



CUPE BC Pink Triangle Committee Report to Convention – May 2019

CUPE BC continues to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer members. The Pink Triangle Committee works for all CUPE members through lobbying on issues regarding sexuality and gender identity.

The upcoming date of June 27, 2019 will mark just the 50th anniversary since homosexuality has been decriminalized in Canada by way of Bill C-150 or the Criminal Law Amendment Act. Unfortunately, that is not the case in many countries around the world. Not the least of which is the country Brunei where homosexuality has recently become a capital punishment by means of stoning or whipping. We are very fortunate to live in Canada but the ever changing laws in places like Russia and Brunei show us that there is still a need for vigilance to protect the gains that we have made both as a Union and as a society. We need only look at the recent case in Chilliwack where an anti-SOGI trustee was re-elected despite being the source of hateful comments that brought about a Human Rights Tribunal complaint against the School District to realize that freedom is never free.

In recent years and months there have been gains in legislation and in the courts of Canada; including gender identity and gender expression as a protected right. As well, there have been a few court cases that have been won in Canada that protect vulnerable young members of the trans community's right to gender reassignment treatments. All positive steps forward. The Pink Triangle Committee looks forward to the day when true inclusion, understanding, and acceptance is reached in our societies all around the world.

The Pink Triangle Committee would like to thank Kathy McMahon for being our first Diversity Vice-President for Pink and for a lifetime of advocacy on our behalves that date back to her early days working for the Toronto police force. We wish her a long, healthy and well deserved retirement.

Our committee met three times since last convention. The first was at the One Big Committee Meeting held in October 2017. Next we met on August 7, 2018 and also participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade just previous to that date. Finally we met on January 17th and 18th, 2019 with our friends from the other three CUPE BC equity seeking committees for training provided by Cheryl Colborne and for our final meeting as a committee. This is the first time the four committees have met at the same time and we found it very beneficial to do so. We suggest that in the future the four Diversity Vice-Presidents coordinate the last committees' meetings before convention so that the various committees can work together on common resolutions

The Pink Triangle Committee worked on a number of resolutions, some of which will be debated on this floor today. We also worked with CUPE BC to update information that is at our booth outside the hall. We also worked with the other three committees on the details regarding the Equity Forum held just before the convention opened.

Respectfully submitted:

Dean Coates, Chair
Michelle Stephen, Co-Chair
Mel Chambers
Michael Forrester
Joyce Griffiths
Rolanda Lavallee
Kathy McMahon, retired
Nazanin Moghadami
Craig Pavelich
Richard Silva
Quinn Storm
Harry Young
Cheryl Colborne – Staff Advisor
Dan Gawthrop – Staff Advisor

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