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CUPE 2950  
**LOCAL NEWS**

FEBRUARY 2010

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## CALLING ALL YOUTH: MY REFLECTION OF THE CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Karen Ranalletta

“My name is Karen Ranalletta and I am a first time delegate, first time speaker and a young worker!” That was my introduction in front of our 2500 brothers and sisters at CUPE National - but I’ll get to that later. Three months has passed since I attended the National Convention and I’d like to share my experience with all of you.



Feelings of trepidation and responsibility washed over me as I entered the convention floor for the first time. There were 2500 seats, large projection screens and several translator booths. The room was abuzz of what the week was going to hold for all of us. Suffice to say, this was the largest meeting I had ever attended! As people filed in, it began to feel like a big family reunion. It’s a little weird to be addressed as “Sister” when you don’t even know the person however; as soon as the first verse of “Solidarity Forever” started I knew I was in the right place.

The debate regarding our Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 was varied and interesting. Briefly, the union’s largest concerns were economic cuts to all public services, the defense of free collective bargaining, equality issues, various aboriginal issues, HIV/AIDS support for workers who have not been able to access any kind of insurance coverage if they have either HIV or AIDS, a promise to commit to a national child-care program, a pledge to continue to provide health and safety resources for all members and lastly to make a concerted effort to increase funding for the Global Justice Fund. That so many workers are still dying in their fight for the right to unionize only served to remind me how lucky we are to live in a country where organizing and political action is legal. To read the complete document, please go to [here](#).

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## CALLING ALL YOUTH (CONT.)

The biggest highlight would be the march through the streets of Montreal in support of the city's blue-collar workers. Thousands of brothers and sisters from across the country gathered at City Hall to show our support. It was only then that I fully realized each one of us has the support of over 600,000 CUPE members across this country. The energy and support of that group gave me the courage and support I needed to stand up and speak to resolution #79. To know I played a small part in a successful bid that resolved CUPE National would pledge to support the training and education of young workers in this country was truly overwhelming.

In closing, I would like to reach out to all my members, but in particular, my fellow young workers. There is a place for you in this local. There is a place for you in this union.

In these tough economic times, public service workers are seen as the "privileged." Let's face it; most of us enjoy medical and dental benefits, vacation days, sick time and pensions. In order to keep the things that we hold paramount in our union jobs we need to keep fighting. That means becoming active.

The reality is that our current Executive is inching closer and closer to retirement and, young workers, it is time for us, as the future of this local, to be proactive and get involved so that we are ready to take over the next round of bargaining in 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent all of you at CUPE National and I will continue to be an activist.



**Megan Johnson and Karen Ranelletta  
at the 2009 Montreal Rally**



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Nancy Forhan

Managers are people too!

Unions seem to have come full circle.

The first Labour Union in Canada was the Canadian Labour Union, founded by the Toronto trades Assembly in 1873. The main purpose of its existence was not to bargain individual wage and benefits improvements but rather to lobby for more favorable labour legislation that would benefit all Canadian workers. It's become more evident over the last decade that unions have once again become our social conscience.



With over 600,000 members, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is the largest union in Canada. It has become the driving force behind such national initiatives as access to clean water and Canadian pension reforms that would allow all Canadian workers to retire with dignity.

CUPE lobbies all levels of government to protect public services such as Education and Health Care. We fight not only to gain benefits for workers here in British Columbia, but to protect these services for each and every Canadian.

Our issues are not union issues. They are not even UBC issues. They are society's issues.

With over 46,000 students, 5000 support staff, 3,000 managers, and 6,000 faculty members on this campus we must find a way to come together & help protect not only public education, but the greater social network for all. The time, energy and resources we spend challenging each other is time, energy & resources wasted. It benefits no one.

One of the most mis-used phrases of this millennium is "civil-society" We hear it everywhere. But what does it mean? What makes a society civil? When we have children in every BC community living in poverty - is that "civil"? When we have the mentally ill living on the streets - is that "civil"? When we have individuals working two jobs and still having to use their local food banks - is that "civil"?

*continued...*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT.)**

Once our public services are gone, whether they're contracted out or sold off, it's very expensive, if not impossible, to get them back.

