



# Newsletter

July 2007

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# 'A higher grade'

Newsletter of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3909

"Union solidarity is based on the principle that union members are equal and deserve mutual respect at all levels" - Equality Statement CUPE Constitution

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**CUPE University sector convention resolutions!**

Hi folks, below are the five resolutions that have been submitted from various parts of CUPE's university sector for the CUPE national convention in October.

**1. FREE TUITION (from Local 3903)**

- Build a national campaign for the elimination of all tuition fees. This will include: Developing comprehensive educational materials as a basis for a nation-wide educational campaign, including public debates, forums and presentations at locals.
- Member mobilization at the local level in all sectors to put pressure on the federal and provincial governments through a variety of escalating actions.

**2. SUPPORT for ACADEMIC WORKER LOCALS (from Local 3287)**

- Support and promote enhanced coordination in the University sector, particularly among the geographically isolated locals that represent teaching staff;
- In particular, will support and will implement where feasible, the proposals submitted to CUPE National in January 2007 in the document "No Local Left Behind: A proposal to develop, promote and activate academic workers within CUPE's university sector."

**3. UNIVERSITIES AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (from Universities Committee BC, endorsed by all BC University Locals)**

- Lobby the federal government to develop legislated guidelines for university private partnerships that would include: A commitment to sustainability with a clear and accessible process for redressing issues that potentially affect the work of CUPE members, that includes people, in a broad context to sustain a trained and qualified workforce;

**4. THE FUTURE OF UNIVERSITIES (from Universities Committee BC, endorsed by all BC University Locals)**

- Develop a plan of action for open, accessible, public and affordable universities that includes: The elimination of student debt loads; Accountable Boards of Governors; Adequately funded public universities; Transparent, public governance to protect the public's assets and lifelong access to learning.

**5. UNIVERSITY SECTOR COORDINATION (from Universities Committee BC, endorsed by all BC University Locals)**

- Establish a National University Sector Task Force and adequate resources, dedicated to do the following: Develop CUPE's plan of action for open, accessible, public and affordable universities; Develop a strategy to ensure CUPE's plan is at the forefront at the federal level; Develop a strategy for coordinated bargaining at a National level; Coordinate inter-provincial & national actions around university issues that impact CUPE members; Develop coalitions with other education sector organizations to ensure CUPE's interests are at the forefront.

## Campaigns

### Support workers at Central Neighborhood House

Visit <http://cupe.ca/action/support4308> TODAY! and send a support message!

Central Neighborhood House (CNH) is a multi-service community agency that has been providing programs, services and support to the downtown east Toronto community since 1911. Over 100 community workers at CNH, represented by CUPE 4308, have been trying to reach a settlement with the employer for over a year. Unfortunately, the employer does not want to show respect to workers. They are refusing to bargain a fair wage increase and improved working conditions. Instead, they are only guaranteeing 1.4 per cent over five years and removing workplace rights. The Board of Directors of CNH has stated a countdown towards a possible lockout on July 14th. The workers of Central Neighborhood House do not want this to happen. They want to bargain a fair collective agreement, and respect - respect for them, respect for their work and respect for the community they work with. CUPE 4308 and the employer will be in mediation on July 12th.

### Public services International fights poverty!

More than 20 million public sector workers around the globe are part of the campaign to make poverty history, through Public Services International (CUPE is a PSI member). PSI's campaign argues that fighting poverty takes public investment, a strong public sector and a well-trained and well-valued workforce. PSI is calling for renewed pressure on international financial institutions like the World Bank, which promote privatization by attaching conditions to loans. PSI is also asking affiliates to identify public water operators who could help establish partnerships to support public operators in developing countries. CUPE supports public-public partnerships to promote knowledge and information sharing between public water operators around the world, and has signed an open letter endorsing a United Nations project that connects public water operators to share expertise and build capacity. The project is one way of improving access for the one billion plus people in the developing world who do not have reliable access to safe drinking water.

### Iranian union leader kidnapped!

Tehran Bus Union leader Mansour Osanloo has been kidnapped. As you may recall, he has regularly been arrested or otherwise detained for his union activities by the Iranian authorities. The International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) believes that the kidnapping is on the orders of the Iranian Labour Minister. You can send a protest message to the President of Iran on the ITF website using the link below.

<http://www.itfglobal.org/solidarity/osanloo2.cfm>

Takes 30 seconds. Might help make the difference for Osanloo.

## EVENTS

### CUPE National Convention

Every two years, CUPE local unions elect delegates to attend the CUPE national convention. At this week-long event, CUPE members from across Canada determine policy, set priorities for the union and elect leaders. National convention is CUPE's highest decision-making body. **When:** October 15, 2007 - October 19, 2007 (All Day).

**Location:** Toronto

### Council of the federation meeting

**When:** August 8, 2007 - August 10, 2007 (All Day)

**Related Link:** <http://www.councilofthefederation.ca/>

### CCGEU annual national conference

The next meeting of the CCGEU will be in Fredericton, New Brunswick, August 9-11, 2007. The meeting will be hosted by the Union of Graduate Student Workers at the University of New Brunswick.

For more details and registration, please visit the following link.

<http://www.ccgau.ca/node/3>

## Renewal of collective agreement!

The Unit 1 collective agreement (TAs, graders, markers, student-instructors) between our local and the University of Manitoba expires on August 31, 2007 and negotiations are on the way for the new agreement. We will provide details as soon as they are available.

Stay tuned for updates on negotiations!



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**“I don’t care how much you roll around the office, you can’t claim the miles as a business travel expense.”**

Thanks: Randy Glasbergen