

# Convention Capsule

Friday, May 27, 2016

## Agenda Highlights

### Day 3

- AM** National Secretary-Treasurer's Breakfast
- Election of Members at Large
- Presentation by Sue McIntyre
- PM** Rally – Taking Back What's Ours
- Injured Workers Award
- Guest Speaker: Avi Lewis
- Dance/Social



### Inspired by speech of Black Lives Matter's Sandy Hudson, delegates pledge \$40K in support

Less than 30 minutes after Sandy Hudson gave an impassioned speech on the importance of supporting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, CUPE Ontario delegates raised \$40,000 to fund the organization's work.

Delegates were visibly moved by Hudson's speech, which touched on the systemic institutional racism faced by racialized Canadians on a daily basis.

"The way Canadian racism works is a system of denial. We are often asked to prove it exists," Hudson told delegates.

This institutionalized racism manifests itself in profoundly damaging ways, such as police

harassment of young, racialized males, often with tragic, devastating consequences.

The BLM Toronto movement came together to demand answers and accountability for racial profiling by the police, and the shooting deaths of unarmed racialized males like Jermaine Carby and Andrew Loku.

BLMTO's actions culminated in a sit-in protest outside Toronto Police headquarters. It lasted nearly two weeks and forced officials to hold a coroner's inquest into the death of Andrew Loku and to make a provincial commitment to hold a series of public consultations in Toronto regarding the state of policing.

### Ontario NDP Leader bring greetings and opens up to members' questions

Ontario NDP Leader Andrea Horwath stopped by yesterday to bring solidarity greetings and opened the floor to questions.

Delegates didn't hold back, asking for clear commitments to address significant underfunding in the health care system and a recognition of all the workers needed to make the system function.

Horwath pledged to move forward working collaboratively with CUPE to develop the NDP platform.



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## Together, we can build a better Ontario

### Delegates show unwavering support for CUPE Ontario leadership



Chanting filled the hall as President Fred Hahn and Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick were both acclaimed to their fourth terms leading CUPE Ontario. Honoured by delegates' support, they committed to continue to build a fair province for all workers.

With further levity delegates greeted candidates running for the four vice president positions. Acclaimed as 1st Vice-President (VP), Michael Hurley heads into his 17th term on the board as its longest sitting member.

Also acclaimed were Yolanda McClean as 2nd VP, John Camilleri as 3rd VP and Henry Giroux as 4th VP. Their strong commitment to CUPE members has come through loud and clear throughout the convention and their years of service in their locals and on the board.



### Action plan debate kicks off

Convention delegates debated the first half of CUPE Ontario's blueprint for action yesterday. Fighting privatization and austerity is at the core of the plan. Delegates highlighted the need to fight poverty and inequality, including by raising social assistance rates; the power in local coalition-building; and the need for fair taxation at the local level.

Debate emphasized the importance of having the resources to organize the unorganized while also mobilizing and defending our members. Members also raised the need to increase our lobbying skills and capacity.

Debate on the second half of the action plan takes place tomorrow afternoon. Delegates will debate and review a revised plan Saturday morning.



### 'Iron woman' wins Sisters in Solidarity Award

Accepting this year's Sisters in Solidarity Award, Chandra Kavanagh, president of CUPE 3906, said "underneath the glass ceiling is an iron woman." Sister Chandra's breakthrough work with her local and in the community is an inspiration for all. She is passionate about women's equality and has shown her tireless commitment to women's empowerment in her continuing efforts to break down barriers.



### Home care personal support worker (PSW) recognized with inaugural Racialized Worker Award

For 2 decades, Patricia Pitt-Anderson, president of CUPE 3808, has advocated tirelessly to improve the working and earning conditions of PSWs in the home care sector. A dedicated community activist fighting for racial justice, Sister Patricia epitomizes the qualities celebrated by the Racialized Worker Award.

In her heartfelt acceptance speech, Sister Patricia said "Being a leader is a hard, hard job, but I work diligently and fight my fight for my members."