



SPEAKER BIOS

FOR THE

CUPE BC CONVENTION

APRIL 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(SPEAKERS LISTED IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Karen Ranalletta _____	4
Trevor Davies _____	5
Elder Sam George _____	6
Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Song Dancers) _____	7
Trish Everett _____	8
Mark Hancock _____	9
Candace Rennick _____	10
Sussanne Skidmore _____	11
Hermender Singh Kailley _____	12
Honourable David Eby _____	13
Rina Hadziev _____	14
Candace Knoll _____	15
Kevin Millsip _____	16
Clint Johnston _____	17
Jagmeet Singh _____	18
Martina Boyd _____	19
April Sims _____	20
Deanna Fasciani _____	21
Bea Bruske _____	22
Barb Nederpel _____	23
Shireen Clark _____	24
WISH Drop-In Centre Society _____	25

KAREN RANALLETTA

President, CUPE BC



Karen Ranalletta was elected President of CUPE's British Columbia and Yukon Division in May of 2021 and is currently serving her second term in the role. Karen's election as CUPE BC's senior officer came after serving three terms as General Vice-President, and four terms as President of CUPE 2950 where she represented more than 1,500 clerical, library, and theatre workers at the University of British Columbia.

Karen is serving her third year as a member of CUPE's National Executive Board, and was elected as a National General Vice-President in 2023 following two years as Regional Vice-President. Karen's National work includes serving on the National Safe Union Spaces Working Group and Political Action Committee.

Outside of her union role, Karen donates her time to supporting the arts community in Vancouver, as well as supporting grassroots organizing and progressive activism. These involvements including serving as a board director for the Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance and as a member of the BC Steering Committee of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

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 Local 374.

In addition to his position at CUPE BC, Trevor is on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Investment Committee for Pacific Blue Cross, and a Trustee on the Canadian Union of Public Employees Pension Plan.

Trevor has a certificate in Environmental and Occupational Health from the University of Victoria; an MBA, with a speciality in Social Enterprise

Leadership, from the University of Fredericton; and is an alumnus of the Labour College of Canada and the Governor General Leadership Conference.

ELDER SAM GEORGE**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.

SPAKWUS SLOLEM (EAGLE SONG DANCERS)

Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)



Spakwus Slolem, (Eagle Song Dancers), are members of the Squamish Nation, geographically located in what is called the Lower Mainland of British Columbia – our traditional territory being the Howe Sound, Vancouver to Whistler area. The Squamish have lived and utilized this area for over 10,000 years, having history traced back to the Great Flood, and an Ice Age.

We are a Coastal people, people of the cedar longhouses, of the

great sea-going canoes, the racing war canoes, People of the Salmon. Our colourful history speaks of things of legend, of deeds of certain members of the Smylaith Tribe (Sasquatch), legends of the Animal Kingdom (i.e., The Raven, Seagull, and Sun), which brings out Teachings of our Squamish People, the History of Takaya, the Wolf Clan, one of our Squamish Family's History.

Spakwus Slolem presentations brings out "Chiax", the protocol and laws of our canoe culture, for our Longhouses. Some of our Elders today still have memories of early years, travelling across the waters in great canoes to visit Family in distant land, and exercising our Chiax. Spakwus Slolem presents a glimpse into this culture through singing/drumming and dance, and audience participation.

A Great Canoe gathering took place in 1993, called "The Gaatuwas", in Bella Bella, B.C., paddlers from the Squamish sea-going Canoe enjoyed the culture so much they decided to continue, and eventually became known as Spakwus Slolem (Eagle Song) , travelling and presenting at venues in Switzerland (jazz festival) , Taiwan (2), Japan (2), across Canada, and locally, as well as Washington State.

Our cultural history is steeped in tradition, spirituality, canoes, family history, legends and stories of our Ancestors. Teachings that we observe today on Tribal Journeys, paddling our sea-going canoes, to visit villages of our coastal relatives. The image of the canoe is from our Squamish Kwxulth Family (Sea-going canoe Family), and is very active on the water.

