

## **CUPE BC 2023 CONVENTION PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Oh, what a year this has been for our Committee. With Pat Shade retiring and new ideas from our members, we have been very busy. We continue with our “*Not All Disabilities Are Visible*” campaign that came out of a resolution at the 2022 Convention, and we continue liaising with the CUPE BC Transportation Committee to get Transit to reinforce disability-accessible seating on all forms of transit. We are also liaising with the CUPE BC Skilled Trades Committee to determine supports for people with disabilities that are interested in working in skilled trades, or people who are already working in skilled trades and have become disabled.

We have rack cards stating our campaign available at our *Persons with Disabilities* table, along with buttons and thick pens (able to grip with restricted hand ability). Please wear and use these items as much as possible to spread the word about invisible disabilities.

We will be hosting a Persons with Disabilities and Allies Caucus at the 2023 Convention along with a separate caucus to elect a new Diversity Vice-President Persons with Disabilities and Alternate Vice-President Persons with Disabilities.

With Pat retiring, we will lose a strong (and loud!!) voice in the disability community. He promises to stay in touch and will continue his advocacy work long into the future. Laurie Whyte has been doing a great job of learning to take on that loud voice for disability rights.

At our Persons with Disabilities and Allies Caucus, we will be discussing disability/accessibility/inclusion issues (we want to hear from you about what issues are important to you), encouraging and recruiting committee members for the next term (explaining the application process), as well as discussing issues for the new Committee to follow up on. All are welcome to attend this caucus.

The Election Caucus is for Persons with Disabilities (no allies, unfortunately) to elect the Diversity Vice-President Persons with Disabilities and Alternate Diversity Vice-President Persons with Disabilities. We hope to see all delegates with visible or invisible disabilities at the caucus.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the members that have served with me on the Persons with Disabilities Committee. A huge thank you to my co-chair Laurie Whyte for all her hard work, the invaluable Darci Schmid for keeping me in line and making sure I got stuff done!!! Karen Ranalletta and Trevor Davies for their support of the

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee and always making time to drop into our meetings with suggestions and words of encouragement. To the CUPE BC Executive, it has been an honour to serve with all of you and I hope you all continue the work of our provincial union.

Fight the good fight and remember “No one stands alone in CUPE” and “Not All Disabilities Are Visible”.

Respectfully Submitted:

Pat Shade, Chair, DVP Persons With Disabilities  
Laurie Whyte, Co-Chair, ADVP Persons With Disabilities  
Monica Brady, Recording Secretary  
Yvonne Desabrais  
Allan Henricks  
Ellen Monteith  
Harmony Raine  
Azucena Rudland  
Amber Wynn  
Brittany Gibbons, Young Worker Shadow Appointee  
Sarah Cibart, Staff Advisor  
Dan Gawthrop, Communications Representative  
Darci Schmid, Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted:

March 2023

