

## **CUPE BC Environment Committee Report to Convention – April 2018**

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The current committee is made up of several familiar faces as well as a few new ones. This influx of fresh energy has stimulated some innovative ideas, while we continue work on existing plans and programs.

From the Committee Action Plan developed at the OBCM, our priority issues are:

- 1) Member Engagement
- 2) Education
- 3) Involvement at Convention
- 4) Carbon Neutral Conventions
- 5) Resolutions
- 6) Environmental issues at the Local Level

With work progressing, we met via teleconference on February 13<sup>th</sup> to review our assigned resolutions. We recommend this method to other committees as an efficient, cost effective, and low-footprint method of accomplishing committee work.

There are many environmental issues in BC that currently affect our members. From wildfires to extreme weather events, CUPE members are on the front line. Many of us are impacted at home as well as at work. These are not issues we can simply leave at the office or on the job site. More critically, these issues are relevant to so many of our CUPE BC committees. There is work to be done, and work that we can more effectively accomplish if we work together.

Some of the provincial government's policies will definitely affect all British Columbians, including our members and their families. These include the decision on Site C, the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion, public water and sewage, to name a few.

There are many contracts that will be up for negotiation soon across BC. This is an excellent opportunity to get Green Language into Collective Agreements.

Green initiatives can be beneficial to both members and employers, saving resources, jobs and the environment. Is your employer actively participating in greening your workplace? Environmentally conscious contract language is an area where both unionists and employers can come together for the betterment of all.

Our committee submitted seven resolutions for consideration at this Convention and we thank you for giving them your thoughtful consideration.

In light of the effort to raise this awareness, we are looking to CUPE BC to support our work by creating a Green Statement to be read at all CUPE Local, District Council, and Division meetings. This statement will remind everyone of the importance of maintaining a healthy and vibrant environment to sustain our families and our jobs in BC.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Vaughan-Evans, Chair  
Toby Daniel, Co-Chair  
Michelle Baski  
Margot Croft  
Michèle Faverger  
Nancy Fee  
Lisa Mead  
Carol Nordby  
Erik Sagmoen  
Alyssa Schubert  
Carlo Sia  
Janet Thorpe  
David Wieler  
Ian McLean – Staff Advisor

April 2018

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