

**EXECUTIVE REPORT – MEMBER AT LARGE**

May 11, 2017

CUPE BC's 54th Annual Convention was in Victoria on Wednesday April 26, 2017 to Saturday April 29, 2017 at the Victoria Conference Centre. Over 500 delegates attended including six from CUPE 2081: Erynne Grant, Shane Johnson, Ranbir Prihar, Earle Thompson, Keith Todd, and Naji Yazdi.

The convention started on Wednesday at 5:00pm with a New Delegates Seminar until 6:00pm and then opened for everyone at 7:00pm. Paul Faoro, President of CUPE BC gave a welcome speech and then the delegates sang "O' Canada" and "Solidarity Forever." There were also a number of speakers on Wednesday evening including Butch Dick, a Songhees Nation Elder, Marle Roberts, the President of CUPE Alberta, Victor Elkins, the President of the Hospital Employees' Union, Glen Hansman, the President of the BC Teachers' Federation, and Mike Eso, the President of the Victoria District Labour Council. Marle Roberts spoke about asking all of her CUPE members in Alberta to contact friends and relatives in BC and asking them to vote for the NDP. Glen Hansman spoke about the historic victory of the BCTF at the Supreme Court of Canada. The convention was adjourned on Wednesday at 9:00pm.

On Thursday, the convention reconvened at 9:00am. There was a guest speaker at 10:00am: Lee Saunders who is the President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union. He was a very passionate speaker and he urged us not to make the same mistake that they made in the US by electing Donald Trump but instead to vote out Christy Clark and elect John Horgan and the NDP instead. There were many resolutions put forward on Thursday throughout the day. The resolutions covered many topics ranging from pensions to the environment to education. Many of the resolutions were about lobbying the government to change things. Most of the resolutions that were put forward passed unanimously. We also had a brief meeting for the Vancouver Island delegates at lunch time on Thursday from 12:00pm-12:30pm. The convention adjourned on Thursday at 5:00pm after which we had speeches and questions for the five candidates running for election for the four General Vice President positions. The voting didn't happen until Saturday.

On Friday, the convention reconvened at 9:00am. In the morning, the budget and financial statements were presented. The Secretary-Treasurer presented a balanced budget. Also, the CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury, spoke at 10:00am. At 10:30am, the convention was adjourned for the Day of Mourning ceremony and march to the Legislature. There were many more resolutions put forward on Friday throughout the day most of which

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passed unanimously. At 2:30pm, John Horgan gave a speech accompanied by some other NDP MLA candidates in Victoria including Bryce Casavant, Rob Fleming, Carole James, and Lana Popham. John Horgan walked around shaking delegate's hands and giving delegates high fives before and after his speech. At 3:30pm, Katrina Pacey, Executive Director of the PIVOT Legal Society gave a speech. Also on Friday, there were some more resolutions and some constitutional resolutions put forward. The constitutional resolutions differed from regular resolutions in that there was more debate on both sides of many of the constitutional resolutions. Also, the voting for the constitutional resolutions was done electronically rather than with a show of hands. This convention was the first CUPE BC convention that had electronic voting. One of the constitutional resolutions that was put forward on Friday was to increase the fee for delegates to attend the CUPE BC Convention from \$175 to \$225 per delegate which was defeated. The convention was adjourned on Friday at 5:00pm.

On Saturday, we met at 9:00am for elections for two Vancouver Island Regional Vice President positions and an alternate. Amber Leonard and Kirk Mercer were elected as Vancouver Island Regional Vice Presidents and Dan MacBeth was elected as an alternate. The convention reconvened at 10:00am with elections. The CUPE BC President, Paul Faoro, and Secretary-Treasurer, Trevor Davies, were re-elected and four Diversity Vice Presidents and alternates, and a Trustee were elected. Previously, there were only two Diversity Vice Presidents but two new positions were created at the convention this year. There was also an election for the four General Vice President positions with five candidates running for the positions. The election was conducted with electronic voting. At 11:00am, Irene Lanzinger, President of the BC Federation of Labour spoke to us. Also, there were some more resolutions and constitutional resolutions put forward on Saturday including a constitutional resolution to remove some language in the CUPE BC constitution that states that the Secretary-Treasurer will work in preparation of the budget with the Trustees. This constitutional resolution had a lot of debate on both sides and was defeated. At 1:30pm, there was a Moment of Silence in which many delegates went up to a microphone and stated the name of someone who died in the last year. The convention was adjourned on Saturday at 4:00pm.

I wanted to thank the membership for the opportunity to represent you at the CUPE BC Convention. This was the first time that I attended a convention and I enjoyed the experience.

In Solidarity,

Ranbir Prihar

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and Student Society Employees  
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