



# WINNING THE FIGHT

CUPE ALBERTA | CONVENTION 2024

**DAY 3 March 22, 2024**

## Coming up

- 10:00 am** Rachel Notley
- 11:00 am** Regional Director's Report
- 11:30 am** Elections

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## HANCOCK: WE LIVE IN A MOMENT WHICH FEELS LIKE EVERYTHING IS AT STAKE

CUPE's National President Mark Hancock addressed convention delegates with a rallying cry to fight inflation, the cost of living and right-wing politicians.

"We are fighting our way through an enormous cost-of-living crisis, workers are feeling desperate and anxious," said Hancock. "Most people can't remember a time when it was this difficult to put a roof over their head, put gas in their car, and put food on their table."

But Hancock also noted that as the largest union in Canada, CUPE has the power to fight for workers against the impacts of inflation.

"We have proven time and time again that we are up for anything. Across the country in the past few years, we have shown how much we can accomplish when we stand together."

Hancock took aim at Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, saying she is ignoring the key issues of workers in the province.

"Instead of working to rebuild health care, instead of addressing the cost-of-living crisis, Danielle Smith is attacking some of the most



vulnerable young people in our society," Hancock said. "She's fanning the flames of hate and making schools less safe for trans kids."

With three-quarters of the Alberta public service in bargaining, Hancock said 2024 is a key moment to fight for better wages and benefits.

"My friends, we have the power and the responsibility to fight inflation and help our members put food on the table. We have the power and responsibility to build better communities by protecting and strengthening public services."



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## RENNICK: INCREASED RESOURCES FOR THE FIGHT AHEAD

In her virtual address to the convention, CUPE Secretary-Treasurer Candace Rennick highlighted the resources allocated in the recent annual budget for the battles and fights in Alberta.

"CUPE's 2024 budget adopted last December is designed to help you be at the forefront of change, to be brave and bold," said Rennick. The budget created 41.5 new positions across the country, including two permanent servicing representatives in Alberta, a temporary job evaluation representative and a political action representative. The budget also made the Alberta Organizing Representative a permanent position.

"We all know our union can't meet the many challenges that employers and governments are throwing at us without more staff," said Rennick. "I get this. Mark gets this. The National Executive Board gets this." Rennick pledged to "continue to expand staff resources next year and the years after" as wage and membership growth allow.

## CONVENTION DELEGATES BRAVE SNOW TO SEND A MESSAGE TO DANIELLE SMITH

Fresh snow and cold temperatures didn't stop CUPE members from sending a message to Premier Danielle Smith about Alberta's rising cost of living and stagnating wages. The crowd gathered outside Smith's Medicine Hat constituency office. Members called on the premier to address the cost-of-living crisis by investing in public services and ending restrictive mandates that are keeping workers' wage increases well below inflation.

Over 200 attendees heard impassioned speeches from front-line workers about the toll low wages and understaffing are taking on their lives. Several leaders from other unions, including HSA, AUPE and the Alberta Federation of Labour spoke about the common struggle that all workers in Alberta are facing and the need to take on Danielle Smith and the UCP together. CUPE National President Mark Hancock finished with a fiery speech about the major fights CUPE members have taken on in other provinces in the past few years, "the next stop," he concluded, "is right here in Alberta."

