

2022 CUPE BC CONVENTION | SPEAKER BIOS

Karen Ranalletta

President, CUPE BC Division



Karen Ranalletta was elected President of CUPE BC on May 21, 2021, after serving three terms as a General Vice President. She previously served as President of CUPE 2950, representing more than 1,500 clerical and library workers at the University of British Columbia. Karen represents CUPE BC as an Officer (Vice President) of the BC Federation of Labour and chairs the BC Federation of Labour Health and Safety Committee. She also chaired the CUPE BC Universities and Young Workers Committees and is a member of the

CUPE National Post-Secondary Task Force. Finally, she sits on the Board of Directors for the BC Labour Heritage Centre – an organization dedicated to preserving and championing working people's history in BC.

Trevor Davies

Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE BC Division



Trevor Davies was elected Secretary-Treasurer on December 10, 2015 and is the former President of CUPE Local 374. Prior to being elected as Secretary-Treasurer, Trevor worked as the Occupational Health and Safety Advisor for the City of Colwood. In addition, Trevor previously served as a Trustee on the BC Municipal Pension Plan and currently serves on the Board of Directors of Pacific Blue Cross, a role that includes his chairing of their investment committee. Trevor has traveled across BC and internationally

working on health and safety projects for workers and youth. Davies is an alumnus of the University of Victoria, the Labour College of Canada, and the Governor General Leadership Conference.

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Jackie Albany

Elder, Songhees Nation Chief and Council



Councillor Jackie Albany was elected to Songhees Nation Chief and Council in 2015 for a 2-year term and re-elected in 2017 for a 4-year term and re-elected again in 2021 for another 4-year term. Jackie also serves as a “Treaty Negotiator” in the BC Treaty Process for the Songhees Nation.

Before becoming a Councillor, Jackie was the Band Administrator for the Songhees Nation for 25 years. She comes from a long line of leaders in her family, including her father late Chief John Albany who served as Chief for 32 consecutive years.

Premier John Horgan
Government of British Columbia



As Premier of British Columbia since 2017, John Horgan's leadership is rooted in a strong sense of family and community as he works to make B.C. better for everyone.

Under his leadership, the B.C. government is working to keep people healthy, safe, and secure through the pandemic and build a strong economic recovery that works for everyone. This includes delivering better health care for you and your family, making life more affordable, and creating good jobs and livelihoods in a clean energy future.

Premier Horgan is a proud husband and father of two, and has lived in Langford, on Vancouver Island, for over 25 years. He has been re-elected four times as MLA since 2005 and represents the riding of Langford-Juan de Fuca. He became leader of the BC NDP in 2014 and was sworn in as Premier of British Columbia on July 18, 2017.

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Mark Hancock

National President, CUPE



Mark Hancock was elected the 6th National President of CUPE in November 2015, following two terms as president and four terms as secretary-treasurer of CUPE BC.

Hancock became a CUPE member in 1984 and served 15 years as president of Local 498 representing Port Coquitlam Municipal Employees. His experience as a local union president and union activist directly inform Hancock's priorities since becoming National President; in particular, giving locals the support they need to make the gains their members deserve at the

bargaining table – and to push back when they're under attack.

At the national level, Hancock has been an outspoken voice for building a fairer and more inclusive economy, and for defending the rights of an increasingly precarious workforce.

Barb Nederpel

**Elections Chair, 2022 CUPE BC Convention
President, Hospital Employees' Union (HEU)**



Barb Nederpel is president of the Hospital Employees' Union, which represents over 50,000 workers in health care settings across BC. HEU members work in acute care, long-term care, assisted living, First Nations health agencies, community health, and community social services.

Barb became an HEU member in 2006, and got involved with her Kamloops-area local as a steward and chair. In 2012 she was elected to the union's Provincial Executive, and she became HEU's first woman president in 2018. She was elected

as a Regional Vice President (RVP) on CUPE National's Executive Board (NEB) alongside CUPE BC President Karen Ranalletta and serves as the NEB liaison to the national Women's Committee. As a firm believer in the importance a progressive government holds to the labour movement, she also sits on the BC NDP executive.

A steadfast advocate for workers' rights and social justice, Barb is excited to have the opportunity to help guide HEU's diversity, equity and inclusion strategy, with a goal to ensure the governance of the union reflects the face of its membership. And her commitment to the critical role of the union local has brought her deep involvement in building member skills and knowledge during this challenging year. She looks forward to a strong and resilient future for HEU and its members.

