

Act now.

Your vote decides our future.

CUPE ALBERTA 2015 CONVENTION
Calgary, Alberta

DAY TWO - MARCH 19, 2015

Our union has made great strides, but more challenges coming every day

CUPE Alberta President Marle Roberts reported that the union has made great strides protecting workers, but that we are being challenged more every day.

"You stood up for our pensions and the pensions of future generations," Roberts said. "And you won. And I thank you for that."

Roberts warned that the upcoming budget will bring new attacks.

"The Premier has already said he'll use this budget to attack the public sector," she said. "And worse, these cuts will only cripple the public service more and make us more vulnerable to build a business case for private corporations."

"CUPE Alberta will lobby the Government to fix our unbalanced



MARLE ROBERTS DELIVERS HER PRESIDENT'S REPORT

tax system, a system that produces massive deficits. We will ask for a progressive tax system that is fair for all. A lot of front line public employees have already taken a number of zeros in recent years," she said.

Convention delegates reacted strongly to Roberts' calls for action. When asked whether they would accept wage roll backs, pension cuts or layoffs, delegates responded with a loud and rousing "No!".

President Roberts ended by calling on CUPE Alberta members to vote in the upcoming election.

"Let's tell the government that they won't get a free ride this time," Roberts said.

"They won't change until we change them. And it starts with a paper and pencil!"

COMING UP TODAY

- Political action breakfast with Paul Moist
- Address from National Secretary Treasurer Charles Fleury
- Guest speaker: AFL President Gil McGowan
- Guest speaker: Rosalinda (Rose) Nartates – Secretary General, Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE)

Equality award presented to Garry Lehmann



GARRY LEHMANN RECEIVES THE EQUALITY AWARD

Garry Lehmann lives and works in Calgary, he is a school support counsellor working with disadvantaged youth and has been doing so for a number of years.

In his work he strives to promote equality through teaching and modeling positive behaviors.

Garry successfully champions equality & promotes understanding of diversity through education, volunteering & attending as many local events as he can. He has demonstrated his commitment through his outstanding work on the Equal Opportunities Committee as our Chair and is an inspiration to the Committee.

Day 1 - Hard at work



Our activism makes a difference: Moist

Paul Moist, national president of CUPE, got a warm welcome from convention delegates. In his address, Moist congratulated CUPE Alberta for the recent pension win in pushing back attacks on pensions. Moist thanked the AFL for its leadership in the fight, and issued a warning to Alberta Premier Jim Prentice.

“Premier Prentice, Alberta public employees did not cause Alberta’s budget shortfalls. And we will never accept any attacks on our pensions, our wages, or on our Charter-protected right to collective bargaining,” said Moist. “Attack us and we’ll fight back to defend public services and to defend our collective agreements!”

Moist urged delegates to keep in mind the PC government record, and remember there is a better way for Alberta workers in the upcoming provincial election.



CUPE NATIONAL PRESIDENT PAUL MOIST

“Our voice should support Rachel Notley and her NDP team, the potential exists for our Party to make big gains under Rachel’s strong leadership,” said Moist.

Moist also touched on the upcoming federal election. He stressed the importance of not only defeating the Harper Conservatives, but the need to replace them with a government that will work with CUPE to build a better Canada.

“We don’t just want to talk about what you should vote against. Vote for the kind of Canada you want for yourself and your family,” said Moist. “Tom Mulcair and NDP team have shown Canadians they are ready to lead and to make real change in Canada, for workers, our families, and our communities. It can be done and we can do it together.”

Moist closed his address by thanking delegates for their work on behalf of CUPE Alberta members. “Thank you, each and every one of you for your activism. Thank you for your commitment to your co-workers day in and day out. Your activism makes a difference.”