It's time for all workers, all taxpayers, all citizens to reaffirm our commitment to not only improving society for ourselves, but to leaving a livable, sustainable, truly "civil" society for the generations to come.

*It's never too late to build a better world " - Tommy Douglas (the Father of Canadian Health Care)*

## **BUSINESS AGENT'S REPORT**

By Frans Van de Ven

The New Year brings us a new executive, a collective agreement about to expire and servicing challenges new and old.

Your contract committee in collaboration with other University CUPE locals throughout the province is hard at work crafting a strategy that would give us the best chance to deliver an honourable outcome in what is undoubtedly a difficult bargaining climate.

The HEU has just announced a tentative deal for its 48,000 health care works that, in essence, amounts to 0% over 2 years as per the government's mandate. While there are individual improvements these are funded by corresponding downward adjustments in other areas

The GEU is, apparently, crafting its own deal with Victoria but we have no details

Back at UBC we are once again dealing with jurisdictional issues in various guises.

In Medicine, there are impending transfers of positions from the University to the hospitals. Simply put, the Health Authority is taking the position that work it pays for is work it controls. We are being vigilant to ensure that our member's rights are protected whatever ultimately happens.

At the Library we are monitoring the impact of digitalization on the collection and our work.



## NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Video Presentation—Challenging Attitudes
- ◆ Confirmation and swearing in of the 2010-2011 CUPE 2950 Executive:

President	Nancy Forhan
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Susanne Lester
Chief Shop Steward	Jaimie Miller
Treasurer	Jennifer Nielsen
Health & Safety Chair	Richard Hare
Job Evaluation Chair	Eleanore Wellwood
Recording Secretary	Edita Michalek
Sergeant at Arms (2 positions)	Megan Johnson, Joan Treleaven
- ◆ Swearing in of Committee members
- ◆ Natalie Lisik thanked the membership for their support during her term as President
- ◆ Recognition of Union Activist
- ◆ Congratulations to our \$100 cash door prize winner, Erin Fitzpatrick, Tote Bags went to: Jaimie Miller, Susan Claybo & Deborah Locke

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### Wear Pink on February 26

On Friday, February 26th, CUPE members in British Columbia will join folks in communities across Canada by wearing pink as they participate in International Stop Bullying Day. By wearing pink, CUPE members will take a stand against bullying and bring awareness to this serious problem in schools, workplaces and communities. Please send photos of your staff to the Union office!

#### Note Takers Needed

We are looking for a few good note takers! These are members, like yourself, willing to attend meetings with Stewards and take notes. Training is provided.

These meetings are held on university time & are usually no longer than an hour in length. This is a perfect way to see if union activity is for you.

*If you're interested please call the union office for more information.*



**Lavana Lea handing out Anti-bullying information**

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**CUPE 2950**  
**On the Front Line at UBC**



**CUPE 2950 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AGENDA**

**NOTE: THE JANUARY MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED  
February 25, 2010 12:30—2:30 pm  
COPP 4210  
(2146 Health Sciences Mall)**

◆ **12:30-12:45 p.m. Open Forum Discussion**

1. Roll Call of Officers
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes of November 26/09
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - a. Nominations for Local Officers: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President/Grievance Committee, Communications Committee Chair, Diversity Committee Chair, Education Committee Chair & 2 Trustee positions (terms ending December 31 2011 and 2012)
  - b. Open nominations for the CUPE BC Convention (April 21-24, 2010)
5. Unfinished Business
6. Executive Report
7. Business Agent's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Committee Reports:
  - ◆ Chief Shop Steward
  - ◆ Communications Committee
  - ◆ Contract Committee
  - ◆ Diversity Committee
  - ◆ Education Committee
  - ◆ Grievance Committee
  - ◆ Health and Safety Committee
  - ◆ Job Evaluation Committee
10. New Business

**Article 10.01**—The University agrees to allow the Union to hold nine (9) two-hour lunch meetings (12:30 to 2:30 pm) on employer time. Members are expected to use their lunch as part of the two hours.

In consideration of others who suffer from allergies and/or respiratory problems, please refrain from wearing perfumes or any scented items.

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