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Dr. Bonnie Henry

BC Provincial Health Officer



Dr. Bonnie Henry was appointed as Provincial Health Officer for the Province of BC in 2018. As BC's most senior public health official, Dr. Henry is responsible for monitoring the health of all British Columbians and undertaking measures for disease prevention and control and health protection. Most recently, Dr. Henry has led the province's response on the COVID-19 pandemic and drug overdose emergency.

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Cicely Belle Blain

**Facilitator, Build Your Union: Inclusive Governance &
Member Engagement**

Writer, Activist, and Thought Leader



Cicely Belle Blain (they/them) is a Black, mixed, queer non-binary femme from London, United Kingdom now living on the lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh people.

Cicely Belle is noted for founding Black Lives Matter Vancouver and subsequently being listed as one of Vancouver's 50 most powerful people by Vancouver Magazine twice, BC Business's 30 under 30, and one of Refinery29's Powerhouses of 2020.

Cicely Belle founded Bakau Consulting Inc. in 2018 and has grown the company to serve 1000's of clients worldwide - their public speaking, equity consulting and literary prowess has impacted people in Canada, the USA, the UK, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Ecuador, Senegal, South Africa, Eswatini, and many more.

Some of their most notable professional achievements include speaking at the United Nations Summit in Quito, Ecuador, developing an Intersectionality Toolkit for the City of Vancouver and presenting the keynote address for the 2020 graduating ceremony at the University of British Columbia, their alma mater.

Cicely Belle is also an instructor in Executive Leadership at Simon Fraser University, the Editorial Director of Ripple of Change Magazine and the author of *Burning Sugar* (Arsenal Pulp Press and VS Books, 2020).

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Desmond Cole

Keynote Speaker

Journalist, Activist, Author



Desmond Cole is a journalist, activist, and author. He has spent the last ten years reporting and commenting on politics and social justice. He is especially interested in the struggle for Black liberation within Canada. Desmond's work includes ten years of local and national news coverage, five years of radio broadcasting at Newstalk 1010, a disruptive opinion column with the Toronto Star, and an award-winning magazine feature. His first book is the national #1 bestseller *The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power*.

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Candace Rennick

National Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE



Candace Rennick was elected CUPE's National Secretary-Treasurer at our National Convention in November 2021. A lifelong champion of women's rights and equality, Candace was born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, and has been a member of CUPE since she was 16 years old, when she began working at a local long-term care facility. Since then, Candace has served in several leadership roles in CUPE. In 2010, she made history when she was elected Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE Ontario becoming the first woman

and the youngest person ever elected to the position. Today, she represents CUPE as a member of the Canadian Council of the Canadian Labour Congress, and she has also represented CUPE internationally with our global partner, Public Services International.

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Kim Novak

**President, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518
(UFCW 1518)**



For Kim Novak, the heart of the union is its members. She is a passionate advocate for social justice who draws upon her experience as a Safeway clerk in fighting for what's right for members. Although she once considered a future in the legal profession, Kim's job as a summer student for UFCW 1518 showed her the power of organized labour to make a real difference in workers' lives.

After graduating with a degree in history from the University of British Columbia in 2007, Kim worked at

the union in various positions, including communication representative, union representative, director, and Secretary-Treasurer. She was unanimously elected President by the Executive Board in 2019. Kim is committed to bringing about positive change on issues that matter to members through education, engagement, and empowerment. Her long-term goal is to continue building member power in the workplace and for UFCW 1518 to become a leader in human rights and equity, fighting for fairness one member at a time.

Stephanie Smith

President, BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU)



An early childhood educator by profession and social justice advocate by nature, Stephanie Smith became the first woman elected president of the BC General Employees' Union—as well as the union's first president from a sector outside of direct government—in 2014. Stephanie was acclaimed to a second term in 2017 and acclaimed again to a third term in 2021.

Stephanie's election, and re-election, as president is the culmination of her decades of frontline activism in the BCGEU as well as her visionary leadership on issues like expanding workers'

rights and promoting unionization, equity, and inclusion in all worksites and all communities.