Spakwus Slolem is pleased and honoured to present songs and dances of yesterday, as well as today, and feel very honoured to represent our People in a good way, as our Ancestors intended.

Huy chewx aa, Wey chewx yuu.

TRISH EVERETT**CUPE Local 3338**

Trish Everett is currently the VP Equity and Inclusion at CUPE 3338 at Simon Fraser University where she works as the Undergraduate Student Advocate. She joined the CUPE family in 2010 as a member, and then President, of CUPE 2278 at the University of British Columbia. She has a PhD in Theatre Studies from UBC where she researched the history of amateur theatre and the arts as tools in Depression-era politics and labour organizing in B.C.

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 workers' rights and building a fairer and more inclusive economy for everyone in the post-pandemic world.

CANDACE RENNICK**National Secretary-Treasurer, CUPE**

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

SUSSANNE SKIDMORE**President, BC Federation of Labour**

Sussanne Skidmore was elected as the BC Federation of Labour (BCFED) president in 2022 after being elected as the federation's secretary-treasurer in 2018 and 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.

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. Hermender is also a Trustee with the Waterfront Industry Pension Plan and the Health & Benefits Plan. A first-generation Canadian born to Punjabi parents, Hermender also serves on the executive board of the New Westminster and District Labour Council.

HONOURABLE DAVID EBY

Premier of British Columbia



Premier David Eby got into public service to tackle big challenges and deliver results.

As B.C.'s Attorney General, David got big money out of politics, cracked down on money laundering, took on opioid manufacturers, and reduced car insurance rates. Under his leadership as housing minister, thousands of homes are being built and hundreds of people experience homelessness are now in more secure housing.

Prior to politics, David was an award-winning lawyer and legal scholar. He started his career on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, defending the homes of low-income people from developers and speculators. From 2009

to 2013, David ran the B.C. Civil Liberties Association as executive director.

David remains grounded in the values he grew up with. He is a proud husband and father with two children, Ezra and Iva. He loves playing with his kids, practicing yoga, and hanging out with his wife Cailey, a family doctor in Vancouver.

As B.C.'s 37th premier, David is working hard to build a better, stronger future for everyone.

RINA HADZIEV**Executive Director, BC Library Association**

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 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.

CANDACE KNOLL**President, Jr. Black Achievement Awards**

Candace Knoll is a former Life Member International Training in Communication (ITC) and a Past President of the Pacific Northwest Region.

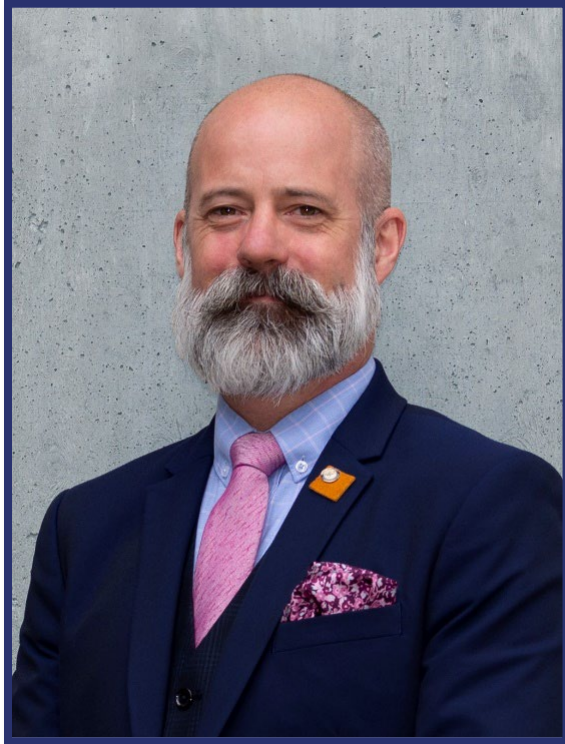
She is a retired Local 1944 USW member, a Past Chair, Shop Steward, Councilor, member of the USW National Anti-Racism Committee, as well as a Past Chair of the National Civil and Human Rights Committee. She was a New West and District Labour Council (NWDLC) delegate, Executive Board member, and Political Action Committee member. For the last 3 years Candace has coordinated NWDLC Black History Month educations. She has over 25 years of extensive labour training.

