

**CUPE BC Workers of Colour
Report to Convention – May 2019**

On behalf of the members, this last year we have continued to make gains for diversity and inclusiveness in our union and communities. Our fight on the issues of racial justice and equality in our union and society is far from over. It is a fight that we will only win by involving and mobilizing ourselves, our members and working together with our allies on all fronts. We continue to mobilize ourselves and our members to work together to create racial equality for all.

As usual, this has been another hectic year with increased activism by our committee and equity seeking friends around the province. They were involved in rallies around the province to support our friends on picket lines or locked out by their employer.

The committee continues to:

- Promote and defend the rights of all workers of colour.
- Work to improve the working conditions of workers of colour.
- Promote resources that advance employment equity and the rights and protections of workers of colour through collective bargaining.
- Work towards the elimination of anti-black racism and the elimination of all racism wherever and whenever it exists.
- Work to improve the understanding and the perspectives of Workers of Colour among CUPE members, employers and communities through education.
- Participate in coalitions, lobbies and other political organizing activities that promote and defend the human rights of workers of colour.
- Support and work in collaboration with other CUPE Committees to achieve common goals.
- Continue to support, promote and engage workers of colour in our communities, along with regular union activism such as supporting stewarding.
- Work on increasing the representativeness of CUPE workers of colour.

Committee Member Reports

InderPannu

- Attended a Mental Health workshop in January 2019. This workshop was very informative.
- Attended and participated in Vancouver Vaisakhi.
- Participated in the Vancouver Woman's March.
- Attended the 2018 CUPE BC convention.
- Participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade.
- Participated and promoted ally events that include diversity.

Amir Bagheri

- Blue cross picket lines.
- Blue cross AGM.
- Canvassed for Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge NDP, MLA and CUPE member Lisa Beare.
- Canvassed for North Vancouver NDP, MLA Bowinn Ma.
- Canvassed for CUPE selected candidates of North Vancouver Mayor and Council.

Drew Parris

- Vaisakhi Parade - Vancouver

Joyce Henley

- Attended and handed out apples at Vaisakhi Parade - Prince George
- Sat on a panel as a CUPE representative at the Inspiring Women Among Us conference held at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). The panel was entitled 'Mentoring in the Academy' and was about women mentoring other women in an academic setting.
- Attended Pride festivities.
- Attended CUPE BC Convention 2018.

- Chief Shop Steward of my local.

Nick Angrignon

- Volunteered for Mike Smith, President Unifor 2200 Coast Mountain Bus – (communications and digital work).

Nigel Martyres

Kitimat is a very multi cultural community. For a population of under 10,000 people there are over 40 different nationalities here.

- Kitimat Annual Hill Climb Drag Race (community event).
- Canada Day festivities (sponsored in large part by LNG Canada, Rio Tinto Alcan and Unifor Local 2301).
- Terrace's annual civic celebration "Riverboat Days", I attended the Jail & Bail, Farmer's Market, Parade and Car show.
- Community Fundraising BBQ hosted by our incumbent local MP Nathan Cullen.
- Every October, for the past 35 years, the community has a telethon called the Aluminum City Telethon. This year I helped to collect donations from people in the theater watching the live entertainment. This year \$134,654.00 was raised to support local programs and initiatives.
- In December, a portion of the downtown core closes and groups and vendors are able to set up booths and entertainment for people to gather for food and song. This year I brought a group of six people that have recently moved to the area from Asia.

Brenda Moores

- March 2018-February 2019
- Facilitated at the Northern Area District Council Conference.
- Facilitated at the CUPE Metro Conference
- Facilitated many other workshops around BC for CUPE
- Facilitated Conflict Resolution at CUPE Fall School

- Arranged a Labour endorsed candidates dinner with FV District Council

Alistair Maduray

It has been a fantastic but busy year for all of us activists. We have been fortunate to have members participate in community events from across the province (cultural events).

We changed the leadership that affects our collective agreement where we work. Engaging the stakeholders, i.e. the community and the Councillors with the new Mayor highlighting our concerns. We now have a person that is an ex-union president for the Firefighters who will help us.

- Participated in Burnaby Civic Election.
- Volunteered for new Mayor Mike Hurley.
- Volunteered for Jagmeet Singh's campaign.
- One of three workers of colour (first time ever) to attend Labour College - February 2019.
- Facilitated Human Rights workshop CUPE Spring School in Kamloops.
- Participated in demonstrations in Toronto for the Fight for \$15" and against the Doug Ford government.
- Facilitated SLS CUPE Fall School in Nanaimo. We walked the picket line with ur brothers and sisters of CUPW.
- Worked hard to get Jagmeet Singh elected to parliament from Burnaby South BC.

Thanks again to the leadership of CUPE nationally and provincially for making space for us.

Michele Alexander

- Member facilitator – Trail, BC; Grand Forks, BC; Kelowna, BC.
- Member facilitator – CUPE Metro Education.
- Member facilitator – CUPE Fall School – SLS.
- Walked picket line in support of CUPW sisters and brothers in Nanaimo.
- CUPE BC Convention 2018.
- National Rainbow Committee – March and October 2018 (Ottawa).
- Attended Families of Sisters in Spirit Vigil in memory of murdered and missing Indigenous Women.
- CUPE BC Think Tank.
- Vasaikhi Parade.
- National Congress of Black Women Foundation Board Member (NCBWF).
- Attended NCBWF Family Day, Legacy Dinner and High Tea.
- Attended Women and Politics – 5th Annual Rosemary Brown Memorial Conference (Ellen Woodsworth recipient).

The Workers of Colour Committee would like to thank Paul Faoro (President), Trevor Davies (Secretary-Treasurer), Sharon Prescott (Convention Coordinator), Kiran Kooner (Director of Operations) and the CUPE BC Executive Board. In closing, we would also like to thank our dedicated staff representatives Zoe Magnus, Cheryl Colborne (Human Rights Representative) and Dan Gawthrop/Janet Szliske (Communications) for their guidance and support to the Committee. Special thanks to the Administrative Assistants for their tireless work for all Committees – Darci Schmid, Shirley Loftus, Kristi Bounegru, Nikki Hughes and Lori Watt. Huge thank you to Sharon Prescott for her support to this committee along with all the things she did to make convention run smoothly. Sharon and Shirley, you will be MISSED.

Thanks again to the leadership of CUPE BC and CUPE BC Executive!!

Respectfully submitted:

Michele Alexander, Chair
Alistair Maduray, Co-Chair
Nicholas Angrignon
Amir Bagheri
Ravneet Dhillon
Joyce Henley
Maria Ho
Nigel Martyres
Inder Pannu
Drew Parris
Edward Parsotam
Cheryl Colborne – Human Rights Representative
Dan Gawthrop/Janet Szliske – Communications Representatives
Zoe Magnus – Staff Advisor

May 2019

