

Catherine Chan

Imagine being in a room with 20x the number of members we usually get attending a meeting! As a first-time delegate to a convention, I was lost & confused most of the time! I was thankful to have my fellow CUPE 391 members explain the processes to me along the way. I was excited to take part in the democratic process by listening to a resolution brought forward and having CUPE members stand up at the microphone to lend support (or not) before I voted on it.

The highlight for me was hearing Ivan Coyote address the delegates. What a powerful speaker! They brought home the point that now, more than ever, allies need to put on everyone's radar that trans people exist and teach people to share basic language that addresses them with respect. [Read about it here.](#)

There were signs that library workers were definitely on the radar, like when Premier John Horgan flashed his library card before the beginning of his address of the delegates, and several people acknowledged library workers during their speeches.

The convention is a great place to make connections with other members. Perhaps they have experienced an issue we're dealing with presently, and they can provide insight on how their local handled it. My fellow delegates were out there meetin' & greetin'! They are all part of the Executive and I am happy to be in such good hands.

Anne Dodington

National Officers Breakfast Convention 2019

Breakfast with National President and National Secretary treasurer, featuring fresh coffee and piping hot Governance documents! It was a packed room of CUPE members who attended this very early presentation by our National Officers on proposed changes to CUPE staffing (impacting our super Service representatives), a new trial process for internal union grievances and representation of more diversity seats on the CUPE Executive board.

Some highlights:

*Brand new training for CUPE Staff: CUPE is starting an internship program that includes job shadowing and a three-month placement for activists who are interested in being employed by CUPE as Staff Representatives.

*How to challenge the decision of your union? A new Trial Procedure: What happens when a member wants to challenge or appeal the decision or actions of their union? According to our constitution, there is a trial procedure and it was due for a reboot. A thorough survey process was done in 2018 and 15 new recommendations for the Trial Procedure will be reviewed by the National Executive Board and brought to the 2019 National Convention for vote.

*Governing CUPE into the future: A Task Force on Governance was formed out of the 2017 National Convention and they have now completed their work, bringing 27

recommendations covering increased diversity seats on the Executive board to how often convention should happen, to when we should use electronic voting. All 27 recommendations will be coming to the 2019 National Convention for delegates, including those from 391, to vote on. All the recommendations require two-thirds majority to pass, so those who attend can expect lots of debate.

Not surprisingly, many who attended the breakfast are now interested in continuing the conversation in October at the National Convention in Montreal. Lots of interesting changes to digest in Victoria!

Johnathan Dyer

This was my fourth time attending CUPE BC convention and I feel like I gain even more every year. I'm lucky enough to sit on the CUPE BC Indigenous committee which saw it's DVP seat challenged. This led to a long discussion and eventually an election which is rare amongst the Indigenous committee. During the course of convention, I had the opportunity to get up and speak on several issues. Speaking at the microphone gave me the chance to get our local out there and more while know. People often came up to me after to continue speaking with me on the points I brought up. This allowed me to build connections between locals across our beautiful province and hopefully support networks for us to utilize as we head towards bargaining. I'm very thankful for this opportunity to attend and thanks to the membership for sending me.

Sam Iversen

This was my first time attending the convention. Unfortunately I missed the New Delegates seminar on the first day, so I spent a lot of time on the first day learning the ropes and trying to understand the convention procedures. I learned a lot about the convention process and felt flumoxed at how some of the convention procedures seem to take so long that the meatier issues have less time on the floor. For example, so many people stood in support of a committee's report that there was not a lot of time for their resolutions to be heard! Many of the issues on the first day did not seem to have a lot of opposing viewpoints or contention, but the debate on many topics later in the convention got quite heated. It was extremely eye-opening to hear other delegates passionate speeches for or against different resolutions, and some made me rethink my initial stance on the topic.

Julian Key

My second time at convention was spent deepening my connections with the larger CUPE movement as well as acquiring skills and ideas that I plan to bring back to our local. One major aspect was communications which started with a seminar on the use of social media and its importance in creating a network of followers that can then be mobilized during campaigns or strikes. This is the direction our local are already heading towards and throughout the convention I was sharing photos and quotes on both our Facebook and Twitter feeds. I also got to participate in some social events such as the Young Workers scavenger hunt where I got to meet some amazing labour activists from across the province. In particular, I was in a group with two women from the Kamloops school district and got to talk about our shared concerns about pay equity and precarious work. Finally my highlight was receiving a Communications Award for best newsletter for *Labour Lines* our weekly roundup of labour news.