

CUPE BC Transportation Committee

Report to Convention – April 2018

CUPE BC's Transportation Committee continues to work on a number of issues and areas of concern that affect all members in the Transportation Sector.

CUPE National Transportation Committee

Following the establishing of our CUPE National Transportation sector in 2015, the CUPE BC Transportation Committee continued to advocate for a National Transportation Committee. We are proud to report that the delegates to CUPE National Convention in the Fall of 2017 almost unanimously voted in favour of adopting our resolution call on our National union to establish this committee. From March 4 – 7, transportation sector workers from all over the country came together as a committee in Ottawa at the all committees meeting and participated in valuable open discussions. We worked on the committee terms of reference, agreed upon strategies and direction, developed a workplan for the duration of our mandate, and made crucial connections that will undoubtedly contribute to added strength and growth for our committee and transportation workers sector wide.

From the CUPE BC Transportation Committee, both Tanya Paterson (Committee Chairperson) and Maureen Hummel (Committee Co-Chairperson) were appointed to the National Committee. The committee has outlined the following areas as subjects of priority and has made recommendations to the NEB that mandate our National union to work towards achieving the following objectives:

- Creating a fatigue management structure that can be circulated to locals and potentially included in upcoming bargaining proposals
- Having an indigenous and young worker representative appointed to the committee
- Creating a lobby kit in order to arm us with the necessary tools to participate in efforts demanding improved legislation governing our working conditions
- Fighting against both mandatory and random marijuana testing for workers

We remain committed to raising the profile of the important work that Transportation sector workers do on a daily basis around the Province and look forward to meeting as a National Committee again. We are optimistic that the National Sector Conference will offer us an additional platform to accomplish the above mentioned objectives.

Occupational Health & Safety

Health and Safety issues continue to be the major item of concern for the Transportation Committee. In the transportation sector our members are facing both federal and provincial authorities of whom are determined to put profit before safety by reducing the amount of staff required in our workplaces. Not only does this pose a serious safety threat to our members, but it continuously puts the safety of the general public that they transport at a significant risk. The committee will continue to support transportation workers by participating in campaigns and lobbying politicians at all levels of government across the province and the country.

Transportation committee members continue to report that all areas and sectors are being expected to facilitate more work with less resources and/or required tools. It is imperative that these workers are given the necessary items in order to conduct work that is reflective of relative health and safety standards.

CUPE BC Transportation committee meetings

Our committee met at the One Big Committee Meeting in October of last year and again, on January 18 and 19 of this year. We were fortunate to benefit from a workshop titled "Understanding Mental Health" and are better equipped to understand and address mental health issues in our workplaces as a result.

We engaged in round table discussion concerning the issues that are prevalent amongst our locals and district councils and we have submitted 3 resolutions to convention this year. They are as follows:

1. Cosmic radiation
2. Safe serving of alcohol on board Canadian aircrafts and relevant training for Flight Attendants

3. Direct Translink to adopt a “buy Canadian procurement policy via the Provincial Government”

Conclusion

There are a number of challenges facing CUPE members in the Transportation Sector and the Transportation Committee is looking forward to the support of our Provincial union, National union and CUPE members to take these issues on.

Take a moment and come visit our booth. We have some swag that was generously provided by the Division office and we would love to tell you more about what we do as Transportation workers. We have worked with the staff of CUPE BC to coordinate the production of a brochure and will be using it to raise the profile of the work that we do in order to increase awareness pertaining to the improvements that we would like to see within our workplaces.

Special thanks to Brother Rob Jandric, our National Servicing Representative and Brother Dan Gawthrop from Communications. Both have been instrumental in supporting the initiatives and projects that our committee has embarked upon.

Respectfully submitted:

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Maureen Hummel, Co-Chair
Patrick Attias
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