

I participated in the 2025 CUPE National Convention, held at the prestigious Toronto Metropolitan Centre, as a delegate from CUPE 3906. From the very beginning, it never made sense to me that 2,200 delegates, representing nearly 800,000 members - just 0.275% of CUPE's total membership - could be considered democratic representation. That realization was only the beginning of what I would come to experience.

My experience was not only challenging but dangerously eye-opening for anyone who stands against the hate movement that has infested CUPE National, and the Canadian labour movement, including our local.

The convention was scheduled over one of the holiest Jewish holidays - an exclusion by design, as CUPE National would never dream of holding its convention on Christmas Eve, Diwali, Eid al-Fitr, or any other religious holiday of any other community. This stands in stark contrast to CUPE's attempt to portray itself as an anti-racist and inclusive union.

Being openly Jewish and speaking with an Israeli accent at the heart of CUPE National meant walking into a threatening environment, where spreading libels and explicit calls for violent actions against Israel, Israelis, and Jews is normalized as "solidarity". Additionally, I was directly targeted for a violent physical attack, as well as subjected to purely racist slurs, only due to my identity. Effectively, these incidents were documented - not only by me, but by others as well. This proved invaluable in accurately capturing just how toxic, hostile, and racist the environment within CUPE National has become.

The hostility was both private and public, manifesting in various ways throughout the convention. I faced public defamation over the microphone at floor, and an environment so hostile and threatening that I had to withhold participation at the last day due to physical safety concerns. Even standing in line for coffee, I was subject to hateful remarks and unwanted physical contact by a delegate encouraging a ban against Jewish Torontonians' businesses. She wasn't the only one: this hate was formally advocated through thousands of flyers, distributed at the "international solidarity" booth. From all the troubles in this sick world, the booth solely and exclusively dedicated to labour4palestine, spreading libel, confidently stated reckless ignorant claims and hate, with the aim of advancing their bigoted and polarizing motion 113.

I proudly spoke out against motion 113, which called for CUPE to divest, including from Jewish businesses in Canada, as clearly indicated in the hateful material distributed by the complicit "international solidarity" team. When the motion was up for a vote, many delegates voiced their fear at the microphone, explicitly saying they did not feel safe having an open vote. It did not surprise me that the antizionist hate movement also intimidates non-Jews for having different views than theirs. The vote ended up conducted by secret ballot, and the motion failed - sending a clear message that members reject bullying and hate.

Another significant moment occurred when delegates voted Fred Hahn out of his position as CUPE National VP. The rejection of divisiveness and hate in leadership and choosing a new path restored some hope for a better and safer future within CUPE.

The convention featured a wide range of radical views that exposed how deeply entrenched some extreme ideologies have become within CUPE. At one point, when a delegate argued that Canada must withdraw from NATO, I was reminded of how views like this - and other forms of extremism that come with this worldview - once dominated our own CUPE local and shaped the use of our local's members' dues.

The CUPE National Convention 2025 laid bare the organized, institutional hostility and violence faced daily not just by Jews, but by anyone who refuses to bow to the antizionist hate movement that has taken over. While threats, incitement, and libels are rampant, there remains hope in the core decency of many members who reject hate and fight for real solidarity - one that doesn't rely on scapegoating, violence, or exclusion. Maybe one day, the convention will actually deal with pressing labour issues, which are so relevant to our workplace, economy, and the wellbeing of Canadian society as a whole.

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