Since retirement in 2023, she has completed SFU's Community Capacity Building course and is working towards her certification in Restorative Justice. She is passionate about taking the skills she's attained to educate and promote advancement for the betterment of her community. In April of 2022 the Jr. Black Achievement Awards (JrBAA) was recreated after a 20-year hiatus.

The JrBAA strives to empower Black Youth and their families through training, recognition, and access to education. Join the community celebrations. The "Picnic in the Park" is on July 14, 2024, and the Awards Ceremony to honour the Achievers, will be held on October 26, 2024.

KEVIN MILLSIP**Executive Director, Columbia Institute**

Kevin serves as the part-time executive director of the Columbia Institute. The Institute provides education, training, research and capacity building, for people elected to local governments, who are working to advance policies and programs grounded in justice and equity. Kevin also works with libraries and in the co-operative sector.

CLINT JOHNSTON**President, BC Teachers' Federation**

Clint Johnston started his first term as President of the BC Teachers' Federation on July 1, 2022. Prior to that, Clint served as a Vice-President for six years. He was one of the Federation's lead negotiators in the most recent round of collective bargaining and has previous experience bargaining at the local and national levels.

Prior to his provincial union work, Clint served as President of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association for three years. Nationally, Johnston served multiple consecutive terms as a Vice-President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF-FCE), first elected at the 2017 CTF Annual General Meeting and finishing in July 2023.

Johnston turned to a career in education after losing a hand in a devastating workplace accident at 23-years-old. He holds bachelor's degrees in Human Kinetics and Education from the University of British Columbia. He spent the first five years of his teaching career in England before returning home to Chilliwack to work in a variety of elementary teaching roles for the next several years before being elected to his local executive.

Johnston and his wife, Holly, are the proud parents of five children – two of whom are still in B.C.'s K–12 public education system.

One of Johnston's personal priorities is to continue raising awareness about B.C.'s critical teacher shortage and taking the necessary steps to address this pervasive issue that disproportionately affects students with diverse learning needs.

CJ:vw:tfeu

JAGMEET SINGH**Party Leader of the Federal NDP****Member of Parliament – Burnaby South**

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 pharmacare.

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

MARTINA BOYD**British Columbia Regional Director, CUPE**

As Regional Director for CUPE in British Columbia, Martina Boyd manages the day-to-day operations of the national union in BC, including oversight for all negotiations, litigation, labour relations, and human resources. Martina is a labour lawyer, and joined CUPE in 2008 as an in-house Legal Representative, representing CUPE members and locals on grievance arbitration, human rights issues, and various Labour Board matters. Before being appointed Regional Director, Martina worked as the Legislative Coordinator responsible for coordinating provincial government relations for CUPE BC.

APRIL SIMS**President, Washington State Labor Council, AFL – CIO (WSLC)**

April Sims (she/her) was elected President of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO in October 2022 and was sworn in to begin her four-year term in January 2023. She is the first woman to be elected WSLC president and the first Black woman elected to the presidency of an AFL-CIO state federation. As President, Sims is the chief executive officer of the council, supervises all of its activities and staff, and leads Washington's largest union organization representing more than half a million union members.

Sims' lived experience is evidence of the power and potential of organized labor. The granddaughter of Louisiana sharecroppers and the daughter of a

single mother, Sims has seen the power of unions to change lives. The Great Migration brought Sims' grandfather to Washington, where his union job provided economic dignity for his family. Her mom's union job pulled their family out of the cycle of poverty. As a young mother, it was Sims' union job that allowed her to build economic security – and activated her as a leader in Washington's labor movement.

