

April 13, 2011

# Convention 2011

# Coffee Break News

## Agenda Highlights Wednesday, April 13, 2011

**CONVENTION CONVENES**  
7:30 p.m.

### WELCOME GREETINGS

Rose Point, Musqueam Elder  
Derek Corrigan,  
Mayor of Burnaby  
Ken Robinson, President of HEU  
Joey Hartman, President of  
Vancouver & District Labour Council

### CONVENTION VIDEO

*Community Action—It Works!*

### OPENING ADDRESS

Barry O'Neill, President

### PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

Plaza Ballroom  
(Georgia A & B)

## Community Action—It Works! 48th annual convention opens



*HAVE YOU SHIFTED YET? – CUPE BC's Ten Percent Shift campaign is converting hundreds of British Columbians to more local buying for their household goods. If you haven't got your "Shift" together yet, be sure to visit the Strong Communities booth and sign the pledge.*

## ALL ABOARD!



You've heard the rumours, and now it's here: the brand-spanking new CUPE BC Community Trailer, almost ready for service.

The trailer, constructed by CUPE 1004 members, is designed for use at community functions, rallies, May Day and Labour Day picnics, picket lines and member support events.

The Trailer is proof that CUPE BC builds strong communities...on wheels!

VANCOUVER – CUPE BC kicks off its 48th annual convention tonight with 600 delegates ready to tackle a range of issues and elect a new executive in a year that is expected to see elections for all three levels of government in Canada.

This year's convention is themed "Community Action—It Works!" A tribute to the efforts of CUPE members to defend public services and strengthen their communities, the theme is the title of the opening night video, which will lead into CUPE BC president Barry O'Neill's opening address.

Throughout the convention, delegates will also hear from guest speakers such as South African labour leader Gati Malete, noted

author Linda McQuaig (*The Trouble with Billionaires, It's the Crude, Dude*) and interim Official Opposition Leader Dawn Black, who will bring greetings from the provincial NDP on the eve of the party's exciting leadership vote.

This year, CUPE National secretary-treasurer Claude Généreux will host a breakfast presentation on Haiti.

In honour of the tenth anniversary of CUPE's literacy campaign, delegates will also hear from Ed Thomas, the first recipient of CUPE National's literacy award.

On the final day of convention, elections will take place for president, secretary-treasurer, general vice presidents and trustee.

# Burning the candle at both ends...



CUPE BC Division staffers, from left, Lori Watt, Shirley Loftus, and Darci Schmid (along with executive assistant Sharon Prescott) grease the wheels that keep convention going. After three months of preparation, they're still working hard for delegates.



CUPE BC's convention resolutions committee has been hard at work since Monday preparing 146 resolutions for the floor. There are 20 resolutions on health issues, 15 on the provincial union, and 14 on the provincial government. The Committee, chaired by Laurie Whyte, is comprised of Barbara Dickinson, Jacqueline Hall, Maureen Hummel, Renée Milaney, Jerry Oetting, Louise Oetting, Karen Ranalletta, Colin Pawson, and staff advisors Robin Roff, Gary Yee and Susan Zander.

## As change looms, Political Action Committee gears up

Already this year B.C. has seen a new (though un-elected) Premier sworn in, a new NDP Official Opposition Leader will be elected this coming Sunday, and we're in the middle of a federal election. What's more, rumours are swirling that a by-election will be called in Vancouver – Point Grey next month, and even that a snap provincial election could be called as early as September. And, of course, this November's local community elections are on the horizon, too.

Given all the political action, it's no wonder CUPE BC's Political Action Committee is gearing up for what could be one of the busiest political years ever.

## STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY



Gati Malete (centre left), treasurer of the South African Municipal Workers' Union, is in Canada on a national tour. On Monday she met with BC New Democrat MLAs, from left, Raj Chouhan, Jenny Kwan, interim leader Dawn Black, Rob Fleming, and Diane Thorne. Sister Malete will speak to delegates on Thursday. Sister Black will speak on Friday.