

## **CUPE BC 2023 CONVENTION OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The appointed CUPE BC Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Committee met via Zoom on January 20, 2022, in person in October and November 2022, and on January 16, 2023. We have strategized and focused on workplace safety for members dealing with COVID-19, violence in the workplace, Psychological Health and Safety, and other issues related to improving OH&S for all members.

COVID-19 issues continue to be a part of all CUPE members' lives across British Columbia. We are still facing many safety obstacles related to the pandemic. Although safety restrictions have been lifted, safety in the workplace related to communicable diseases continues to impact our members and all workers in BC.

Our Committee has continued to be a resource that informs, educates, and raises awareness for all CUPE members, especially when it comes to the Right to Refuse Unsafe Work. We continue to stay on top of new legislation, to advocate on behalf of workers in BC, and to be a strong voice for all members when new regulations and policy changes come into effect.

We continue to advocate on behalf of our members and apply pressure to WorkSafe BC and our Provincial Government to:

- ensure the continued support of injured workers in BC; and
- change the WorkSafe Act and legislation that will foster hazard prevention and reduce the number of workers being injured or killed as a result of a workplace incident.

We continue to watch and ensure that there is a continued commitment to improve the working conditions for CUPE BC members and all workers in BC.

Establishing a safe working environment at our worksites through a Psychological Health and Safety plan continues to be a focus for our Committee. We will continue to advocate and lobby WorkSafe BC and our Provincial Government for legislation to focus on better, safer working environments and conditions. We need Psychological Health and Safety training and education for our members to deal with their life issues, especially from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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We will also continue advocating for resources and effective policies to protect our members from workplace violence. There should not be any acceptable level of violence for any workers in BC for any reason.

For information and resources on Occupational Health and Safety in BC, please visit the CUPE BC website at <https://www.cupe.bc.ca>.

### Respectfully submitted:

Henry Lee, Co-Chair  
Martha Higgins, Recording Secretary  
Amandeep Cheema  
Nicole (Nikki) Cooke  
Cody Dillabough  
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Lisa Medynski  
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March 2023