Stephanie is a powerful voice for working people in the media as well as on government task forces, committees, and working groups. Her goal is always to create a safe, healthy, and prosperous society that reflects the values of working people: dignity, respect, and opportunity; equity, inclusion, and justice; hope, diversity, and security.

Stephanie is a proud mom of two adult children and a grateful settler on the unceded and stolen territory of the Musqueam Nation in what is now known as Richmond, BC.

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Julian Daly

CEO, Our Place Society



Our Place Society is proud to offer a warm spring welcome as you arrive from across the province to the capital region. It must be significant to see each other in person again. As service providers, we know that you join us in building community.

Please know that your donations will help provide folk facing tough times with three nutritious meals a day for a week at our core drop-in centre. We will also proudly recognize CUPE BC as the official sponsor of the served meal on May 1: International Workers' Day. And, for so many people we serve, it all starts with a meal. From there our trained workers can assist vulnerable folks to select fresh clothing, be treated for foot care and first aid, share their burdens with an empathetic listening ear, join a seniors' group, and/or get help

navigating pathways to shelter, recovery treatment, job readiness programs, and a sense of community.

Thank you for thinking of Our Place "family members" as the grateful recipients of your donation and gifts of unused hygiene items. We appreciate that you share our goal of providing dignity and a sense of belonging to all who come through our open doors at our 12 locations. Enjoy your conference!

Ann Lennarson

CUPE Regional Director in British Columbia



Ann Lennarson is the regional director for CUPE's British Columbia region, managing the day-to-day operations of 10 offices as well as the 100 National staff who provide resources for CUPE's more than 100,000 members in BC. Ann brings approximately 30 years of CUPE experience to her role as RD. Prior to her appointment this summer, she worked in several provinces with many different roles within our union, including as legal and national representative, education rep, mentor, and assistant regional director.

Jagmeet Singh

MP, Burnaby South, Leader of Canada's NDP



Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, Jagmeet Singh is a lawyer, a human rights activist, and a former MPP in Ontario. Jagmeet understands the struggles Canadians are faced with because as a young man, he had to step up and take care of his family. Jagmeet is driven to make sure government delivers for people with stronger services that help create a better future for more people.

« Jagmeet Singh, chef du Nouveau parti démocratique du Canada, est avocat, militant des droits de la personne et ancien député provincial de l'Ontario. Jagmeet comprend les difficultés auxquelles les gens sont confrontés car quand il était jeune homme il a dû s'engager et prendre soin de sa famille. Jagmeet est déterminé à faire en sorte que le gouvernement offre aux gens des services plus solides qui contribuent à créer un avenir meilleur pour un plus grand nombre de personnes. »

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Rina Hadziev

Executive Director, BC Library Association (BCLA)



Rina Hadziev is the Executive Director of the British Columbia Library Association. Rina has been a librarian for over 20 years, most of it spent working in public libraries, which means she's also been a CUPE member for almost half of her life! She's grateful for all that she learned about being a worker and a better supervisor from her union. Rina is passionate about advocating for libraries and library workers, and ensuring all people have equitable access to information, ideas, and works of the imagination.

Teri Mooring

President, BC Teachers' Federation



Teri Mooring brings two decades of classroom experience and another decade as a local and provincial union leader to her current role as President of the BCTF, representing all 49,000 public school teachers across the province.

She taught Grades 6 and 7 in her home community of Quesnel, where she was active in the Quesnel District Teachers' Association, serving as Local President from 2007 to 2013. Teri served on the BCTF Executive Committee as a Member-at-Large for four years, Vice-President for six years, and is

currently in her third year as President.

As well, she served as one of the Federation's lead negotiators in the last round of provincial collective bargaining.

Teri holds a BA from Simon Fraser University and a Master of Education degree from the University of Northern BC.

As a teenager and young adult, Teri worked at the Cariboo Pulp and Paper mill in Quesnel, where her father was the local union president. Her two adult children now live in Dawson Creek with their families, and she has five adorable grandchildren.

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Laird Cronk

President, BC Federation of Labour (BCFED)



Laird Cronk was re-elected to his second term as BCFED President in November 2020. A Red Seal electrician, Laird has been an IBEW Local 230 member for over three decades. He is a board member of the provincial Industry Training Authority, helping to guide the training of BC's skilled trade workers. Laird advocates for the interests of working people as a member of the Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force.