**CUPE National Convention Report – Toronto, October 2025**

Submitted by: Oluwadamilola Babatunde, President, CUPE 3906

Hello everyone,

It was a great honour and privilege to attend this year’s CUPE National Convention, held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. The convention brought together thousands of CUPE members, activists, and leaders from across the country to deliberate on issues shaping the labour movement, debate resolutions, and elect our national leadership.

I arrived in Toronto on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. to sort out our per capita outstanding payment and complete delegate registration for our Local. That same day, I attended the Post-Secondary Education Sector Meeting, where the key topic of discussion was the federal funding cuts to post-secondary institutions and the urgent need for CUPE to lobby the federal government to restore and increase funding. Several resolutions were presented, numbered 200–207, but only Resolutions 201 and 204 made it to the convention floor. Both were debated and successfully passed, which was an encouraging outcome for the sector.

Throughout the week, I participated in a variety of caucuses and forums, including:

* Equity Caucus
* Young Workers Caucus
* Black and Racialized Workers Caucus
* Human Rights Forum
* Ontario Division Caucus

At the Young Workers Caucus, we discussed multiple resolutions aimed at increasing youth participation and representation within CUPE. One major priority was the proposal to increase the young workers’ age range from 30 to 35 years old, to ensure broader engagement and inclusivity. This was reflected in Resolution 239, which later passed on the convention floor, marking a significant win for young activists.

**Day 1: Official Opening and Reports**

The convention officially opened with addresses from CUPE National President Mark Hancock and National Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick, who delivered comprehensive reports on the union’s achievements and challenges over the past two years.

President Hancock announced that CUPE membership has now surpassed 800,000 members nationwide, reflecting growth and solidarity across sectors. Several committee reports were also presented, and a few resolutions were debated and passed during the session.

**Day 2: Elections and National Social**

The second day featured the National Presidential and Secretary-Treasurer elections, in which Mark Hancock and Candace Rennick were re-elected unopposed. There were no debates or challenges to their nominations. A number of resolutions were introduced to the floor—some passed while others were defeated after debate.

In the evening, delegates gathered at the CUPE National Social, held at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. This was a wonderful opportunity to network with members from different regions and sectors, exchange ideas, and share local experiences.

### **Day 3: Ontario Division Caucus and Elections**

On the third day, we attended the Ontario Division Election Caucus, where the election for General Vice-President (GVP) was held between Dawn Belrose and Fred Hahn. After an engaging and respectful campaign, Dawn Belrose won the majority vote and replaced Fred Hahn as GVP. Regional elections were also held, although our local did not participate in voting.

Several resolutions and constitutional amendments were debated and passed during the session. The most contentious discussion of the day centred on Resolution 113, which generated significant debate but was ultimately defeated.

### **Day 4: Constitutional Amendments and Equity Debate**

The fourth day was particularly intense, with one of the most significant constitutional amendments revisiting Article VII—a proposal originally brought forward by the Equity Committee nearly two decades ago. The amendment sought to create five additional diversity seats on the National Executive Board, representing:

* Indigenous Workers
* Black and Racialized Workers
* 2SLGBTQI+ Workers
* Francophone Workers
* Workers with Disabilities
* Women and Young Workers

Despite passionate and well-reasoned arguments in favour of the amendment, it unfortunately did not pass. However, the discussion underscored CUPE’s ongoing commitment to equity, representation, and inclusion within its structures.

### **Day 5: Closing and Final Resolutions**

The final day of the convention focused on reviewing and voting on the remaining resolutions. Several motions were passed before the convention officially concluded. Delegates left inspired to continue the work of strengthening our locals, defending workers’ rights, and advancing equity and justice across the country. The strategic planning committee also presented the final copies of the document after several debates, discussions and suggestions by delegates over the course of the convention. The final version eventually passed on the final day just before we lost quorum.

Copies of the President’s and Secretary-Treasurer’s Reports, the strategic document as well as the complete list of resolutions (including those that passed and those that did not), are available at the CUPE 3906 office. Members are welcome to drop by to review these documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent our local at this important national gathering. It was an insightful and empowering experience that deepened our connection to the broader CUPE movement and reaffirmed our collective commitment to solidarity, equity, and advocacy.

In Solidarity,

Oluwadamilola Babatunde

President, CUPE 3906