

## CUPE BC 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Report from Olivia Anderson, Vice President CUPE 410

Great convention-approximately 600 delegates got lots of work got done with more than 50 resolutions passed. Thanks to the membership for sending me. Below find highlights with links to more information on the website.

### **Action Plan**

Will guide the next year of work: reaffirms a commitment to solidarity within CUPE and with the broader labour movement and a continued focus on strengthening links with communities and supporting local economies. CUPE BC will continue work to protect public services and fight public private partnerships, to elect progressive governments, to increase the minimum wage and improve retirement security and pensions, and to support greater equality and inclusion for all workers

### **Resolution highlights**

- Tax fairness- stop HST
- environment received high priority with delegates passing resolutions on reducing CUPE's carbon footprint and working to have breast cancer included as an occupational disease
- lobby for improved funding for community social services, libraries, colleges and public schools, including an emergency resolution on the crisis in public education funding.
- BC government to halt the task force created to change the Local Government Act, which is proposing changes that undermine democracy
- International issues were also addressed, focusing on the need for improved Haitian relief efforts and the need to restore full democracy to Haiti, as well as opposition to the Canada-Columbia Free Trade agreement. CUPE BC will also lobby government to declare water a human right. CUPE pledged \$20,000 to Haiti in cheque handed to union leader.

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/news/videos/1340>

Speakers:

CUPE President Paul Moist :

- acknowledged Year of the Steward and thanked them for their efforts

- celebrated the work done on defeating P3 in the CRD water treatment plan

Secretary-treasurer Mark Hancock

- CUPE BC is growing, with 157 locals and more than 80,000 members – an increase of almost 3,000 over last year.
- the General Fund, the Defence Fund, and the Colleen Jordan Humanity Fund are strong

Resolution Highlights

- stop the HST
- Emergency resolution calls for action to address funding crisis in K-12 CUPE calls for an emergency summit on the crisis in public education funding

Highlights from guest speakers: Jack Layton, Carol James, Jim Sinclair and Dukens Raphael

**Carol James** Leader of Provincial NDP

- first act would be an immediate increase to B.C.'s \$8 minimum wage and the elimination of the Liberals' \$6 per hour "training wage."

**Jack Layton** Leader of the Federal NDP

- focused on several key issues of importance to all CUPE members primarily retirement security and strengthening public services

**Jim Sinclair** BC Federation of Labour

- Young workers, Liberal cuts to education, be active in next election, raise minimum wage, protect farm workers

**Dukens Raphael**, secretary-general of Haiti's Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers

- called for greater solidarity—not charity—between international civil society organizations and the people they're trying to help. Lauded CUPE for "the kind of solidarity that shows respect for us as the citizens we truly are. You contacted us to ask us what our needs were."

- Raphael said that the problem with most international aid is that a lot of the money that flows into developing countries like Haiti doesn't get to the people who need it most.

"Within your community there has been much fundraising," he said. "My call to you is to ask that, notwithstanding all the international structures in place, to think of what kind of bilateral relationships can be set." Check out

<http://cupe.ca/donations/haitian-labour-leader-calls-solidarity>

Part of strong communities initiative:

CUPE BC members at work- any ideas for library worker videos?

<http://www.cupe.bc.ca/news/videos/1251>