

Convention 2010 Coffee Break News

Agenda Highlights Thursday, April 22, 2010

CONVENTION RECONVENES

9:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

11:30 a.m.

Paul Moist, National President

2:30 p.m.

ACTION PLAN

3:00 p.m.

Claude Généreux, National Secretary-Treasurer

5:00 p.m.

Election Forum: 3-Year Trustee

6:00 p.m.

CARD Equality Event

Cypress Room, 34th Floor

7:00 p.m.

Young Workers Cruise

New Westminster

8:00 p.m.

District Council Hospitality Suites

34th Floor, various rooms



We need to work together to recapture our communities: O'Neill

CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill opened the union's 47th annual convention last night with a passionate plea for delegates to join forces with other unions and activists in their communities to defend public services and resist the BC Liberal government's privatization agenda.

O'Neill said that the high esteem CUPE members already enjoy in our communities gives CUPE a leg up when it comes to convincing the general public of the values of public services and the folly of P3s and privatization.

O'Neill cited examples, including the Capital Regional District, where CUPE activists won the debate to defend public services.

"In Port Moody, they made the case for why we should bring

those garbage services back in house. The light at the end of the tunnel is our members."

O'Neill said that CUPE members' connection with their local governments and community businesses is an opportunity to influence public discussion surrounding provincial cutbacks.

The CUPE BC president closed by urging members to help "stop the insanity" of Liberal cuts to education, social service programs, and direct government services.

"We really can turn this around," said O'Neill. "We need to turn this around. We need our collective strength. I'm counting on you starting from this week, to say we are going to take this province back. It's going to be difficult, but my friends, it's worth it."



"This year's theme is a good one because the

message personalizes what CUPE is, and it makes you feel connected - it says that everybody has a voice."

Kara Taylor

Administrative Assistant
CUPE 3799, University
of Northern BC

Warm welcome for our new delegates

First timers got a warm Convention welcome from CUPE BC officers yesterday.

At the new delegates' seminar, president Barry O'Neill reminded the more than 60 new delegates that "this is your Convention." He added that "it's called a Convention, but really what it is is your meeting to decide our direction over the next year – what we as a union are going to do."

Secretary-treasurer Mark Hancock, regional vice-president Colin Pawson, and Union Development representative Greg Burkitt explained how things work at Convention.

Among the new delegates were representatives from three new CUPE BC Locals. The Locals represent 270 members from the Quesnel school district (CUPE 4990), 57 trades workers from the Prince George School District (CUPE 4991) and 300 operational



CUPE 4991 president Brian Trotter (right) and shop steward Glen Thompson (left).

staff (CUPE 4951) at the College of New Caledonia.

CUPE 4991 president Brian Trotter and shop steward Glen Thompson arrived, registered and headed straight to the seminar.

Trotter said one word describes their feeling about joining CUPE – "ecstatic." He said, "Our members voted 100 per cent to join CUPE and we are very happy to be here."



Stewards' qualities, commitment highlighted at convention forum



MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES WELCOMED—More than 70 delegates showed up at yesterday's Year of the Steward forum. Delegates agreed that a good steward has qualities of patience, compassion, loyalty, knowledge, good communication and listening skills.

Today Canadians will join millions of people in more than 180 countries in eco-friendly activities and events promoting a clean and healthy environment.

CUPE members are leading environmental action at work and in their communities.

Stop by the environment committee booth and check out green activities and events for today and every day. Enter your name to win some great green prizes. Please take some colouring contest forms back to your families and Locals for kids to enter the Kids Poster Contest. The deadline for entries is May 28, 2010.