

**CUPE BC Pension Committee**  
**Report to Convention – 2018**

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We have a good balance of new and returning members on the Committee this term and we are getting to work on educating ourselves and our members to be pension activists and advocates. We look forward to having a young worker join us at our meeting in the fall to strengthen our diversity.

We hope that many of you participated in our forum here at convention and learned something about the investment side of pension work. We focused on ESG - Environmental, Social and Governance Investing, which primarily looks at the financial risks associated with where our pension funds are invested. At the CUPE National Advisory Committee on Pensions we also are discussing investment but looking more closely at whether our values as the labour movement are in alignment with where our pensions are invested. Of particular concern is the global mining industry, which is dominated by Canadian companies, as well as the increasing amount of investment and outright purchasing and privatizing of basic public infrastructure around the world. Canadian pension plans are big players in these areas.

The world of pensions can be quite an ‘alphabet soup’ of terms, concepts, and organizations. There is a steep learning curve to becoming an effective pension advocate and the committee will continue to brainstorm for ideas to bring accessible information and education to the members. We’ve identified our District Council meetings as an important place to bring education and guest speakers and we welcome your ideas and suggestions to make this effective.

While a majority of CUPE members in BC who have a pension are part of the Municipal Pension Plan (MPP), there are in fact many other pension plans that cover CUPE members. We have started a project of identifying and checking up on the full range of these other plans. At our January meeting, committee members reported back on 9 of the 14 plans that cover CUPE members in BC. The overview and discussion of these plans was enlightening to all. We endeavour to make this process a regular part of the

work of our committee, including looking at the transparency of the plans and the ability to verify pension site fact. These plans are: Municipal Pension Plan, College Pension Plan, Public Service Pension Plan, Coquitlam Schools SD43, United Way Lower Mainland, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, Pacific Blue Cross, University of Northern BC, UBC Hourly Plan, CUPE 873 Paramedics, UBC Staff Plan, Southern Rail, and the Multi-Sector Pension Plan.

The goal for all workers should be pensions for all and the best design is Defined Benefit pensions. We need to defend these plans from government legislation that can threaten them, as well as keep up the work on preserving and enhancing the public pensions and retirement income that all Canadians should have access to. That means supporting continued improvements to the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) and working for increases to Old Age Security (OAS) benefits. These are some of the things that the national committee is discussing, along with trying to develop some questions or points that we can share with all of you to get the conversations started on pensions and share the learning far and wide. The committee welcomes your questions and suggestions so that we can all work for income security for retirees now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted:

Sarah Bjorknas, Chair  
Harpinder Sandhu, Co-Chair  
Roberta Ciaraulo  
Carlos Comba  
Juliet DePieri  
Leslie Franklin  
Karl Fultz  
Ann Green

Eric Jaworski  
Inder Pannu  
Richard Paul  
Alison Pringle  
Robert Reimer  
Marianne Thomas  
Nola Welsh  
Gary Yee – Staff Advisor