

2023 CUPE BC CONVENTION | SPEAKER BIOS

Karen Ranalletta

President, CUPE BC



Karen Ranalletta was elected President of CUPE BC in May 2021 after serving three terms on the Executive Board as General Vice-President. Karen's involvement began as a member of CUPE 2950, the local representing clerical, library and theatre workers at the University of British Columbia, where she served as president. Karen has participated in a number of CUPE BC committees through the course of her involvement, including terms as chair of the Universities and Young Workers Committees.

In addition to her role as CUPE BC President, Karen serves as the Regional Vice-President – B.C. on the CUPE National Executive Board (NEB). As a member of the NEB, Karen provides a voice for BC members within the National Union's governance structure, which includes serving on the National Safe Union Spaces Working Group and the CUPE National Post-Secondary Task Force.

Karen represents CUPE BC as an Officer (Vice-President) of the BC Federation of Labour, and chairs the Federation's Health and Safety Committee. She also sits on the Board of Directors for the BC Labour Heritage Centre, an organization dedicated to preserving and championing working people's history in British Columbia.

Karen is a strong advocate for public libraries, reading and literacy, and outside of her roles in the labour movement, donates her time to support the arts and theatre community in Vancouver.

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Trevor Davies

Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE BC



Trevor Davies is the Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE BC and is responsible for the Union's administrative and financial operations. Prior to being elected to his current role, Trevor worked as the Occupational Health and Safety Advisor for the City of Colwood, and was the President of CUPE 374, a multi-unit municipal local on southern Vancouver Island.

In addition to his position at CUPE BC, Trevor is also on the Board of Directors for Pacific Blue Cross, a Board Member of Invest Vancouver, and a Trustee on

the Canadian Union of Public Employees Pension Plan. He also previously served on the Board of Trustees for the BC Municipal Pension Plan.

Trevor has a certificate in Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Victoria, and is an alumnus of the Labour College of Canada and the Governor General's Leadership Conference.

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Elder Sam George Jr

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish) Nation



Sam George is the first great grandson to Chief Dan and Amy George; oldest grandson to Les and Rose Thomas; oldest son to Sam Sr and late Wanda.

Sam is from the Tsleil-Waututh (mom's side) and Squamish (father's side) Nations.

Sam has 5 beautiful children and 2 handsome grandsons. Sam currently resides on the Capilano reservation in west Vancouver.

Sam has been a Knowledge Keeper for the Tsleil-Waututh for more than 20 years, and has recently retired from working as an Aboriginal support worker for the Langley school district.

Sam has been sharing hard truths—teaching and sharing at universities, colleges and private corporations for the last couple of years.

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Mark Hancock

National President, CUPE



Mark Hancock was elected CUPE's 6th National President in November 2015, following two terms as President and four terms as Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE BC.

Mark became a CUPE member in 1984, and served fifteen years as President of Local 498 representing Port Coquitlam Municipal Employees.

Mark knows that our greatest asset as a union is the breadth and diversity of our members and the strength of our local unions.

Mark believes CUPE and the labour movement have a pivotal role to play in defending worker's rights and building a fairer and more inclusive economy for everyone in the post-pandemic world.

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Barb Nederpel

Convention Elections Chair; President, Hospital Employees Union



Barb Nederpel (she/her) is a clerk/ care aide from Kamloops-Thompson Local and the President of the Hospital Employees Union. She lives on the unceded territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc.

Barb was elected HEU's first woman president at the Union's 2018 biennial convention. An HEU member since 2006, Barb was first elected to the HEU Provincial Executive in 2012 as Regional Vice-President (Interior), then elected 2nd Vice-President in 2014, and then 1st Vice-President in 2016. Barb served several terms as president of the

Kamloops and District Labour Council and has served on numerous CUPE and B.C. Federation of Labour (BCFED) committees.

As HEU President, Barb represents the Union as a BCFED officer and a CUPE National Executive Board member.

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Candace Rennick

National Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE



Candace Rennick was elected CUPE's National Secretary-Treasurer at the union's 30th National Convention 2021.

Born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, Candace Rennick has been a member of CUPE since she began working at a local long-term care facility when she was 16 years old.

Becoming a local union steward and bargaining committee member at the age of 19, Candace was elected President of CUPE Local 2280 at 22, a position she held for seven years. She was first elected to the CUPE Ontario

Executive Board in 2002, where she served four terms as a Vice-President.

In 2010, Candace made history when she was elected Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE Ontario, becoming the first woman and the youngest person ever elected to the position.

Candace was also a Regional Vice-President on the CUPE National Executive Board, a position she held from 2003 to 2021. During that period she served on a number of national committees, and represented CUPE internationally with the union's global partner, the Public Services International.

As well, Candace is a member of the Canadian Council of the Canadian Labour Congress.

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Martina Boyd

British Columbia Regional Director, CUPE



As Regional Director for CUPE in British Columbia, Martina Boyd manages 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 B.C. Her supervision of the National Union's operations in B.C. includes oversight for all negotiations, litigation, labour relations, and human resources.

Martina's commitment to CUPE members, strong public services, and social justice dates to 2008 when she joined CUPE as a Legal Representative.

As well as representing CUPE members and locals on grievance arbitrations, human rights issues, and various Labour Board matters, she advised directors, specialists, and servicing representatives on a variety of legal issues surrounding CUPE's advocacy work.

