

**CUPE National Convention
October 6th Day 1**

Attendance: Stacey Robinson, Louise Henry, Loreen Wanlin, Elizabeth Rutsch, Lisa Devitt

Opening by: Candace Rennick - Secretary Treasurer of CUPE National, the Raging Asian Women Taiko drumming band, Bonnie Jane Maracle - Indigenous welcome of the Haudenosaunee, Debra Merrier – Executive council

Olivia Chow – Mayor of Toronto

Welcome to Toronto, build and maintained by public workers. Welcome to CUPE, Canada largest Union and thank you for your service to Canada. I stood on picket lines with many of you, saying ‘no, we won’t go backwards’. I saw that recently with the CUPE flight attendants, who stood up to demand respect and fair working conditions. You fight, for not only for better rights, but for better communities and for all rationalised people. Keep up the fight.

Candace Rennick – Secretary Treasurer CUPE National

Welcome to Toronto, a beautiful city that stands in the shadow of Premier Rob Fords government, such is bill 124 which capped public sector wages. This was overturned by the courts, but the struggle goes on. As we kick off this convention, lets stand in solidarity and show the country that we stand together. Let’s get to work and make this week count.

Mark Hancock – National President

My job is to make sure everyone is heard in a respectful and honest way. I expect you to hold me to task on this. This week we will chart a course for our Union for the next two years as well as look back on the last two years in reflection. The system is not broken; it is working as designed and we must work together to fight back. We will not retreat. We are growing our Union brothers and sisters. When I started with National, we were 633,000 strong now (drumroll) we are at 800,000! Our newest members are 12,000 new workers from Porter Air. Together we are building a world of equality for all. It is a Unions job to stand up for workers’ rights here and around the world. For the presidents report see [CUPE.ca](https://cupe.ca) for full report.

Credentials Committee:

Ontario: 485 delegates representing 170 locals
Nova Scotia: 56 delegates representing 19 locals
Newfoundland & Labrador: 71 delegates representing 30 locals
New Brunswick 71 delegate representing 7 locals
PEI: 13 delegates representing 7 locals
Quebec: 100 delegates representing 36 locals
Manitoba: 48 delegates representing 15 locals

Saskatchewan: 58 delegates representing 13 locals

Alberta & Northwest Territories: 71 delegates representing many locals

British Columbia: 271 delegates representing 110 locals

A grand total: 1271 delegates representing 442 locals.

Alexandre Boulerice - NDP labour critic

We carry the voice of workers to the parliamentary level to make things change. We fought for universal health care, day care, housing, dental for all. These are essential for our daily lives. We also have the beginnings of universal pharmacare. We have agreements for 4 provinces and 2 territories and are working for everyone to have this. We have anti scab labour in Canada, thanks to everyone's hard work. We have a minority government so our voice matters in parliament. We thought we needed Mark Carney since the American President Trump but as it turns out, he is not what we thought. He has backed down on taxing the rich, backed down on environmental issues and is doing exactly what Poilievre said he would do. We can expect cutbacks in public sector jobs and attacks on the rights of workers. We are here to defend your rights as the attacks are coming for all of us as we see the rise of the far right. Make yourself heard!

National Health and Safety award: Jason Ramsey CUPE 4400 (Toronto Education workers)

Jason has worked endlessly to protect workers. His leadership was particularly evident during COVID 19 as he fought for masks and proper attire. His commitment to workplace health and safety has improved working conditions for tens of thousands of workers.

Candace Rennick – Nation Secretary – Treasurer

Report on finances for the last two years. See [CUPE.ca](https://cupe.ca) for full report.