

Convention 2010



Coffee Break News

Agenda Highlights
Wednesday, April 21, 2010

CONVENTION CONVENES
 7:30 p.m.

WELCOME GREETINGS
 Rose Pointe, Musqueam Elder
 Gregor Robertson,
 Mayor of Vancouver
 Ken Robinson, HEU president
 Irene Lanzinger, BCTF president

CONVENTION VIDEO
Our Members – Our Strength

OPENING ADDRESS
 Barry O'Neill, President

ADJOURNMENT
 9 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION
 Plaza Ballroom
 (Georgia A & B)

Our Members – Our Strength

47th annual convention opens



SHOWING THE WAY—This month, CUPE BC launched its online member videos project featuring Colin Pawson of CUPE 1091, Valarie Nickel of CUPE 873-02 and Tracy Weldon of CUPE 23 (pictured right). Check out the videos at www.cupe.bc.ca/archive/videos

VANCOUVER – With its membership numbers growing and its financial house in order, CUPE BC kicks off its 47th annual convention tonight with the resources and activist commitment necessary to meet the challenges of a tough bargaining year.

This year's convention, which kicks off at 7:30 p.m. at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel, is themed **Our Members – Our Strength**. More than 550 CUPE delegates from throughout the province are gathering in B.C.'s largest city this week to debate issues that affect all of the union's 80,000 members.

Among several key issues delegates will be voting on is an emergency resolution dealing with the fund-

ing crisis facing school districts throughout B.C.

The resolution calls for the union to lobby the provincial government to convene an emergency summit bringing together the education partners and commission an independent assessment of the government's claim of the 'highest funding ever' for B.C. schools.

O'Neill's opening night address will be preceded by a 12-minute video that highlights the efforts of CUPE members to defend public services, including a glimpse of the ambulance paramedics strike and the successful campaign for public sewage treatment facilities in the Capital Regional District.



"I'm an old hand at Convention and I really like the theme. Every job is very

valuable – whether you're a bus driver or a custodian, or an education assistant – we all play a very important role in the education and development of our children."

Ray White, Bus Driver
 CUPE 4165, Southeast Kootenays
 Winner, Association of School Transportation Services of BC's School Bus Driver of the Year

Haitian activist to bring thanks, update



This year's international guest speaker is **Dukens Raphael**, secretary-general of Haiti's Confederation of Public and Private Sector Workers. The leader of Haiti's largest union will bring greetings

from his earthquake-ravaged country, and a message of gratitude for international support in the relief effort. Mr. Raphael is expected to provide an update on humanitarian relief efforts since the January 12 quake.

The other guest speakers are federal New Democratic Party leader **Jack Layton**, BC New Democratic Party leader **Carole James** and BC Federation of Labour president **Jim Sinclair**. CUPE National president **Paul Moist** and CUPE National secretary-treasurer **Claude G n reux** will present their annual reports.

Political action high on convention agenda

If this year's resolution count is any indication, CUPE members want to see their union more involved—not less—in political action.

CUPE BC's Resolutions committee received 167 resolutions by deadline. Political action accounts for 22 of them, while 18 deal with national union issues such as union-wide mentoring, rep training, successorship, national childcare policy and grievance tracking software that's accessible to locals. Another 14 resolutions deal with education issues, while provincial government resolutions account for a dozen and health issues for ten.



HEROIC EFFORT—CUPE BC division staffers Lori Watt, Merridith Porter, Shirley Loftus, Sian Bergen, Brenda Dane, and Leslie-Anne Howcraft spent countless hours sorting through a mountain of paper to prepare 650 binders for convention.

Steward training gets a revamp

CUPE National president Paul Moist was scheduled to welcome guests and CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill to speak at today's Year of the Steward forum (3-4 p.m.).

Throughout the country, CUPE's Year of the Steward program is revamping the union's basic and advanced steward training significantly, says Union Development representative Greg Burkitt.

"The members have asked us to update our approach to steward training, to make it more user-friendly," says Burkitt. "The three-hour modules we've developed give locals more flexibility to run workshops during the week, and allow district councils to pick and choose which modules they want to do at their council schools, so members can work toward their certificates."

Delegates support Passage Transition House

Give yourselves a pat on the back: CUPE BC's call to support Passage Transition House in Smithers resulted in a deluge of "care package" items from Convention delegates.

Passage Transition House, run by the Northern Society of Domestic Peace, is the only transition house in the Northern Interior. Since 1989, it has offered a safe and supportive emergency residential and drop-in service in the Bulkley Valley for women and children experiencing domestic violence, abuse and/or crises in their lives.

Delegates provided necessities such as sheets and pajamas, towels, toothbrushes, socks, slippers and mittens as well as colouring books and small toys.

For more information about Passage Transition House, visit www.domesticpeace.ca.