

ALBERTA'S FUTURE

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

2019 CUPE
**ALBERTA
CONVENTION**

March 19 to 21
COAST HOTEL
Lethbridge · Alberta

DAY 1 • TUESDAY, March 19, 2019



“KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT FOR WORKING PEOPLE”: ROBERTS

Delegates welcomed outgoing President Marle Roberts with a standing ovation. Roberts is retiring after serving eight years as CUPE Alberta's president.

“I'm humbled and grateful for the support and friendship you've given me over the past eight years.”

Roberts talked about significant changes for workers in the second half of her term. “Since Rachel Notley and the NDP were elected in 2015, we've seen improvements for workers, for parents, for patients in hospitals, and for all Albertans,” said Roberts.

The Notley government has made 257 legislative and Labour Relations improvements, with pension changes being huge for CUPE members. A government can no longer simply pass an order in council to wipe out or erode pension plans, as the Conservatives tried to do in 2013.

Roberts told delegates that CUPE members need to mobilize and take action.

She welcomed CUPE 4070 delegate, Kruti Sutaria, one of 3,100 Westjet employees who voted to join CUPE last fall. “Welcome WestJet! Together we are stronger. Welcome to the family!”

Roberts closed by telling delegates, “Never stop fighting for a better province, for better lives for working people, and for everything that you do for your members.”

DAY 2

March 20, 2019

10:40 am

Victoria Maxwell, Wellness Warrior

2:40 pm

Special Presentation

6:00 pm

Banquet with special guest
Alberta Premier Rachel Notley

FLEURY: INVESTING IN ALBERTA'S FUTURE

CUPE National Secretary Treasurer Charles Fleury wants us to invest in our future – starting today.

Fleury said CUPE's latest budget included seventeen new staff positions across the country to handle growth in membership and workload. To date fourteen permanent jobs have been posted, including one new servicing representative in Calgary.

“Since I was elected in 2011, more than two hundred and sixty-five staff retired,” said Fleury. “Thirty-four percent of our staff now have fewer than five years on the job.”

...over

Fleury also announced a new national recruitment plan for staff, including more training, guidance and orientation so they can better support locals.

Fleury also mentioned other important investments CUPE National made last year, including over \$314,000 in funding for direct campaign support in Alberta. Cost shares totaling \$68,000 included campaigns on pensions and political action in the province.

Fleury called upon delegates to work hard to support the re-election of Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP.

“Alberta’s future really is in our hands,” said Fleury. “That’s why CUPE Alberta will campaign to re-elect Rachel and the NDP’s worker-friendly government. We won’t stop until the last vote is in the ballot box.”



Premier Rachel Notley has called an election for April 16. Albertans will head to the polls in a few short weeks. It’s up to CUPE members to get the vote out, to talk to our neighbours and defend the gains made for working people under the Alberta NDP.

REID WINS EQUALITY AWARD



Brenda Reid, CUPE Alberta area VP for Red Deer, is the recipient of this year’s Equality and Justice Award.

Reid was cited for her tireless commitment to fairness and equality, working as the division liaison for CUPE Alberta Aboriginal Council and AHEC. Her many hats also include being president of Local 4733, trustee of CUPE Alberta Central District Council and a representative for Alberta on the CUPE National Health Care Issues Committee.

CUPE ALBERTA MEMBERS SHARE THOUGHTS ON CONVENTION



Tiffany Out
CUPE 8
Health Care Aide

“This is my second convention. The thing I really like about convention is that it teaches you about the politics behind CUPE and what helps back it up a little bit more. It gives me a better understanding of how powerful our union can be and how it can support and protect you.”



Mark Dimirsky
CUPE 3911
Athabasca University Instructor

“I’m going to let members in my local know that it wasn’t scary and I was welcomed. People made allowances for me being a newbie. They explained things. You don’t have to be afraid. I think it will increase the chances of other members in my local wanting to come to convention.”



Janet Brown
CUPE 417
Municipal, Water Utility

“Convention has always been a great place to meet all kinds of people. It’s our opportunity to influence policy and direction. A friend of mine likes to say you can’t fix a problem from the outside. You need to get in and get involved to make things happen.”