

# Act now.

## Your vote decides our future.

CUPE ALBERTA 2015 CONVENTION  
Calgary, Alberta

**DAY THREE - MARCH 20, 2015**

### Vote for the change you believe in!

With the 2015 federal election quickly approaching, National President Paul Moist hosted a special breakfast for convention delegates to discuss how Canadian workers are just one election away from building a better Canada.

"After a decade of Conservative government, middle class families are falling further behind," said Moist, as he recapped the disastrous record of the federal Conservative government. "Conservatives are taking Canada in the wrong direction."

While the goal is to defeat the Conservatives, Moist stressed this election should be about voting for what we want, not out of fear.



With a platform focusing on affordable child care, strengthening our public health care, protecting pensions and expanding the CPP, and creating jobs with a sustainable economy, Moist said the NDP best reflects the values of CUPE members.

"Tom Mulcair has the experience needed to replace Stephen Harper," said Moist. "Tom and his NDP team will fight for working people."

But to be successful and for us to get a government that will put the interest of workers first, Moist said the NDP needs the help – and votes – of CUPE members.

"Elections are won by volunteers going door-to-door, talking about the issues important to every day Canadians. They are won by talking about it with our friends and families, and getting them to vote," said Moist.

### COMING UP TODAY

- Guest speaker: Rachel Notley, Leader of Alberta's NDP
- Guest speaker: Cori Longo, Canadian Labour Congress
- Elections - installation of officers

## COURAGE in the face of violence



Delegates were thrilled to hear from guest speaker Rosalinda (Rose) Nartates, Secretary General of the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE) and the National President of the Consolidated Union of Employees in the National Housing Authority (CUE-NHA).

COURAGE is the leading government employees' centre in the Philippines, representing over 300,000 government employees. Despite threats of suspension and physical harassment, they launched a strike in 2004 to defend their jobs and expose corruption.

Rosa is currently touring Canada to share the Filipino experience on trade unionism in the government sector.

"Belonging to COURAGE, we have really fought so hard and struggled so hard for our workers' economic situation," she said. "Workers are not getting a lot of support for unionism in the Philippines. In fact, unionists are being attacked through killings and abductions."

"We are thankful to CUPE for supporting us in our work," Rosa said. "You helped us stop the privatizing of water services and your solidarity has helped to stop the harassment of workers who are struggling to achieve basic needs."

"With CUPE's solidarity, we have fought militarily against the current starvation pay which most government employees are receiving," Rosa said.

## Building power for our members

The importance of building CUPE's power in Alberta and across the country was the message Charles Fleury, National Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE, focused on in his address to CUPE Alberta convention delegates.

"We have faced many fights together Sisters and Brothers and we have been building our union power from coast to coast. I see our power when I think of what we accomplished all year," said Fleury. "I see our power when I know that we have the resources to support each and every CUPE local who finds themselves on a picket line."

With the national strike fund over \$80 million for the first time in CUPE's history, Fleury stressed that the collective power of CUPE members is essential to fighting back against unfriendly government attacks.

"CUPE has the power to change things at many levels. When we stand together and take on employers and governments we do not stand alone," said Fleury. "But, our best way to prevent anti-union laws is to elect worker-friendly governments. We have the possibility of electing a worker-friendly government, under the leadership of Tom Mulcair."



Fleury thanked delegates for their work on behalf of the CUPE, and urged them to keep up the important work of connecting and mobilizing members. "At the centre of everything we do Sisters and Brothers – are our members. If we work closely with our team of committed staff, and if we all mobilize and support our members, we will continue to have a strong, dynamic and very powerful union."

