.ca](mailto:Lillian@local4092.ca) to win!

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