

GAINING MOMENTUM

CUPE ALBERTA ▶ 2018 CONVENTION

GRANDE PRAIRIE ▶ March 14 - 16, 2018

FLEURY: CUPE IS GROWING, BUT WE HAVE GROWING PAINS

For the first time in years, CUPE Secretary Treasurer Charles Fleury is delivering a good news budget for CUPE National.

In his address to the CUPE Alberta convention, Fleury said CUPE's latest budget included eighteen new staff positions to handle growth in membership and workload.

But with the growth comes growing pains. Fleury announced a Task Force on staffing to address changes to the organization.

"Since I was elected seven years ago, more than 230 staff have retired," said Fleury. "Thirty-two percent of our staff now have fewer than five years on the job."



DAY 3 March 16, 2018

9:10 am
Markham Hislop

10:20 am
Rachel Notley

11:00 am
Elections

"You can see why we believe it is now time to do a more in-depth review of our staffing challenges and how we can better support our staff and locals."

Fleury said the task force would look at issues like the turnover caused by retirement, the challenge of servicing big locals that cover wide geographic areas, and how we handle new, emerging workplace issues as they develop.

Fleury also called upon delegates to work hard to support the re-election of the Alberta NDP Government. While the NDP hasn't given labour everything we are looking for, they've made excellent first steps.

"It's like a collective agreement," said Fleury. "You don't get everything you want the first time, so you keep working on it over a few rounds."

DAY 3 • March 16, 2018

Equality Award given to Lorna Tollman

CUPE Alberta lost a beloved family member in December with the death of CUPE 2545 President Lorna Tollman.

Tollman worked as an Educational Assistant at the Fort McMurray Public School District for over 35 years. She was President of Local 2545 for 25 years, likely the longest serving president in CUPE Alberta history.

In honour of her contributions to CUPE, Tollman has been given the 2018 Equality Award.

The Fort McMurray Today newspaper described her as “like a second mom to a lot of people.” Tollman worked with special needs students, helping them overcome obstacles life threw at them. After her death, flags at all Fort McMurray schools flew at half mast.

“I knew Lorna as a funny, friendly passionate advocate for her members,” said CUPE Alberta President Marle Roberts. “And if I can put this delicately, I always knew Lorna’s thoughts on a subject. Lorna was never very good at keeping quiet if she felt the need to tell you off.”

“Of course, that’s what makes a good union activist. No one ever fights for members silently.”

