

CUPE 391 Political Action Committee

Annual Report

May 6th, 2018

This past year saw the beginnings of positioning for upcoming elections, with the Vancouver Civic By-Election held in mid October. Political Action Committee members were present through Vancouver & District Labour Council (VDLC) meetings and vetting of candidates for their endorsement. Two of the candidates subsequently attended a CUPE 391 General Meeting to present their platforms and seek our endorsement.

Committee members also regularly attended CUPE Metro (Metro Vancouver District Council) meetings and regular VDLC meetings to touch base with local political issues affecting us all.

Political Action Committee members were present for the Gathering of Canoes at Vanier Park as part of the Canada 150+ Indigenous events. Some of us also attended the CUPE National Convention, and others attended the CUPE BC Convention. Connections were strengthened with CUPE Political Action Committee members from across the country and throughout B.C.

2018 is the year of B.C. Municipal Elections which, in the case of Vancouver, will directly affect all members of CUPE 391. It will be important to elect labour friendly candidates to help ensure peaceful labour relations in our next round of bargaining, and strong support for libraries in all communities. In light of this, the Political Action Committee will be concentrating efforts on informing and encouraging our membership to assist in neighbourhood election campaigns, and to help get out the vote on election day. We will endeavour to put our energies into backing candidates who align with our public service concerns, and concerns for the good of our libraries and of our neighbourhoods.

Toward this end, we will be sending members to the Vancouver Crossroads Conference in early May, where representatives from all civic parties will be present to discuss local political issues, including Indigenous Rights, Reconciliation Calls to Action, housing, mental health, the opioid crisis, environmental issues and more, with the intention of helping to construct a balanced platform for the municipal elections in October. The hope is to elect a progressive group representing several parties and independent candidates.

As one of the three CUPE locals within the City of Vancouver, CUPE 391 will play an important role in electing a fair and equitable mayor and council, school board, and parks board.

For those members who live outside of the City of Vancouver, we encourage all of our members to show their support for their local progressive candidates, and, along with friends and family members, to be sure to get out and vote!