

CUPE Ontario Convention 2025 Report

What follows is my experience as a CUPE 3906 delegate at the CUPE Ontario convention. **CUPE Ontario abandoned the principles of democracy and labour solidarity in favour of political extremism and a carefully stage-managed display of hate.**

CUPE Ontario is not a democratic labour union. Several hundred delegates vote for ~300,000 employees, and dissenting views were too-easily dismissed. Additionally, only pre-selected delegates from the locals can vote. After initially not being elected by my local, I became a delegate by default a month later, when a new quota was created and a lack of volunteers made elections unnecessary.

Despite CUPE's anti-capitalist stance, the convention was held at Toronto's luxury Sheraton Hotel. Additionally, **labour issues were sidelined in favour of anti-Canadian rhetoric and hate.** For example, the International "solidarity" meeting promoted ideas such as "all governments are the enemy", "Canada does not need an army", "NATO is a problem not a solution", and "we should cozy up to China".

On certain resolutions, parliamentary procedures were a façade to limit opposition: Debates were concluded before they began, and resolutions advanced to voting before delegates even had the chance to speak.

Unfortunately, other CUPE 3906 delegates participated in this charade: some by 'calling the question' – CUPE 3906 delegates asking to end debate prematurely and vote. A CUPE 3906 delegate also made the point that weapons pollute, ignoring the fact that a single day of Canadian wildfires amounts to detonating several million bombs. If CO₂ emissions are the real concern, then we should be debating forest management, not weapons. Arguing that weapons are immoral because they pollute is like condemning firefighters for using water. The entire event was marked by superficial arguments and the lowest standard of debate.

CUPE Ontario's Action Plan was also flawed. Concerns from people of colour, Indigenous, and other minorities were ignored and manipulated. CUPE Ontario ended up with amendments that completely failed to address the concerns.

What bothered me the most is the takeover of the antizionist hate movement on the agenda of CUPE Ontario. The focus was singular: anti-Israel. Just to be clear - not as a call for peace, but to eliminate the Jewish state. There is no anti-India or anti-France movements, and there is silence on the illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus. Nobody mentioned Nagorno-Karabakh, or the Jihadist terrorism in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, the Sahel Region, or anywhere else. Not a single word was said on the human rights abuses by the leadership of China, Myanmar, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. **Call this "Selective Solidarity", or more suitable: "Selective Hate".**

CUPE Ontario is not democratic, fails to represent its members, does not truly care about human rights, and neglects urgent labour issues. **McMaster University Employees would be better served by focusing on local labour priorities. It is time to consider disaffiliation from CUPE.**

Dr. Ori Freiman

CUPE 3906