

April 14, 2011

Convention 2011

Coffee Break News

Agenda Highlights Thursday, April 14, 2011

CONVENTION RECONVENES

9:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

11:00 a.m.

Claude Généreux, National Secretary-Treasurer

2:00 p.m.

Gati Maleté

Treasurer, South African Municipal Workers' Union (SAMWU)

3:00 p.m.

ACTION PLAN

5:05 p.m.

Election Forum

7:00 p.m.

Young Workers Cruise

New Westminster

8:00 p.m.

District Council Hospitality Suites

34th Floor, various rooms

Stand up for your rights! – O'Neill



VANCOUVER – While popular movements in places like Egypt, Tunisia and Libya are slowly increasing the civil rights of citizens in those countries, democracy is increasingly under attack in North American jurisdictions like Wisconsin and right here at home in B.C., CUPE BC President Barry O'Neill told delegates in his convention-opening address last night.

"We've seen parts of this movie before, when the Liberals tore up collective agreements in 2002," O'Neill told more than 400 delegates. "The Liberals didn't get everything they wanted, but as everyone in this room is very aware, they took away an awful lot.

"Let there be no doubt: if the BC Liberals get another term in office, working people in B.C. are going to see Wisconsin-style assaults on our rights, and we've got to be ready to fight back. But more than

that, we need to work harder than ever before to ensure that Christy Clark and the BC Liberals don't get the chance to continue the Campbell agenda against working people."

O'Neill also strongly encouraged delegates and all CUPE members to volunteer for the NDP candidate in their riding in the current federal election.

"That's the best way to stop Stephen Harper from winning a majority and using it to gut public services even further," he said.

O'Neill also talked about CUPE BC's newest campaign, the Ten Percent Shift. "The idea is provide citizens with a simple, doable action that will benefit local economies and help local governments develop a sustainable revenue stream that's independent of senior governments or commodity prices," he said.

What does "community action" mean to you?



"The community and the union are interconnected. What benefits one benefits the other, in the end."

Our Local supports several charities, both local and international, throughout the year. Our ties to the communities we support are that much greater, as a result."

Jolene Lamoureux
CUPE 338
Kelowna Civic



Getting the goods

Attendees at the new delegates seminar yesterday reviewed their convention books and heard from CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill and secretary-treasurer Mark Hancock, regional vice-president Colin Pawson and CUPE Union Development representative Greg Burkitt.

The new delegates learned about how things work at convention and asked questions about various aspects of CUPE BC.

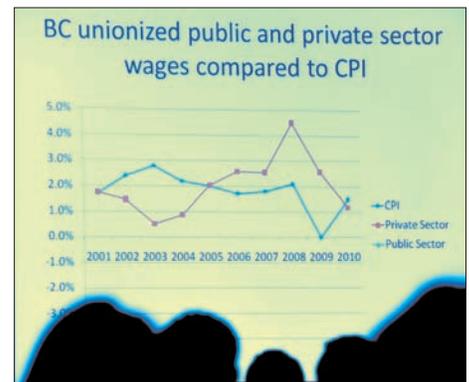
Exploding the myths about public pensions

For CUPE activists seeking improvements to the Canada Pension Plan, one of the biggest challenges is countering the anti-union, "gold-plated pensions" rhetoric of the right wing, delegates were told yesterday at CUPE BC's pension forum.

CUPE National president Paul Moist opened the forum with the

union's "Mythbusters" presentation. Among other changes, CUPE is seeking a phased-in doubling of CPP benefits to \$23,040 a year.

Six in ten Canadians oppose any further delay to CPP improvements, said Moist. But the right continues to spread myths about public pensions, such as that increasing CPP premiums would



Post-secondary forum brings college and university locals together



GONNA TAKE YOU HIGHER—College and university locals got together for a post-secondary caucus on Wednesday afternoon. The agenda included bargaining coordination, a report from the recently settled VIU strike and possible future joint campaigns for higher education. Jerry Otting, CUPE 2081 president at Camosun College gives a college sector update.

cost jobs. Another myth is that '70 is the new 65' so Canada needs to raise the retirement age.

"Working until you die is not the answer for most Canadians," said Moist.

In a panel discussion, CUPE Research representative Keith Reynolds' economic update countered some of the claims against CPP improvements.

Municipal Pension Plan senior administrative officer Vicky Grabb discussed issues facing pension plans today and retired CUPE National representative Gary Johnson talked about the value of indexing pensions to inflation.

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