

CUPE PEI Annual General Meeting Report

I was very pleased to attend the CUPE PEI AGM May 20-21, 2021 virtually on ZOOM, but would have been nicer if it was in person!

May 20th:

The meeting started at 6 pm. There was a New Delegate orientation session, followed by an Education Sector Caucus meeting to select members to sit on various committees and pick the West Education Sector Representative to sit on the Board. I was fortunate to be nominated and elected caucus choice. This is a role I am very familiar with as I sat in that seat for 3 years, and as Recording Secretary of the Division for approximately 7 or 8 years. Andrea Garlick was elected to sit on the PR Fund Committee. Derek Waite was elected to sit on the Occupational H&S Committee. Rob Coughlin was elected to sit on the Literacy Committee. As the National Literacy Rep from PEI I will be sitting on that committee as well. The meeting was finished by 8 pm.

May 21st:

This was a full day – 9 am – 4 pm. There were on average 71-76 Voting Delegates and 15 Guests in attendance.

Some of the highlights were:

1. **Bargaining Strategies presentation by Angela MacEwen, CUPE National Economist/Researcher:**
She talked about the Federal training benefits since COVID – not a working well as many people who lost jobs have not had income for the past year, the program does provide income supports while retraining making this not a possible option for workers and it is Employer driven. CUPE is predicting Austerity budgets in the future where Federal and Provincial governments will try to keep their expenditure spending flat. CUPE's approach will be to promote:
 - Investing in social services is good for the economy
 - To continue building political support for public investment
 - To continue fighting against Public, Private Partnerships (P3's)
 - Bargain wage increases because higher wages means higher spending and this benefits the broader community
 - Progressive taxation – tax the ones doing well to help the ones who are struggling
2. **CUPE PEI Bursary:** \$500 bursary awarded each year – Bursary applications due: August 31, 2021.
3. **Charles Fleury, CUPE National Secretary – Treasurer spoke:**
 - Since COVID 25,000 CUPE members have been laid off so revenue is down.
 - CUPE has not laid off any staff
 - CUPE has the largest strike fund of any union in Canada
 - CUPE is in a solid financial position

4. Easter Seals: Bill Martin Volunteer Committee Chair spoke as well as Veda the Ambassador:

- There was no school tour last year
- There was no school tour this year
- They are planning to tour next year
- Our Local donated \$500
- Total donations pledged by all Locals was \$5200, CUPE National matched this plus an additional \$1000 for a grand total of \$11,400!

5. Leo Cheverie Award for outstanding contributions to social activism and social justice:

- Shawna Quinn, EA, East Area, Local 3260 for her many years as a CUPE National Rep on the Child Care and Global Justice Committees. Congratulations Shawna!

6. Sandy Harding, CUPE National Maritimes Region, Regional Director spoke briefly:

- She thanked the Staff on PEI for working tirelessly over the past year providing the members with seamless support
- COVID has highlighted the important work that CUPE members do, the public has responded to all this work and said that public support is at an all-time high

7. Resolutions:

- Cover the cost for a 1 year term wages of President – carried
- Increase affordable and accessible housing for all Islanders – carried
- Lobby the Provincial Government to bring the Paramedic services in-house and have it under the Department of Health - carried
- Promote a campaign that will inform members about the importance of reporting all incidents including violent incidents and near hits – carried
- Lobby government to incorporate H&S training as part of the school curriculum during the years of grade 7 to grade 9 – carried
- Lobby the Provincial Government to proclaim April 28th as the “Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace” in perpetuity on PEI – carried
- Affordable Housing for Persons with disabilities – referred back to committee for rewording
- Lobby the Provincial Government and Federal MP’s to implement a National Pharmacare program – carried
- Lobby the Provincial Government and Federal MP’s to bring Long-term Care facilities under the National Medicare and take profit out of elder care - carried

8. Election of Officers:

- President – Leonard Gallant
- Secretary-Treasurer – Linda Jones
- Health Care East Employees – Bobby Kennedy
- Education West Employees – Karyn Noble
- Island EMS, Atlantic Baptist Nursing Homes and Group Homes – Donna Gormley
- UPEI 1870 and UPEI Security Police – Tracey Carmichael
- 3 year Trustee – John Oschner

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Karyn Noble

Central West Area VP

CUPE Local 3260