

# Convention 2010 Coffee Break News

## Agenda Highlights Friday, April 23, 2010

9:00 a.m.

### CONVENTION RECONVENES

9:05 a.m.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

9:30 a.m.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT &  
2010 BUDGET

10:15 a.m.

**Jack Layton**, Federal NDP leader

1:30 p.m.

**Carole James**, BCNDP leader

4:45 p.m.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8:00 p.m.

### Reception

Georgia A & B

9:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

### Music and Dance with Trevor MacDonald Entertainment

Plaza Ballroom



## Moist thanks stewards for efforts

National president Paul Moist, bringing greetings from sisters and brothers across Canada, thanked CUPE activists on behalf of the entire national union "for carrying the CUPE flag, day in and day out."

Moist noted the five-year wastewater treatment struggle led by CUPE in the Capital Regional District.

"Because of your efforts," he told delegates, "it looks like we will be able to keep these public services in public hands."

Pensions are a priority, said Moist: "Sixty-five per cent of Canadian workers don't have a pension plan. We must increase pensions, get more defined benefit plans and establish a pension insurance guarantee fund to protect workers."

Moist said, "You are *all* stewards. Every day, you are the heart and soul and bedrock of our union – there's no CUPE without the sisters and brothers who step forward to take on this job."



*"There is strength in numbers. That fuels my fight for what's right, and gives me the confidence to move forward."*

**Michael McGahey**  
Sanitation equipment operator  
CUPE 1004, City of  
Vancouver outside workers

## Emergency resolution calls for action to address funding crisis in K-12

**CUPE delegates pledged action yesterday in response to serious underfunding of education. The resolution calls for an emergency summit on the crisis in public education funding; an independent assessment of the B.C. government's 'highest funding ever' claim; and continued support for elected trustees.**

# Building membership will win heart and minds: Généreux



CUPE needs to build its membership to win the hearts and minds of the public on issues of bargaining, anti-privatization, and retirement security for working people, says National secretary-treasurer Claude Généreux.

In his report, Généreux said that B.C. Liberal government's cuts have made bargaining difficult for school boards, social service providers and municipalities – all of which depend on government transfers.

He also reinforced the need to fight for better pensions.

"Our objective is to change the nature of the debate. Workers deserve defined benefit pension plans for their retirement."

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## Equality forum tackles racism



*DIVERSITY WORKS*—At last night's equality forum, delegates enjoyed the sounds of the Aboriginal ensemble **M'Girl** (pictured), who performed at the Olympics and have also appeared on CBC broadcasts. If you missed the show, visit [www.mgirlmusic.ca](http://www.mgirlmusic.ca)

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## 'Arrrrrrrr, matey!'



*BIG WHEELS KEEP ON TURNIN'*—CUPE members boarded a paddle-wheeler in New Westminster last night for the traditional Young Workers Task Force Convention cruise. Younger members enjoyed the opportunity to network, plan and strategize future actions, have fun, and – most importantly – make new friends.

## Executive report highlights Strong Communities' action

CUPE BC's executive board report paints a picture of a year packed with energy and determination.

Acknowledging that CUPE members face the biggest recession in 80 years, the union's general vice-presidents Steve Storch, Cindy McQueen, Paul Faoro and Deb Taylor recounted many ways in which the union has responded.

The Strong Communities initiative continues to be relevant and effective in helping Locals and district councils advocate for members and connect with communities. This, despite the provincial government's anti-public services and anti-worker agenda.

At the microphones, members thanked CUPE BC for protecting public services, fighting public-private partnerships, and supporting stewards and bargaining. Campaigns against unfair legislation – from the election gag law to legislation imposing a collective agreement on B.C.'s paramedics – made a difference. And the important links that CUPE BC forges with allies were acknowledged.

Members encouraged CUPE BC to continue to make progress on equality issues and initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint and protect the environment.