



CUPE BC Young Workers Committee Report to Convention – May 2019

The Young Workers Committee continues to engage and develop young activists by providing opportunities, specialized training and unique projects to promote inclusion in our union. We are determined to engage young workers and promote activism and solidarity in the union across the province.

Shadow Committees

The committee has enjoyed continuous support from the CUPE BC Executive allowing committee members to participate in and attend a meeting of another CUPE BC committee. This opportunity has been a huge help for our young workers to find other areas of interest within CUPE that they might like to pursue after aging out of the Young Workers Committee. Fred Adams attended an Indigenous Committee meeting, Dustin Innes attended several Political Action meetings and Nicci Cabrejos sat in on the big meeting for the four equity groups; Pink Triangle, Workers of Colour, Indigenous and Peoples with Disabilities in January, as well as a Workers of Colour meeting.

CLC Winter School – Young Workers in Action and Political Action

Three of our committee members were able to attend Young Workers in Action at the CLC Winter School and one committee member was able to attend Political Action during the committee's term. They gained more knowledge in negotiations of collective bargaining, grievance procedures and labour standards. Spending the week with other activists inspired a continued passion for dedication to CUPE and all that unions stand for!

Camp Jubilee

Two of our current committee members were also able to attend a weekend session at Camp Jubilee in the fall. Each member participated in various physical challenges and team building exercises with brothers and sisters from many different unions across Canada.

Extended Committees

Dustin Innes is the committee's representative on the BC Federation of Labour's Young Workers Committee and has been able to pass on a lot of great information about their work and processes.

Nicci Cabrejos is the committee's representation on the CUPE BC Executive Board as the Young Worker Liaison and has also been a guest to the CUPE BC Think Tank at Harrison Hot Springs.

Young Workers Events

The committee has hosted several successful events during the term such as: a boat cruise at the 2018 Convention, a Fright Night event at the PNE and a Games Night sponsored by the Douglas College Student's Union.

Youth Homelessness and Mental Health

The committee has chosen to continue to focus their energy towards dealing with the issues of youth homelessness and mental health. At this convention the committee is accepting donations for Victoria Youth Empowerment Society, a non-profit community service agency offering support and services to youth and their families in Victoria.

The Mission Statement of YES is twofold: First, to assist youth to remove themselves from the high risk environment of the street and make the transition to healthier and more constructive life situations and second, to help youth and families make positive choices, which will prevent involvement in at risk behaviour or connection with the street scene. They do so by providing accessible, innovative and proactive programs for at risk youth. The committee has made arrangements to deliver all donations to The Victoria Youth Empowerment Society at the end of Convention. Donations can be made at the CUPE BC Young Workers Booth.

Conclusion

It is with the continued support from President, Paul Faoro, Secretary-Treasurer, Trevor Davies and the CUPE BC Executive Board, along with the very appreciated efforts of Sharon Prescott and our great staff that the Young Workers Committee continues to successfully engage young workers across the province. The Young Workers Committee will continue its efforts to inspire young workers to become active in their union, and in their communities.

Respectfully submitted:

Nicole Edmondson, Chair
Nicci Cabrejos, Co-chair
Fred Adams
Karsten Bellows
Derek Lee Dumont
Karli Edie
Alexandra Fowler
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Tina Meadows – Staff Advisor
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