

**EXECUTIVE REPORT – MEMBER AT LARGE**

May 7, 2019

CUPE BC's 56th Annual Convention was in Victoria on Wednesday May 1, 2019 to Saturday May 4, 2019 at the Victoria Conference Centre. Over 500 delegates attended from 133 locals including six from CUPE 2081: Erynne Grant, Shane Johnson, Ranbir Prihar, Keith Todd, Pamela Vivian, and Petty Wong.

The convention started on Wednesday at 7:00pm with Paul Faoro, the President of CUPE BC and Songhees Nation Elder Jackie Albany giving welcome speeches and then the delegates sang "O' Canada" and "Solidarity Forever." Paul Faoro stated that CUPE BC added 10,000 members in the last year to increase CUPE BC's membership to 97,000 members. There were also a number of speakers on Wednesday evening including Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps, Mike Eso, the President of the Victoria District Labour Council, and Glen Hansman, the President of the BC Teachers' Federation. 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: Ivan Coyote, an author and LGBTQ2+ advocate. Ivan told a couple of captivating and humorous stories that engaged the audience. On Thursday afternoon, Mark Hancock, the President of CUPE National gave a report. Mark Hancock stated that CUPE National added 30,000 members in the last year to increase CUPE's membership to 680,000 members including 3000 added from WestJet. There were also many resolutions put forward on Thursday throughout the day. The resolutions covered many topics such as skill trades, transportation, pensions, the environment, pink triangle, and education. Many of the resolutions were about lobbying the government to change things. Most of the resolutions that were put forward passed unanimously. One resolution for which there was a lot of debate on both sides was to reduce the number of convention binders provided to each local to only one binder per local rather than the current one binder per delegate. Erynne Grant and Keith Todd both spoke against this motion and even Paul Faoro spoke against the motion before it was defeated. 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 two candidates running for election for one trustee position. The voting didn't happen until Saturday morning.

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On Friday, the convention reconvened at 9:00am. In the morning, the budget, financial statements, and trustee reports were presented. The Secretary-Treasurer presented a balanced budget. Also, the CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury, spoke at 10:00am. At 10:30am, Barb Nederpel, the President of the Hospital Employees Union spoke. At 11:15am, John Horgan gave a passionate speech accompanied by some other NDP MLAs including Harry Bains, Mitzi Dean, Rob Fleming, and Carole James. John Horgan walked around shaking delegate's hands and taking selfies with delegates before and after his speech. There were many more resolutions and some constitutional resolutions put forward on Friday throughout the day most of which passed unanimously. 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. The convention reconvened at 10:00am with elections. The elections were conducted by Barry O'Neill, Past President of CUPE BC, and the CUPE BC President, Paul Faoro, and Secretary-Treasurer, Trevor Davies, were re-elected and four General Vice Presidents and a Trustee were elected. At 10:15am, Laird Cronk, 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 Colleen Jordan's name from the CUPE BC Colleen Jordan Humanity Fund that is named after her. 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. A total of 66 resolutions and constitutional resolutions were voted upon which was the most ever at a CUPE BC convention.

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

In Solidarity,

Ranbir Prihar