Before being appointed Regional Director, Martina served as Legislative Coordinator, where she was responsible for guiding provincial government relations for CUPE BC. In this capacity she worked closely with the Division in securing such improvements to provincial labour law as five days paid sick leave and single step (card check) certification.

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Honourable David Eby Premier of British Columbia



Prior to politics, Premier David Eby's work on human rights and democratic freedoms was recognized by the United Nations Association in Canada, and the B.C. Human Rights Coalition. He was an Adjunct Professor of law at the University of British Columbia, President of the HIV/AIDS Legal Network, and served on the Vancouver Foundation's Health and Social Development Committee. From 2009 to 2013, he also ran the B.C. Civil Liberties Association as Executive Director.

As British Columbia's longest-serving Attorney General in the last 30 years, he got big money out of B.C.'s elections and cracked down on money laundering in casinos and real estate. He took on opioid manufacturers and delivered a first-of-its-kind settlement to hold corporations accountable for the overdose crisis. And he removed legal costs from the ICBC process to reduce car insurance rates by an average of \$400 a year for drivers. Thanks to his leadership as Minister of Housing, thousands of new middle-class homes are now being built all over the province, and hundreds of people experiencing homelessness have been moved from unsafe encampments to more secure housing.

As BC's 37th premier, he hit the ground running, taking immediate action on issues important to people. From rate freezes and credits to help British Columbians with rising prices, to a public safety and prolific offenders plan, to increasing internationally trained doctors and nurses, to protecting renters from evictions and removing barriers to help more build more housing across the province, Premier Eby is continuing to focus on tackling problems impacting British Columbians.

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Jagmeet Singh

Member of Parliament--Burnaby South; Leader, 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.

Recently, Jagmeet and the NDP Caucus delivered the greatest expansion of universal healthcare in generations, with the creation of a new dental care program and concrete steps towards national pharamacare.

Jagmeet is driven to make sure government delivers for people with stronger services that help create a better future for everyone.

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Bea Bruske

President, Canadian Labour Congress



Bea Bruske was elected President of the Canadian Labour Congress at the 29th Constitutional Convention in 2021. She is only the second woman to hold the position.

For more than three decades, Bea has served workers and their families as an activist, workers' advocate, negotiator, community organizer and labour leader. Her experience has served her well as President of CLC in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before her election as President, Bea served as Vice-President of the UFCW

Canada National Council, which sets the strategic direction for the national union and its more than 250,000 members across the country. She had previously served as Secretary-Treasurer for UFCW Local 832, where she was responsible for the largest private-sector union local in Manitoba.

Bea's passion for the rights of working people was ignited in 1987 when she and her UFCW Local 832 co-workers held the line for 125 days to achieve a fair contract at the Westfair grocery chain in Manitoba. Over the next seven years, Bea took on roles as a shop steward, health and safety committee member, and was elected by her fellow members as a vice-president of the Local's executive board. She is a graduate of the University of Manitoba's Labour Studies program.

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Sussanne Skidmore

President, BC Federation of Labour



Sussanne Skidmore was elected BCFED President in 2022 after being elected as the Federation's Secretary-Treasurer in 2018 and again in 2020.

A well-known human rights, social justice and queer rights activist, she served as Executive Vice-President of BCGEU for 5 years. She has co-chaired the BCFED's Human Rights Committee, and is active in the Federation's Women and Gender Rights Committee.

Skidmore is the National Treasurer for the New Democratic Party of Canada, and a Vice-President of the BC NDP.

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Hermender Singh Kailley

Secretary-Treasurer, BC Federation of Labour



Hermender Singh Kailley's first involvement with the labour movement began when he helped organize his fellow Vancouver Fringe Festival workers with IATSE Local 118. After a career change in 2004, he became a member of ILWU Local 502, joining the Executive Board in 2018, and becoming Secretary-Treasurer in 2019.

A first-generation Canadian born to Punjabi parents, Hermender also serves on the Executive Board of the New Westminster and District Labour Council.

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Deanna Fasciani

Executive Director, CoDevelopment Canada



Deanna holds the story of the formation of her consciousness near to her heart, and finds strength in her connection to her ancestors and kin. Her maternal family hails from the *afromestizo* peasantry of Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Her grandfather laboured on cotton and sugar cane plantations and on United Fruit Company's coastal banana plantations.

Deanna obtained a Master of Arts degree in Latin American Studies (LAS) at Simon Fraser University, where she was selected one of SFU's 50 Most

Inspiring Graduate Students in 50 years. Her graduate research focused on non-traditional agricultural exports and changes in labour relations in Costa Rican agricultural cooperatives.

Deanna has worked as a Research Coordinator for a university-based student society, where she organized her worksite. She has participated in labour activism with the United Steelworkers, BC Federation of Labour, and BC General Employee's Union, the latter during her time working for a Member of the Legislative Assembly of BC.

Upon joining CoDevelopment Canada (CoDev) as Executive Director in 2021, Deanna became a proud member of CUPE Local 1004 and currently serves on the CUPE BC International Solidarity and CUPE Global Justice committees. Deanna recognizes the central role that international solidarity plays in advancing popular struggles for the equity and justice, and values CUPE BC's commitment to social justice across borders.

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Rina Hadziev

Executive Director, British Columbia Library Association



Rina Hadziev is the Executive Director of the British Columbia Library Association. Rina has been a librarian for over 22 years, most of it spent working in public libraries, which means she's also been a CUPE member for almost half of her life! Union membership made Rina the worker and supervisor she is today.

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.