

GAINING MOMENTUM

CUPE ALBERTA ▶ 2018 CONVENTION

GRANDE PRAIRIE ▶ March 14 - 16, 2018

HANCOCK: MOVE FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD

CUPE National President Mark Hancock urged local union delegates to always work hard to improve collective agreements, and never accept rollbacks.

“In CUPE, we bargain forward for our members,” said Hancock. “We lead the charge so that all workers in our communities can move forward.”

Hancock told delegates that even in an environment when public workers are being offered wage freezes, CUPE needs to push forward on any front available.

“We can modernize our collective agreements so that they

meet new employment standards,” said Hancock. “We can

fight for better retirement security and care for our members by bargaining stronger pensions & benefits. We can fight for job security for our members by securing better layoff protections.”

“And CUPE National will be there to support you every step of the way.”

Hancock said the National Union is dedicated to supporting CUPE members in all parts of the country by finding new and innovative tools to fight the battles we need to fight. But he reminded delegates that the job falls to everyone, not just staff or national officers.

“There is lots of work to do everyday,” said Hancock. “And that means everybody has to actually pull together and do it.”

“So that we can protect the gains we've made, protect our public services, and take strides towards making our jobs even better.”



DAY 2 March 15, 2018

9:10 am
Charles Fleury

4:00 pm
Health and Safety
Award

DAY 2 • March 15, 2016

MARLE ROBERTS: KEEP BUILDING OUR MOMENTUM

Speaking to delegates in the same room she was elected President of CUPE Alberta seven years ago, Marle Roberts told the hall this was the most positive report she's ever given.

"We've had struggles this year, but seldom have I seen us progress so far in so short a time," said Roberts.

Roberts reported that Alberta unions are on the cusp of achieving joint trusteeship of public sector pension plans after decades of lobby attempts and political action.

"Future governments will not be able to change our pension plan without our consent."

Dramatic improvements to labour laws have been made in the last year under the Notley NDP government making it easier to join a union, improving working conditions and rebuilding the Workers Compensation Board to serve injured workers better.

"This is what happens when you tie union activism with ballot box support and elect a labour friendly government," said Roberts.

Roberts told delegates CUPE has to work hard to re-elect the NDP in next year's provincial election and make every effort to prevent Jason Kenney from becoming Premier.

"Jason Kenney wants to limit government spending to the same level as British Columbia. That's a 20% cut in spending," said Roberts. "Look at your table. For every five people, take one of them out. Because that's what Kenney and the UCP are all about."

"And to what end? Jason Kenney wants to bring back the flat tax, resulting in huge tax cuts to people who earn over \$125,000 per year. "

"It's been an exciting year. I can't remember a time in which we made so much progress so quickly. Let's do everything we can to keep building this momentum and keeping it going."