In 2002, Sims joined the staff of her union, Washington Federation of State Employees, AFSCME Council 28 (WFSE), eventually serving as Legislative and Political Action Field Coordinator. April joined the WSLC staff in 2015 as Field Mobilization Director, before becoming the WSLC's Political and Strategic Campaign Director in 2017.

In 2018, the unions that comprise the WSLC elected Sims as Secretary Treasurer of the council, the first person of color elected as a WSLC executive officer. She served in that office, as the chief financial officer of the council, from 2019 to 2022.

An innovator and change maker, Sims is a life-long resident of Tacoma, living with her family and 110-pound chocolate lab in the gritty city she's proud to call home.

DEANNA FASCIANI**Executive Director, CoDevelopment Canada**

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's maternal family the afromestizo peasantry of Guanacaste, Costa Rica, where her grandfather laboured on cotton and sugar cane plantations and on United Fruit Company's coastal banana plantations.

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 staffing for a Member of the Legislative Assembly of B.C.

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 equity and justice.

BEA BRUSKE**President, Canadian Labour Congress**

Bea Bruske was re-elected for a second term as President of the Canadian Labour Congress at the CLC's 30th Constitutional Convention in May of 2023. She is only the second woman to hold the position.

Since being elected, Bea has led Canada's unions to significant wins for the workers of this country. Under Bea's leadership, Canada's unions proudly fought for, and won: 10 days of paid sick leave for workers in the federal sector; dental care for children in low-income families; a 30-billion-dollar national child care program which was decades in the making; new health care accords adding 46 billion dollars over

ten years; billions of dollars in investments for affordable housing and infrastructure; double the funding for union-provided apprenticeship training; and legislation to protect workers' pensions when companies go bankrupt, making them the first priority ahead of big banks and creditors.

Bea has also prioritized the fight against climate change and has helped make significant gains to center workers in the transition to a net-zero economy. This includes the recent announcement of Bill C-50, the Sustainable Jobs Act. A sustainable future isn't achievable if workers aren't at the heart of climate plans, and this bill recognizes the vital importance of unions, industry and governments working together.

In 2022, Maclean's named Bea to its "Power List", the magazine's ranking of the country's 50 most powerful people in Canada.

For more than three decades, Bea has served workers and their families as an activist, workers' advocate, negotiator, community organizer and labour leader. Before her election as President, Bea served as Vice-President of the UFCW Canada National Council, and as Secretary-Treasurer for UFCW Local 832. She is a graduate of the University of Manitoba's Labour Studies program.

BARB NEDERPEL**President, Hospital Employees' Union****Convention Elections Chair**

Barb Nederpel is president of the Hospital Employees' Union (HEU), which represents over 60,000 workers in health care settings across B.C. 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) 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.

SHIREEN CLARK
CUPE Local 374



Shireen was “tricked” into being president of local 374 almost 10 years ago. Starting as treasurer and taking over as president for 8+ years now. She lends her financial expertise to help out other locals in need when asked and has enjoyed taking on many other roles the union has given her the opportunity to tackle.

WISH DROP-IN CENTRE SOCIETY



WISH is the largest sex worker support organization in Canada. For 40 years, WISH has been a refuge and an essential point of contact for street-based sex workers in Vancouver. Based in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, WISH's mission

is "To improve the health, safety and well-being of women who are involved in Vancouver's street-based sex trade."

WISH is a non-judgmental place of compassion and trust where all women are valued. Many of those who walk through their doors have experienced targeted, gender-based, and sexualized violence and are often dehumanized and stigmatized because of the work they do. They have been impacted by the criminalized nature of Canada's laws surrounding sex work, and face significant discrimination due to systemic inequities.

WISH has over 100,000 interactions with participants each year. Our direct service programs offering essential services include our nightly Drop-In, a first-of-its-kind 24/7 Emergency Shelter, and our Mobile Access Project (MAP) Van. Participants also have access to capacity-building programs which include Indigenous Health & Safety (IHSP), Inreach one-to-one support, Learning Centre, Music Therapy and Supportive Employment (SEP).